

AUGUST 2018

# THE SMITH

The Smith County Memorial Hospital Newsletter



## GRAND OPENING CEREMONY A SUCCESS

The staff of Smith County Memorial Hospital and Smith County Family Practice welcomed more than 750 people to a Grand Opening Ceremony on Aug. 5.

People from across the state joined the group for a short dedication presentation by Kenton Weltmer, chair of the board of trustees, and Dr. Justin Overmiller, chief medical officer at SCMH.

The ceremony began with introductions by Allen Van Driel, chief executive officer of the hospital and clinic.

"We enjoyed showing the community the facility," said Van Driel. "They have been such a support to the building project and we're thrilled they showed up to see the completed building."

Van Driel expressed his appreciation for the hospital and clinic staff, board of trustees, donors, government partners and all those who participated in the construction of the new facility.

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# GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

Both Weltmer and Overmiller spoke of the significant contribution and long-time support of quality health care from the community.

"They cared for their patients as if they were friends and family because they were," Overmiller said. "And, that is still true today."

Following the presentation by Weltmer and Overmiller, Lynne Hinrichsen, state director for USDA Rural Development addressed the crowd. She spoke about the importance that health care plays in rural Kansas. The event closed with tours of the clinic and hospital. Refreshments for guests were provided by the new cafe chef and clinical dietitian, Stephen Smith.

"Our staff has been planning for this for a long time and they have worked tirelessly to make it a success," Van Driel said. "We are thrilled to have had such a positive response from those in attendance and the community at large."

The new facility opened for service on August 8. Patients visiting the clinic, ER or hospital should visit the new location at 921 E. Highway 36.



# CEO BLOG: WE DID IT!!

Many of you joined us on Sunday, August 5 as we celebrated the completion of our new facility. Dr. Justin Overmiller, Chief of the Medical Staff, Kenton Weltmer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Lynne Hinrichsen, Kansas Director for the USDA Rural Development Program, all spoke during the brief ceremony. Following that, more than 800 people toured the new facility to see the results of the strong community support and years of planning and development have produced. We were happy to see such a large turnout, and enjoyed the many positive comments we heard.



For months now we have been planning for the actual move in to the new facility. I can't count the number of times I was asked "How will you get that done? How many days do you think it will take?" I was met with almost universal disbelief when I responded that we would make the actual move in one day. Of course, there was a great deal of equipment that was new, and most of that was installed during construction of the building, so it didn't have to be moved. We contracted with Kearney Moving and Storage, an agent for Atlas Van Lines to assist us with the move. They met with us several times during the planning stages to discuss the process and to assess how much equipment would need to be moved. We determined that the most complex piece of equipment that needed to be moved was one of the laboratory analyzers. Because this very large analyzer performs dozens of tests, moving it involved partial disassembly, moving the machine out of the very small laboratory at the old hospital, placing it on a truck, transporting it to the new hospital, reassembling it in the (much larger) laboratory, having a maintenance check performed by a service technician, and beginning the process of recalibrating and verifying the function for each test it performs. We determined that the best way to accomplish movement of this piece of equipment was to accomplish the move on Tuesday, a day ahead of the rest of the hospital. So Kearney Moving sent a small crew to the hospital on Tuesday and moved the analyzer. Since they were here, they proceeded to move a load of boxes from offices and non-patient care areas. Then they returned on Wednesday morning with a larger crew (15 very professional, high energy movers) to begin the actual move of the hospital. The thunderstorm that moved slowly through the area on Tuesday delayed the process somewhat, because we didn't want equipment or supplies to get wet. Once the storm passed, we went "full speed ahead". Once critical equipment had been moved to the new hospital, staff from Smith County EMS assisted us in moving the patients who were in the hospital on Tuesday. They accomplished this very quickly and professionally. So from start to finish on Tuesday, the actual move took just about SIX HOURS! Incredible!

We are still working on arranging equipment and supplies in the new building (and will be doing so for some time). We are getting used to new systems (phone, alarm, nurse call, cardiac monitoring, access controls and may more), and yes, some staff are still learning how to navigate around the building. But we are open for business and are able to provide all services. We have patients in beds, the Emergency Department is open and functioning, lab and imaging services are being provided, and in every way we are fully operational.

## CEO BLOG: WE DID IT!!

I want to express a great deal of appreciation to everyone involved in the planning and execution of the move. Our staff in every single department did an excellent job of planning, packing, and assisting with the move. Our Medical Staff did their usual outstanding job of proving calm leadership and direction of patient care. The attached picture shows the degree of their involvement. Dr. Conant and Dr. Overmiller are shown assisting with preparing our pharmacy dispensing equipment for transport to the new hospital. This kind of “hands-on” care is very typical of the Medical Staff. The nursing staff, under the direction of Sarah Ragsdale, Chief Nursing Officer, did a simply outstanding job of caring for patients amid the chaos, while putting in many extra hours assisting with the move. Staff at Smith County Family Practice likewise worked very hard getting equipment and supplies moved and placed so that they can take care of patients without interruption. Maintenance, Housekeeping, and Food Service staff worked incredible hours preparing the building and assisting with the move. Our IT staff have been absolutely fabulous in their efforts to get all of the electronic systems in the new building up and working properly. All of the efforts of our staff, though would have meant nothing without the support from the community. Our Board of Trustees, County Commissioners, Public Building Commission Board of Directors, have provided support and assistance throughout the planning and construction process. And the residents of our county have been very supportive. We thank each of you for your support and prayers as we went through this process. We look forward to many years of service to the community with the great new facility you have allowed us to construct. We are here for all of your healthcare needs.



## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

We know that without the tremendous support of the community and the people we serve, we wouldn't be working from our new facility today.

Your generous gifts of finances, time, concern and even food have brought smiles to our faces and helped make a stressful process more enjoyable. You have made it easy to remember why we started this journey and who we are here to serve.

We appreciate your generosity more than you know and we can't thank you enough for all you've done.