May 2020

THE INSIDER
Employee news for Coffey Health System

“It’s not how much you do, but how much love you put into the doing that matters.” – Mother Teresa
Leonard Hernandez
Chief Executive Officer

We find ourselves continuing to social distance and doing our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. I know it has not been easy on anyone, but I am grateful that you are trying to keep everyone around you safe by wearing masks and taking your temps every morning. I appreciate your efforts and, in turn, I do the same every morning to keep you safe. On the bright side, our morning screenings provide an opportunity to visit with others who we might not normally see.

This month we celebrate and recognize colleagues throughout CHS:

• National Nurses’ Week,
• National Nursing Home Week,
• National Hospital Week, and
• National EMS Week!

This year we will recognize one another differently than before, but nothing can take away the feelings of accomplishment during this national pandemic that has brought us all closer together. There is not enough space in this column to truly tell you all of the pride that I have in each and every one of you! You are Coffey Health System’s “Healthcare Heroes.” Years from now when you tell the story of COVID-19, you can proudly say that we handled it “together, as ever, as one.”

You can say that when others furloughed employees, reduced staff, and reduced pay, Coffey Health System found a way to keep all of those things intact while still providing the care necessary for our COVID and other patients. You can say that our communities stepped up to offer supplies, gift cards, meals, snacks, and—most of all—thank you’s for answering the call when they needed us most.

But this pandemic is far from over and we will always remember that, to date, 5,458 Kansans have tested positive and 137 have died. 1.24 million Americans have tested positive and over 70,000 Americans have died from COVID-19. We continue to be vigilant, compassionate, and kind. It gives new meaning to our newly adapted slogan: “Your health. Our mission.”

Stay safe!

Leonard R. Hernandez
Chief Executive Officer

Congratulations to the eleven outstanding nominees for Coffey Health System Health Care Worker of the Year!

On the cover top row:
Krista Cubit
Scott Sutherland
Jo Neill
Toby Paige
middle row:
Stephanie Lasswell
Terri Johnson
Belinda Link
bottom row:
Casey Lyons
Connie Weseloh
Melissa Hall
James Turner

Ballots distributed to supervisors on May 4. All CHS employees are eligible to vote. Completed ballots must be received by the marketing office by 4 p.m. on May 11. The recipient of CHS Health Care Worker of the Year award will be announced on May 13.
For the second month, the Coffey Health System Board of Trustees met via online conferencing to allow social distancing.

Chief Executive Officer Leonard Hernandez summarized the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Coffey Health System. With a local outbreak, Coffey County Hospital entered the frontline of caring for patients with COVID. Precautionary steps already in place were strengthened to protect patients and staff. Everyone entering a CHS facility—including staff—is screened daily. Visitation remains limited to one person per patient in obstetrics, pediatrics, and at end-of-life. Some surgeries continue based upon circumstances.

“Here is the unique thing in this scenario, we had an outbreak in a nursing home that could have exploded bigger than it did,” Hernandez said. “Our medical staff, our nurses, EMS, and everybody that was involved with clinical care truly excelled. Dr. Shell’s decision to put masks on everybody here a couple of weeks ago was one of the best things we did internally to contain the spread. Where we are today compared to where we could have been, I think this crew has done an amazing job. But we could still wake up tomorrow and have five new patients. That’s a game changer again and we have to remain ready.”

COVID-19 could also deal a financial blow to rural hospitals throughout the country that are struggling to stay afloat. Chief Financial Officer Juanita White discussed various programs that provide financial assistance to hospitals and assured that CHS is pursuing options based upon qualifications.

The March financial report shows a net loss of $279,119, hampered by postponed procedures and low clinic volumes.

Rosemary Rich gave an overview from the Quality, Compliance, and Risk Management Committee and recognized Sunset Manor’s recent five-star recognition from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In addition to the overall five-star rating, the staff at Sunset Manor earned five stars in all categories: health inspections, quality measures, staffing, and RN staffing.

All nine trustees participated via tele-conferencing: Peter Allegre, Jeff Clark, Jim Dale, Steve Hopkins, JoAnn Osburn, Judy Reese, Rosemary Rich, Jodi Thomas, and Dennis Young.

Memorial Day falls on the usual May meeting date, so the meeting is delayed one day to Tuesday, May 26.
Congratulations, Graduates!

Maisy Schroeder
Allen Co. Community College
Daughter of Chad Schroeder, Surgery

Jake Nicolet
Commissioned - USMC
Marine Corp
Son of Anna Nicolet, Cardiopulmonary

Jordan Johnson
Kansas State University
Daughter of Angel Lankton, Med-Surg

Nicole Nicolet
Kansas State University
CNA, Med-Surg
Daughter of Anna Nicolet, Cardiopulmonary

Shelby Goetz
Kansas University
Niece of Candy Dale, HIM

Abbigale Finlayson
Burlington High School
Granddaughter of Terri Tweety, Admin

Valencia Shove
Emporia State University
Daughter-in-law of James Higgins
Chief Operating Officer

Trevr Bahr
Burlington High School
Son of Lana Bahr, The Meadows

Andrea Blackwell
Topeka High School
Granddaughter of Marilyn Brown, HIM

Megan Foster
Waverly High School
Daughter of Karen Foster; Physical Therapy

Ivana Gerow
Burlington High School
Daughter of Stephanie Ernst, Surgery

Kayle Smith
Yates Center High School
Nephew of Amanda Davis, YCMC

Lucas Williams
Circle High School
Grandson of Donnetta Karmann, Quality
Nephew of Shelly Moss, Home Health
Congratulations to these two ladies who worked part-time jobs throughout Coffey Health System during their junior and/or senior year. Your graduation proves all of your hard work and determination was worth it. Best of luck!
We are pleased to welcome Nurse Practitioner Annette VanAnne to CHS. “I am excited to work in Yates Center and to give back to this community that has given myself and my family so much,” VanAnne stated. “It feels like coming home.”

Annette earned her Post Masters Certificates of Nurse Midwifery from the University of Kansas Medical Center and Family Nurse Practitioner from Pittsburg State University as well as her Master of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Pittsburg State University with over 12 year’s experience delivering and managing care for patients across the lifespan.

“Along with her local ties to the Yates Center community and Woodson County, she will be a welcomed face patients will trust and appreciate,” said Samantha Kuhlmann, chief clinic officer. “We are very excited about Annette’s transition back to her home roots and the opportunities she will bring to the table to enhance patient care opportunities.”

Annette was born in Eureka, and resides in Chanute with her husband. She has five grown children.

Physician Assistant Joseph Clark joined our team in the E.R. in March. He brings over 18 years of experience working in emergency and family medicine.

Joe received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Nebraska Methodist College of Nursing in 1994. In 2001 he received his Physician Assistant degree from the University of North Dakota. As a P.A., Joe has experience in trauma, general surgery, critical care and family medicine.

“Personally, it is extremely rewarding to know that I am helping to provide essential medical services for this community,” Clark said. “The smaller patient population means I can spend more time with patients, getting to know them on a personal level, learning their struggles, and investing in their care to a degree that may not be possible in a larger hospital. From a professional perspective, being a medical provider in a rural setting is both challenging and exciting. We get to see a broader scope of illness and, in turn, get to provide a wider variety of services that might be passed off to a specialist if practicing in an urban setting.”

“I have been providing care to patients as a Physician Assistant since 2001. Over the years, it has been my honor and privilege to work with so many great people in a variety of settings to include family medicine, trauma, critical care, and general surgery. So, how will my experience help the emergency department at CHS? Aside from developing a competency to diagnose and treat a wide variety of conditions, I have also learned the value of teamwork and collaboration and how to facilitate such an environment in order to provide care in the most optimal way.”

Joe grew up in O’Neill Nebraska, and now resides in Lawrence with his wife Bridget and their four children.

Job Openings

**Clinical Positions**
- AEMT or Paramedic
- LPN or RN (All Clinics & Med-Surg)
- CMA/CNA (LTCU)
- CNA (LTCU & Med-Surg)
- CMA/LPN (LTCU)
- Medical Technologist
- Physical Therapist
- Speech Therapist
- Phlebotomist
- Radiology/CT Tech
- Registered Nurse (LTCU & ER)

**Non-clinical Positions**
- Cook
- Dietary Aide
- Environmental Service Tech
- Home Health Aide/CNA
- Patient Access Coordinator
- Patient Care Coordinator
- Receptionist
- Self-Pay AR Specialist

Visit coffeyhealth.org/careers for detailed information and requirements. For more information, call Ext. 4254.

SCAM warning

Here’s a common scam: you get an e-mail from the boss (or your spouse, parents, or other trusted person) asking you to send them a copy of employee pay stubs, tax information, and files with confidential data such as social security numbers in them; or they’re asking you to transfer or ACH payment to a vendor or a different bank account.

The problem: even though it is coming from someone’s e-mail address you know and trust and looks legit, it could be a scam. Hackers can intercept e-mail messages and modify them to look official.

If you ever get this kind of request:
- Double check by calling that person to confirm,
- If it turns out to be a legitimate request, you should never send confidential information like social security numbers (or attachments with this information inside of them), and
- Take precautions to password-protect and encrypt the message first.
Kudos to you! Kudos to you! Kudos to you! Kudos to you!

Thank you to Andrea Massingill for your extra help at The Meadows.

Kudos to Gail Johnson for dressing up as the Easter bunny and entertaining The Meadows residents.

Note from a colleague: I just wanted to let you all know that I had someone stop me in the hall and tell me that they are really impressed with all of you and how you do your jobs in registration! We tend to only hear about the things we are doing wrong, so I just wanted to pass along some good news. Thank you all for working as a team and especially for being so flexible and willing to do whatever is asked of you during this time (and always). I really appreciate it and others are noticing it, too. You all are a great team of people and I couldn’t be more proud to work with each of you! Keep it up!

Thanks to all The Meadows staff for all the extra work through COVID-19 and also for the work they do every day to keep our residents happy and healthy.

With patient flow a little slow, kudos to Jake Rasmussen for lending his talents to the maintenance department.

Carrie Hegg has had to adjust and change her activity schedule. The residents are blessed to have her do all of their shopping during this time.

Coffey Health Foundation thanks everyone who participated in the April 3 “jeanerosity day.” Your contributions are greatly appreciated. All of these monies will go toward the purchase of a new defibrillator. Thank you for your support!

Gwen Mays and Melissa Davis have been doing the extra hair care duties at The Meadows through this time without the beauty operator.

Becky Houston goes above and beyond to care for The Meadows residents every single day. She is available almost all the time when she is not at work to answer calls from staff regarding residents’ health. She truly cares about them and wants the best care for them each and every day. The Meadows is blessed to have her.

Thank you, Philip Decker for planning a great Easter Sunday Dinner and Andrea Massingill for cooking the Easter Sunday meal. The residents said it was very good!

Condolence

Thoughts and prayers extend to Gary and Julie Scott for the loss of Gary’s father on April 23.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rose Wahlmeier, Sunset Manor, 1 of 12 students named Shepherd Scholars for the 2020-21 academic year at Emporia State University.

Congratulations to Lacy McManus, RN, on the birth of her grandson, Axel Crue. Axel was born on April 29 and weighted 7 pounds 9 ounces.
Our employees are our greatest resource. Each month, we include a list of employees who will celebrate their anniversary with Coffey Health System. Here’s to each of you, and thank you for your service to our patients!

Dondi Eichman 35 years
Tammra Schillig 34 years
Marilyn Kitt 25 years
Sharon Smith, Rosalind Leapheart 24 years
Bonnie Decker 20 years
Hallie Wilson 15 years
Amanda Schulte 13 years
Chad Schroeder 12 years
Rhea Stuart 11 years
Mina Messerly 10 years
Lisa Davis, April Birk, 8 years
Katie Metzger, Brian Amborski 5 years
Michael DuBuke, Errica Eddings, Deedee Syring 4 years
VC Baker, Teri McAvoy, Sharita Schwarz, Sydney Steinilage 2 years
Kelli Petrie, Paige Sloyer, Lucy Klick 1 year

May Health Observances

Nurse Week
May 6-12

Hospital Week
May 10-16

Nursing Home Week
May 10-16

EMS Week
May 17-23

Speech & Hearing Month

May Clinics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiology</td>
<td>May 4, 6, 11, 18, 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dermatology</td>
<td>May 8, 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ear, Nose &amp; Throat</td>
<td>May 1</td>
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<td>Gastroenterology</td>
<td>May 7, 21</td>
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<td>Gynecology</td>
<td>May 19</td>
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<td>Oncology</td>
<td>May 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orthopedics</td>
<td>Mon, Wed. &amp; Fri.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>May 4, 11, 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Podiatry</td>
<td>May 1, 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urology</td>
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I was always fascinated by the science of medicine and the way the human body functions, even as a kid. But it wasn’t until I was several years out of high school that I figured that I wanted to go into nursing. I first took EMT training and then later applied to nursing school. I got my CNA license while still in high school.

In 2000, I witnessed a head-on collision on a busy highway and had to assist the drivers until EMS arrived. I think that experience really solidified my desire to work in the medical field. A few years later I completed EMT training but took several years off to raise my babies. In 2008, I went into nursing full time.

I have looked up to many of the nurses that I worked with daily. We all bring different skills and experiences to the table and I am always learning something new.

I love working with people and helping them. It’s a very vulnerable feeling to be ill and need care. I am blessed to be able to provide care to these patients. I like knowing that I am making an impact on their health and their experience at CCH.

Coffey County Hospital has always felt like ‘home’ to me since day one. We are like a family and it has made me comfortable and confident in my nursing role. I’ve never experienced such strong bonds and friendships with coworkers at any other job.

Angel Lankton, R.N.
Coffey County Hospital