

New doctor hired at MMH

Written by Chris Lee

Patients visiting Melissa Memorial Hospital and Family Practice of Holyoke noticed a new face in the halls this week. Dr. Rick Amesquita, or “Dr. Rick,” began duties at the hospital Tuesday, Jan. 4 and staff members are looking forward to seeing him get up to full speed.

“I think he’s going to fit in well,” MMH administrator John Ayoub said at the East Phillips County Hospital District board meeting Tuesday, Dec. 28. “I’m excited.”

Amesquita is a doctor of osteopathy (D.O.). Ayoub said he has served as a medic in the Air Force, EMT, paramedic, R.N., P.A. and then went to medical school. He hasn’t finished his residency program, and Ayoub said this poses challenges in getting insurance for him.

Amesquita began Tuesday, getting acquainted with the NextGen system. Once insured, he will begin working in the E.R. and when comfortable with the NextGen system, he will begin seeing patients in the clinic, according to Ayoub.

“I am confident we can get him insured,” Ayoub said.

The administrator also noted recruitment for another physician will continue.

Community linkages committee reports

Sheryl Farnsworth outlined different entities around town that are willing to meet with representatives of the board to discuss and answer questions about services the hospital offers.

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The community linkages committee is hoping to reach out to the community to find out what people are looking for from the hospital, as well as answer any questions that may come up.

EMS services discussed

Board members discussed the EMS service offered in the district in response to some questions having been raised from the public.

It was noted some community members expressed concern with response time of the ambulance in a few instances.

“We are under no obligation to provide a 911 service. This is something we do because we think that our community deserves it,” Ayoub said. “We impose upon ourselves an obligation.”

Ayoub discussed the two services the ambulance in Holyoke offers. The first being the 911 response and second, transfers to and from the hospital to other health care facilities.

Ayoub provided the board with spreadsheets comparing Holyoke’s response times with others in the state. Holyoke’s average time is just over eight minutes from the time the call is received by the Comm Center to the time someone from the ambulance service shows up to a person’s home.

The Colorado response time is 24 minutes, in areas classified as wilderness, similar to Holyoke. “I think we are well above what is reality to counties similar to ours.”

Ayoub noted the ambulance service is 100 percent volunteer in Holyoke as opposed to other

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areas where EMTs work full-time for the ambulance service.

“I think we do an excellent job. I’m very proud of the dedication and services provided by those volunteers to be available,” Ayoub said.

Administrator reports activity

Ayoub reported a \$5,000 capacity building grant was received. The grant will help pay for the Milliman Care Guidelines software the nursing staff uses.

Dr. Mark Loury who serves as part of the specialty clinic has decided to further his education and will no longer be scheduling to see patients in Holyoke, according to Ayoub.

The annual clinic program evaluation went well, according to the administrator. He said there was great discussion during the evaluation in which the providers were given the opportunity to offer ideas and feedback.

Credentialing was approved for Susan Enlow, radiology; James Quillen, cardiology; Arlin George Hatfield, radiology; Paul Hurst, cardiology; Randall Marsh, cardiology; Michael Myers, radiology; Stephen Treat, cardiology; and Eric Trefelner, radiology.

Other business

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In other business Dec. 28, board members:

—held a 52-minute executive session for a personnel discussion.

—noted the next board meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 25.