

MMH pursues rural residency program

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

While at the Tuesday night, Sept. 24 East Phillips County Hospital District board meeting, MMH Administrator John Ayoub discussed the possibility of bringing a rural residency program to Holyoke.

MMH is currently in talks with Rocky Vista University out of Parker about having MMH as a residency site. While housing issues have yet to be worked out, MMH still has some time to iron out the details of the proposed program.

Second-year residents would begin to work on-site in Holyoke in two years, and in three years, the hope is to have the program in full swing with second- and third-year residents.

“I think this could be very beneficial for our community, for our organization in the long-term, but also for our city, our state and our country basically in terms of filling up the pipeline with positions for those who want to practice in a rural location,” Ayoub said.

While laying the groundwork for the residency opportunity, MMH has recently applied for a \$1 million grant to help establish a program. Ayoub stated that regardless of whether MMH is able to secure the grant, there is a possibility of moving forward with the program.

MMH faces more surveys

Last month MMH faced two unannounced state surveys regarding licensure and federal Medicare conditions of participation. While at the Tuesday meeting, Ayoub informed board members that, as expected, MMH recently endured another state survey, this time for life safety codes.

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In the past year, a law was passed that transferred the responsibility of the life safety code surveys from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to the Division of Public Safety. MMH was last surveyed in 2008 based on a set of codes from 2000. With the different division now handling the surveys, a 2012 version of the codes was adopted, giving MMH 12 years worth of codes they must become compliant with.

During the survey, MMH was dealt a number of citations, but Ayoub speculates that about 90 percent of the citations were specifically because of the changes in code. MMH is currently in the process of writing the plan of corrections, and Ayoub stated that he is confident that the plan will be approved and changes will soon begin.

Most changes are minor, including lowering sprinkler heads in a few patient rooms and adjusting locks on doors. Ayoub noted that the issues with the survey are nothing to panic about and that adhering to the new changes can be done for \$15,000 or less.

MMH receives payment for meaningful use

During the administrator update portion of the board meeting, Ayoub made members aware that MMH has attested for the second-year payment from Medicaid for meaningful use.

“I just wanted to let you know that we are diligently pursuing the amount of money that is available to us and that we are entitled to for the completion of the installation of the electronic record and the fact that we are using it in a meaningful way,” Ayoub said.

Last year the hospital received over \$80,000 for the program. This year MMH will receive around \$40,000, and next year, which will be the last year they will be compensated for the use of the EMRs, they will receive approximately \$20,000.

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Other business

In other business Sept. 24, board members:

—approved credentialing of Christine Gal, M.D., radiology; Ira Chang, M.D., teleneurology; Judd Jensen, M.D., teleneurology; Robert Winthrop Prett, M.D., teleneurology; Jeffrey Wagner, M.D., teleneurology; Carrie Harvey, M.D., radiology; Ahmad Shihabi, M.D., cardiology; Laura Marinello, P.A., cardiology; Michael Hajek, M.D., orthopedics; Dennis Jelden, M.D., family practice; Maurice Lyons, D.O., rad/PadNet Int.; James Wolach, M.D., radiology; Christopher Fanale, M.D., teleneurology; Emily Lampe, M.D., teleneurology; Byron Spencer, M.D., teleneurology; Deaun Carpenter, FNP, family practice; Shane Rowan, M.D., cardiology; Stephen Zumbrun, M.D., cardiology; Peter Webb, P.A., cardiology; Scott Hayden, M.D., radiology; James Schiefen, D.O., general surgery; Marjorie Wiedman, M.D., radiology; and Christy Young, M.D., neurology.

—announced that the next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 22.

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