

Heartbeats

Fall 2008

A Community Service of Mammoth Hospital
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Lori Ciccarelli, Editor

Administration Update

By Gary Boyd, CEO

Thank you to everyone for welcoming me to the Southern Mono Healthcare District (SMHD) and the community over the past three months. I am getting my feet on the ground at work, understanding the issues and challenges that face us, and I'm getting to know the community. Away from SMHD I've been attending the Mammoth Association of Government meetings, met with the Director at Cerro Coso College to expand our working relationships, participated in our annual golf tournament with many community members, supported the Firemen's Canoe Races, and met many people when I have been out and about in town and in the county. I look forward to working with you as we plan SMHD's future and work together to serve the community.

I came from John Muir Health in Walnut Creek, California, where I was the Senior Vice President for Clinical

and Support Services for the Hospital Division. I was born and raised on a small ranch in Oakdale, California, which is in the Central Valley near Modesto. I got my start in health care as a radiologic technologist and worked my way up to a department head position and then into administration. My undergraduate degree is from the University of San Francisco and my graduate degree is from San Diego State University. My wife's name is Barbara; we have two "kids," my daughter Whitney is a physical therapist in Stockton and my son Jordan graduated from Sacramento State University with a criminal justice degree and is pursuing a career in law enforcement. While we have



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Celebrate 30 years with Mammoth Hospital

By Lori Ciccarelli, Community Relations Director

You are cordially invited to celebrate Mammoth Hospital's 30-year anniversary at a community health fair on Saturday, 9/13th, 10:00am – 3:00pm. This is our way of saying thank you for 30 years of continued support.



Melinda Foster

Take advantage of discounted lab work (\$10 cholesterol test and PSA test); a chance to win a complimentary mammogram and dexta scan; free blood pressure and blood sugar checks; test your oxygen level; obtain information on self preparedness for a disaster; check on the safety of



Jeri Dostie

old medications by bringing them in; and enjoy many presentations that include stress management, colon health and women's health to name a few, in addition enjoy over 20 informational booths. At 3:00, we will provide refreshments in celebration along with looking back over 30 years.

Mammoth Lakes 1965; population 600. If a patient

was ill and needed transportation to get to a hospital, he would be transported in a Sheriff's station wagon to Bishop according to Mammoth Hospital Auxiliary Founder Jeanne

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never lived in Mammoth, we have been coming here for about 20 years to ski, hike, and fish.

I would like to thank Gary Myers for his 15 years of service to the SMHD, two years on the Board and 13 years as CEO. Through Gary's leadership we have talented employees, a strong medical staff, a new building with state-of-the art technology, a new IT system, and a robust clinic structure. We still have much work to do, but Gary has left the health district in great shape, positioned for the future, and his imprint will always be on the health care district. He leaves big shoes for me to fill!!

Over the next three months, I have many tasks and goals for us to accomplish. Here are a few things on the top of my list: improve the financial performance and billing practices for the hospital and clinics; follow-up on the employee survey to ensure plans of action for every department; improve communication between senior administration and staff; development of a strategic planning process; implementation of an IT steering committee.

Mammoth Hospital is dedicated to investing in leadership training and kicked off a new series with a two-day offsite workshop for managers and supervisors in July; our goal is to make Mammoth Hospital a better place to work and receive care. There has been some change in key personnel in SMHD. First, Dr. Neer, internist, has decided to leave SMHD after seven years of service to pursue a career in inpatient primary care. Dr. Neer's last day will be September 30; we will miss him and his expertise. I am sorry to announce that Tom Savedra, physician's assistant at our Bridgeport clinic, left in July to move to Southern California. Tom has done an outstanding job in the clinic as the only health care provider in Bridgeport and will be missed by the community. We have a traveler nurse practitioner who

will be covering the clinic while we recruit a permanent replacement. Shelly Vinatieri, nurse practitioner at Mammoth Hospital's Sierra Park Family Medicine clinic resigned in July to pursue a new chapter of life in Santa Barbara. She will continue to spend time in the Eastern Sierra and see community residents and visitors on an as-needed per diem basis. Finally, I am happy to announce that Victoria Mohr, M.D., will be joining us as an OB/Gyn and will begin work here this fall. She is moving here from Vail, Colorado, plans to live in the Mammoth Lakes area, and is a Fellow in the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

SMHD participated in four unannounced surveys by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in May. These were all routine unannounced surveys designed to review the hospital and its practices, Life Safety (which are the building systems within the hospital), and review the pharmacy and new regulations regarding the use of certain medications. Even though the surveys were unannounced, they occur on a regular basis and we are striving to be prepared for a survey at any time. We want to welcome the State conducting these surveys because ultimately they help point out areas where we can improve. We received a written report from the CDPH in May, in which they identified a number of issues needing improvement, or areas for us to make changes. We sent our response to the CDPH in June with plans of correction for all items. We are now awaiting their review and can expect a follow-up survey soon. I would like to thank our team for their hospitality and honesty with the survey teams and their continued work on keeping the SMHD survey ready at all times.

Again, I would like to thank all of you for making me feel welcome and your patience as I get to know you. I am very happy to be here and hope to be here for many years to come.

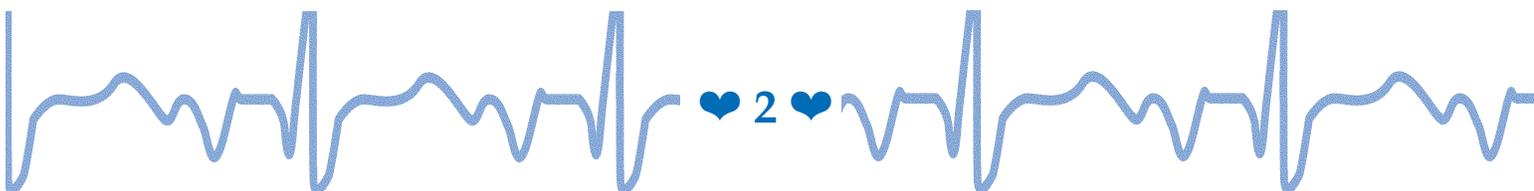
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Standley. If a patient needed a prescription from Bishop, the local postal carrier, Kelly, would take the request and enjoy a fifty-cent tip. The residents of Mammoth Lakes had to either travel 60 miles north to Bridgeport, or 45 miles south to Bishop when medical services were needed. When the town started to turn from a sleepy fishing village in the summer to a growing ski industry in the winter, it was evident that a hospital had to be built to take care of the local medical needs as well as the needs of the visitors. In November 1968, 18 people founded the Southern Mono Hospital Auxiliary; they were the outcome of a concerned group of citizens.

Their goal was to create awareness and raise seed money. Ten years later, Mammoth Hospital was born.

"I began working at Mammoth Hospital right after the doors opened. The Radiology Department consisted of two other technologists. The entire hospital staff was less than 50," says Melinda Foster, Medical Imaging Manager. Melinda Foster and Jeri Dostie, RN, are the only two celebrating 30 years along with Mammoth Hospital. Congratulations to both of these fine ladies for their hard work and dedication.

For more information about the health fair, call 924-4015.



New Bone Density Technology Available

By Ehren Goetz, PR Assistant

A significant advancement in bone density screening was made at Mammoth Hospital recently with the purchase of a new machine used to diagnose Osteopenia and Osteoporosis, thanks to the contributions of the Mammoth Hospital Auxiliary.

The machine DEXA-Scan, Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry, is the most commonly used test measuring bone mineral density nationwide, and the most accurate way to diagnosis Osteopenia or Osteoporosis. This machine also features special software that computes and displays bone density measurements on a computer monitor.

Osteoporosis involves a gradual loss of calcium, causing the bones to become thinner, more fragile, and more likely to break. This condition often affects women after menopause but may also be found in men.

Bone density screening prior to this new technology relied on regular x-rays. Using a regular x-ray, a person could have to up to 30% bone density lost before it would show up in



Melinda Foster, Medical Imaging Manager

testing. A DEXA Scan is so accurate that patient follow-up scans can be used to monitor how well a patient is doing with their recovery plan. The DEXA machines also use less than one-tenth the dose of radiation than a standard chest x-ray. Mammoth Hospital radiologic staff members are all excited to be working with the new equipment. For more information or to make an appointment, call 924-4077.

Mammoth Hospital Participates in UC Davis Telemedicine Program

By Lori Ciccarelli, Community Relations Director

Mammoth Hospital has been selected to be a telemedicine site to improve collection of evidence in sexual assault/ child abuse cases through a grant awarded to UC Davis from the Health Resources and Service Administration – Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Federal Government. Through this grant, Mammoth Hospital will receive telemedicine equipment and assistance from UC Health System to improve evidence collection and increase the quality of care for abused children; the hospital has a dedicated private room in the emergency department for this type of examination.

According to Todd Graham, Deputy District Attorney for Mono County, his goal in acquiring the team at UC Davis was to broaden the county's SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) expertise and to include the UC Davis team that sees dozens of SART cases each year who are truly the top experts in the field. He also believes that Mammoth Hospital medical staff would feel more comfortable handling SART cases if they knew they could consult and be advised by the experts at UC Davis.

According to Kathleen Alo, RN, Mammoth Hospital Chief Nursing Officer, UC Davis is the largest telemedicine provider in the country. The nurses at Mammoth Hospital will receive mandatory training through UC Davis to operate the equipment in evidence collection and will be guided through the examination. Alo believes it will improve the quality of care for these patients. The UC Davis Center for Health and Technology received the President's Award for the Advancement of Telemedicine from the American Telemedicine Association at its 11 annual international meeting in 2006. The award recognizes the center's overall leadership and innovation in using the latest in telecommunications technology to improve the delivery of health care. It also recognizes the breadth, depth and effectiveness of UC Davis's telemedicine, telehealth and e-health programs, which enable patients from throughout California to receive direct clinical and specialty care without leaving their own communities.

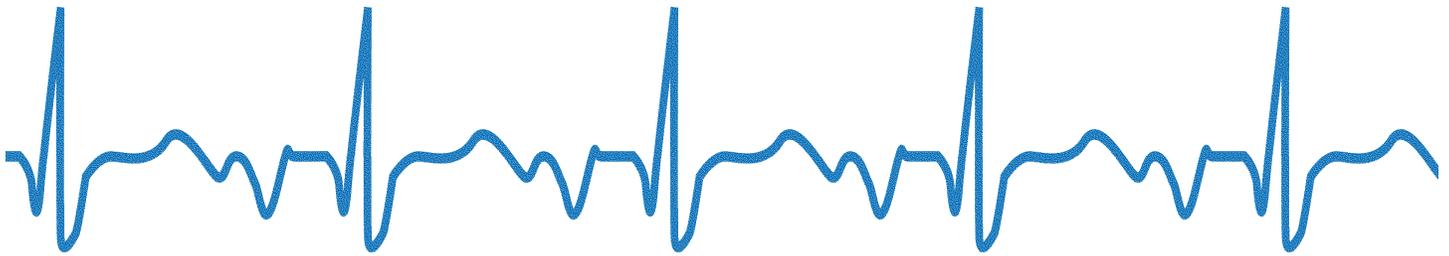
This is not the hospital's first opportunity with telemedicine. Sierra Park Pediatric clinic at Mammoth Hospital has participated in telemedicine for several years with Cedar Sinai Medical Center's program for behavioral health.





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Urology	924-4102
Women's Health Services.....	924-4044
Bridgeport Family Medicine Clinic.....	932-7011

Vision
 The Southern Mono Healthcare District is dedicated to excellence in the preservation, enhancement and restoration of the health and well being of all members of our residential and visitor communities.

Mission
 The mission of the Southern Mono Healthcare District is to:

- ♥ Deliver excellent, compassionate health care services for our residents and visitors;
- ♥ Provide appropriate health care services which conform to the highest standards of care and are directed toward improving the overall health of our community;
- ♥ Ensure sustainability through sound governance, quality management and financial responsibility; and
- ♥ Facilitate continuity of care through the development of local and regional collaborative relationships with businesses and other providers.

Administration
 Gary Boyd, *Chief Executive Officer*
 Joe Bottom, *Chief Operations Officer*
 Kathleen Alo, *RN, BSN, Chief Nursing Officer*

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