

Electronic Medical Records moving forward at MMH

Written by Chris Lee

Board members of East Phillips County Hospital District received an update of the newly implemented Electronic Medical Records (EMR) at their Tuesday, Sept. 28 regular meeting.

Staff members are still getting acquainted with the program and are looking at ways to speed up clinic visits.

MMH administrator John Ayoub noted a couple different doctors will be utilized for acute patients and phone calls to help free up MMH staff as they continue to get comfortable with the EMRs.

“People don’t care that we’re trying to do what we’re trying to do,” Ayoub said. “They just want an appointment to get in and see a doctor.”

Dr. Ted Linn will also be brought in during October, according to the administrator.

A doctor from the Wray Family Clinic has helped MMH staff learn some of the tricks of the trade and made life a little easier. Ayoub also said they plan to bring in an actual doctor affiliated with NextGen to help with training.

Ayoub updated board members on the governor’s choice to opt out of federal requirements for CRNAs (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist).

CRNAs no longer will need to be supervised by a physician when providing care.

This won’t affect the patients, according to the administrator. It is more of an administrative effect. “This is a pretty big deal,” Ayoub said. Nothing will be done differently at MMH to affect the patients.

Administrator reports activity

Ayoub reported they had been pursuing a doctor in the Colorado Springs area who has now taken another path. MMH is looking at a couple of third-year residents as possibilities. This slows down the possibility of hiring a doctor right away and would be similar to how Dr. Danielle McClellan was hired.

Ayoub noted the hospital's participation in the Every 15 Minutes program was beneficial for all who participated and said it was an excellent skill sharpening exercise.

Along those lines, an EMT basic class will be held beginning in November. The class is offered through NJC but will be on site at MMH.

Another opportunity for staff to work on different emergency situations was through the Rural Trauma Team Development Course. Staff worked on a simulation manikin that responded to certain drugs. Ayoub said it provided staff a life-like working situation and proved to be very beneficial.

Management training is also ongoing at MMH with more training sessions in October, according to Ayoub.

The administrator also noted it's time to think about budget and staff has been participating in budget committee meetings.

Board members discussed their budget at last Tuesday's meeting and everything pretty much stayed the same. A community survey will be added to the budget. This is done every odd numbered year.

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Two projects the Quality Committee is preparing for include Project RED through the Colorado Hospital Administration and iCARE through the Colorado Rural Health Center. Both projects focus on reducing readmissions. Nationally, 19 percent of senior citizens who are discharged from the hospital are readmitted. That number isn't nearly as high at MMH but the quality committee would like to look into it.

The medical staff bylaws have been reviewed and there are three major changes being looked at. The board committee needs to look at them and then board members will vote to accept changes.

Members of People Advocating for Successful Schools (PASS) gave a presentation to board members prior to last Tuesday's meeting, explaining question 3B and the mill levy election. Ayoub said board members appreciated the presentation.