A new family nurse practitioner was hired by MMH and was scheduled to begin orientation Monday, Oct. 1, according to MMH administrator John Ayoub.

Ayoub informed East Phillips County Hospital Board members of the hire during their regular meeting Tuesday, Sept. 25.

Dixie Ishee has joined the staff at MMH and signed a three-year contract.

Ayoub said Ishee comes to Holyoke with tons of experience. She has spent years as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, as well as a lawyer.

Ayoub said Ishee comes from a small town, so the smaller atmosphere should be familiar to her.

Ishee began orientation Monday and should be seeing patients within a week or two.

MMH goes live with EMRs

Ayoub reported MMH went live with the electronic medical records Sept. 11. He said a team from NextGen was on site during the go-live process to oversee and help with any issues.

“I could not be more proud of our staff. The effort, the preparation, the perseverance that went into getting us to where we could push the button,” Ayoub said. “We did have what I determine a successful go-live.”

The administrator did say this was the biggest culture shift the organization has experienced since its inception.

Ayoub quoted board member Harlan Stern. “Everybody loves progress, but nobody likes change.” He said the staff has been working extra hard during the transition period.

Ayoub said there have been no big issues or complications with patient care, but the change is frustrating. “We’re going to get through this and we’ll be just fine.”

“I think the future is very bright,” Ayoub added.

Administrator reports activity

Ayoub reported the new provider recruitment video was uploaded to YouTube Monday, Sept. 24 and staff is beginning to spread it around in hopes of finding a new doctor. The video will be uploaded to the hospital’s website after a coding issue is taken care of. He noted the video was shown to the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce board earlier in the day at a meeting in the hospital and all were impressed.

He informed the board he has been elected as the president for the Colorado Rural Health Center board.

Ayoub also reported a first responder class is currently in the works with NJC for those interested in taking it in Holyoke.

Other business

In other business Sept. 25, board members:

—swore in new board member Michael Woodhead. “We appreciate your willingness to serve,” board chair Steve Young told Woodhead during last week’s meeting.

—held a 76-minute executive session for items pertaining to an ongoing investigation and strategies for negotiations.

—authorized Ayoub to sign a contract for interim medical records support for up to three months.

—reimbursed Steve Young for travel fees spent attending the Colorado Hospital Association annual meeting in Vail.

—noted the next board meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 23 at 5:30 p.m.

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