Community outreach and education will continue with East Phillips County Hospital District board members.

During their regular meeting Tuesday, Feb. 28, board members discussed who would visit organizations around the area to hold another round of informational question and answer sessions.

Board members reached out to the community last year and felt it went very well. They hope to continue and expand upon that success.

Board members schedule visits to area companies and organizations to have an informal informational session providing info about the hospital. There is time allowed for questions to be asked of the board members.

The community linkages committee is conducting these sessions to find out what people are talking about, as well as providing valuable information related to the hospital district.

Administrator reports activity

Hospital administrator John Ayoub reported newly hired Family Nurse Practitioner Deaun Carpenter has been seeing patients and is fitting in really well. He said she has been received well by patients.

Ayoub noted March is colon rectal cancer awareness month and the specialty clinic is really spearheading the charge of encouraging people to get screenings done and become educated on the topic.

The administrator also noted the specialty clinic set a record during the second week of February. One hundred six patients were seen throughout eight clinics. It was reported that number is nearly double the normal average.

Ayoub said an on-site NextGen training session was held recently for the electronic medical records system. He feels they are making great progress and everyone is working together nicely. He also said Haxtun went live with its EMR system last Tuesday. They are using the same group and team MMH is using to get its records off the ground.

Flu season hit really late this year, according to Ayoub. “It came on like a hurricane,” the administrator said. He noted they were really busy for a few weeks but things have slowed down a bit as of last Tuesday.

There is always that chance a second wave will hit, so people are encouraged to keep themselves healthy by washing hands, staying hydrated, using vitamins and getting rest.

With the health fair just around the corner, Ayoub said the blood drawing has gone super well. They have seen a big wave of people utilizing the draws early on and hope the turnout at the health fair March 24 will be the same.

A question concerning the new digital mammogram machine was raised. Ayoub said in January they had two days where they conducted 14 procedures. “I’ve heard nothing but good things,” Ayoub said.

Other business

In other business Feb. 28, board members:

-—held a 16-minute executive session for personnel matters.

—approved credentialing for Lyle Barksdale, John Wright, Betsy Bronson, Thomas Neveldine and Jessica Langdoc.

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