



Ferry County Public Hospital District

Improving Health – Saving Lives

Looking Ahead

Last month we took a quick look at FCPHD's new mission, vision and value statements along with major undertakings accomplished during the past year. This month's article will begin focusing on the Board's role in looking ahead.

A large and growing portion of our client's health insurance is through Medicare or Medicaid, approximately 62%. Our strategic planning research forecasts an increase in this percentage into our future.

Over the next three to five years the way Medicare and Medicaid pays for healthcare services will be evolving and changing to better serve our community. The change will impact our small rural Critical Access Hospitals. Primarily, the change is converting the whole system from a "fee-for-each-service model" to a "community-health model" through the creation of Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) that are designed to focus on prevention and wellness of our population. The healthier our population becomes the more sustainable our organization is and can develop programs like tobacco session, diabetes management, and wellness programs. Because this new care delivery model is so different than what we are

used to, CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid) is slowly phasing in the changes. In larger healthcare delivery systems like what you see in Spokane, there have been successful demonstration projects that have pushed CMS forward with implementing this change in the rural hospitals and clinics.

Right now there is great movement to have facilities like ours phase into this new preventative/wellness care delivery model over the next three years. We want our population to be healthy, we want our community to be healthy, and we are being proactive in starting to change how we provide care for all that we serve. Recently, we approved to collaborate with several other Washington critical access hospitals to work with a national ACO consultant to form a group of coordinated health care providers and become an ACO. As always, we follow the FCPHD mission everyday "To strengthen the health and well-being of our community through partnership and trust." As more ACO details become available, we will provide you with more information.

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