

## Ferry County Health – Winter 2019 Update

Happy holidays from the staff of Ferry County Health!

We have some important updates, highlights and need input as 2019 draws to a close.

Our Board is beginning the process of creating a strategic plan and we would love to have input from you. This is a process of establishing three to five year goals and a plan for the district so it is vital to have community feedback. If you have ideas around new services we could be offering, areas to improve, equipment you feel we need, and especially elements of our district you really appreciate please be in touch. The best ways to offer feedback is through our website under the contact tab (<http://www.fcphd.org/contact.html>), fill out a comment card at either the hospital or clinic front desks, or mail us your comments to the attention of the Board.

2019 has been a busy year. We've increased our MRI availability from one day a week to five days a week. In March of this year we purchased a brand new ultrasound machine of similar or better quality than most of our neighbors around us (still operated by the skillful hands of Kevin Robinson). Dr. Kal Kelley joined us and has begun offering colonoscopies and upper endoscopies (EGD), a service that is already quite popular. To do that we have also contracted with a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) in order to provide the safest and most comfortable procedures possible to our community. Not to mention we also purchased a state of the art scope cleaner to bring added safety from years prior when this service was offered. In our hospital we have completely remodeled two of our rooms and have added four new beds with Isoflex Surfaces for maximum comfort and will continue to add two new beds each year. We are in the process of replacing our entire cardiac monitoring system which is a much needed upgrade with a hefty price tag (\$200K+). Early in the year we added a Pyxis (automated drug dispensing system) into our hospital pharmacy which is a nurse satisfier and improves patient safety. Dr. Richard Garcia and Kevin Robinson continue to offer ultrasound guided injections to treat various forms of joint pain which many of you are taking advantage. Up at Klondike Hills Assisted Living we've been able to purchase a new bus for our residents which should be a safer and more comfortable ride. Across the district we have contracted with a new surveying firm to help us systematically understand concerns you may have as well as things we are doing well so our staff continue to do those things (you may have already been called or emailed by NRC for your feedback).

Moving into 2020 we plan to remodel more hospital rooms, add real time remote pharmacist review of prescriptions given in the ED and hospital, and are working on finding a hospital physical therapist to grow our swing bed program (rehabbing from various surgeries, injuries, etc.) and improve activities for our long term care residents. Which will also free up valuable time for our clinic based physical therapy team to give better access to care. We will also be working on purchasing additional lab equipment to reduce the need to send out lab work. Internally we will be offering pay increases for most of our staff (especially our lowest paid employees), Life Flight memberships for our employees and their families, copay offsets for staying local and using our services, and biometric screening. We hope you will consider joining our team or referring friends and family to one of our open positions!

Financially the district continues to make improvement. This year alone we have paid off \$1,327,725 in debt to date (\$4,046,401 to go!), have increased our gross revenue by \$1,242,308 this year vs last and have increased our net revenue by \$978,230 for a total to date of \$2,167,852 (all numbers are as of October 31<sup>st</sup>). Why are we seeing financial growth? Simply put, more of you are choosing to stay local and trust us with your care. In the clinic we've seen 990 more patients, 699 more lab visits, 124 more emergency department visits just to name a few areas of growth versus last year (this is also through October 31<sup>st</sup>). We sincerely thank you for your trust in our facility! Your health and our health as an organization depend on each other!

Thank you!

Aaron C. Edwards MHPA  
Superintendent and CEO, Ferry County Health