



## **Administrator's Report June 29, 2021**

### **General Hospital District Information Update:**

#### **COVID -19 State and Local Update:**

As of today, Granite County has **0** active case. There are **114** new cases in the state.

According to the Montana Response map today:

- 113,690 Total cases from Montana
- 111,616 Cases Recovered
- 409 Active cases in Montana
- 54 Active Hospitalizations
- 1,665 Deaths

According to the Montana Response map today:

Granite County has administered **2,118 doses** of vaccine, with **33%** of the population fully immunized.

- 46% of Montanans Fully vaccinated.
- 862,170 Total vaccine doses administered in Montana
- 426,241 Total Montanans fully immunized

### **Activities /Life Enrichment:**

- Our travel season restarted in May and our Destination Club Leader planned the trips they took last month. They were able to take a trip a week. The 1<sup>st</sup> trip took them through Helmville and into Lincoln. They enjoyed seeing eagles along the river that runs next to the highway. In the later part of the summer, they will take this trip again.
- The next outing took them to Lost Creek just outside of Anaconda. The park was not open but it was a beautiful drive. They will do this trip again later and it will be open then. The next trip took them back toward Anaconda. They were looking for Gunslinger Gulch. They read about this and learned that it is a popular place for moviemakers. They did find it, but the area was not ready for company yet. Our patients also like driving on Skalkaho Highway, so they went as far as Gem Mountain and came back home.
- We celebrated our Mothers on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Flowers were made for each of them by staff. Huffman's donated beautiful roses and The Sweet Palace donated a box of chocolates for each of our Mothers. This all made our Mothers feel special as they ate chocolate and held their flowers.
- For Memorial Day, we celebrated with a B.B.Q in the courtyard. Hamburgers and hot dogs with potato salad, baked beans, and a dessert pizza were enjoyed by all. Amy, our Dietary manager has a recipe for dessert pizza that everyone asks her to make regularly.
- Currently, we are reaching out to all our past volunteers for their possible return. Our patients are asking about the ones they remember and we are hopeful that most can and will return.

- We closed the month with some special visitors. The Arizona Stageline and Wagons visited us with adorable mini horses pulling a wagon. A whole afternoon was spent in the courtyard with lots of petting that both patients and horses seemed to enjoy.

### **Business Department/ Revenue Cycle Team:**

- A new study released by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) and the Montana Hospital Association shows Montana hospitals account for close to 12 percent of Montana's private sector employment and 13 percent of total private sector wages. The research documents the powerful role Montana's hospitals are playing as a leading economic driver for the state in terms of income and job growth.

The study shows that 56 of Montana's 60 non-governmental hospitals account for

- About 83,900 permanent, year-round jobs across the state;
- Over \$6.3 billion of annual, recurring income received by Montana households, of which \$5.7 billion is disposable, after-tax income;
- State tax and nontax revenues of approximately \$1.5 billion per year;
- Over \$16 billion in added economic output annually; and
- About 147,500 additional state residents.

When it comes to jobs, income and economic output as a percentage of total statewide figures, Montana hospitals support 12.1 percent of the state's private sector jobs; contribute 13.4 percent of the state's personal income; and fuel 16.4% of the state's economic output, while contributing more than \$1.5 billion in tax revenues.

- **Medicare Interim Payment Rate Adjustment:** We recently received our mid-year interim payment rate adjustment from Medicare. Effective June 16, 2021, Medicare Payment Rate will be lowered for hospital acute days from \$7384 to \$6991. The Swing bed rate will increase from \$5706 to \$5853.
- In regard to the deadline for spending the COVID Relief Funds, DPHHS posted an update in that **Relief Funds received between April 10, 2020, and June 30, 2020 (Period 1), must be used by June 30, 2021.** Therefore, the majority of our funding received must be "used" by this June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, deadline. The AHA is strongly encouraging DPHHS to reconsider this June 30, 2021 deadline since most healthcare providers received the bulk of PRF during this early stage and are challenged to complete projects in progress due to common supply chain and workforce issues created by the pandemic that have yet to resolve. It is also likely that the state of Emergency will be extended until the end of 2021, so in turn, hopefully the deadline to use the funds will be pushed back as well.
- **The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP)** signed into law on March 15, 2021 appropriated an additional \$8.5 billion in relief funding for eligible rural healthcare providers.
  - HRSA provided \$100,000 to more than 4,600 Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) across the country through the Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation Program. Each of our RHCs met the requirements for the [RHC COVID-19 Testing Program](#) and received \$100,000 per clinic site in June 2021.
  - HRSA will also, further expand COVID-19 testing in approximately 1,730 small rural hospitals – Critical Access Hospitals and other rural hospitals with fewer than 50 beds – will receive up to \$230,000 per hospital, through the [Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program](#) (SHIP). I have submitted our willingness to accept these funds and I expect to receive an update on next steps, in the near future.
  - HRSA also plans to fund eligible RHCs through a grant application. The Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Confidence (RHCVC) Program will fund local projects aimed at increasing patient and community confidence in COVID-19 vaccination and to address equity gaps by bolstering patient literacy on the benefits

of broader vaccination for other infectious diseases. I wrote our grant last week for both RHCs and submitted it prior to the deadline.

**Central Supply: No Report**

**Clinics:** I have been in discussions with Ashley Westphal, FNP and she is wanting to cut back on her clinic time. Effective August 5, 2021, Ashley will drop her Philipsburg Clinic day but continue to see patients in Drummond every Tuesday. She will also continue covering two weeknights per week on call, 13 weekends and 3 Holidays per year on call. Letters notifying each of her patients will go out this week and notification will be placed in the *Philipsburg Mail* next week.

Dietary: No Report

Grants: No Report

Emergency Preparedness: No Report

Environmental Services: No Report

**Human Resources:** Openings included two night nurses, and five CNA's.

**IT:** Dave has inquired to Blackfoot about increasing our network connection speed by 50% and was informed that they have just introduced new, lower pricing. Now we can have a 50% faster connection for half of what we are paying now and we can upgrade Drummond to what GCMC currently has for about twice what we are paying now for DSL. In specific terms our

**Current Expense is:**

GCMC, 20/20 DIA = \$600/mo

Drummond, 15/2 DSL = \$125/mo

Annual Expense: \$8700

USAC Subsidy = \$5600

**New Speeds:**

GCMC 30/30 DIA = \$300/mo

Drummond 20/20 DIA = \$270/mo + \$1000 installation.

Annual Expense: \$7840

USAC Subsidy = \$ \$5096

Besides the benefit of lower cost, a fast symmetrical connection to Drummond could open additional capabilities that were not available with DSL.

Laboratory: No Report

Maintenance / Transportation: No Report

**Marketing:** Ad campaigns continue to target COVID-19 vaccine promotion, accessing telehealth, as well as staff recruitment and current healthcare observances.

**Medical Staff:**

- New Credentials:
- Resignations: Dr. John Heighway effective 5/31/2021
- Re-credentialed Providers: Dr. Patricia A. Barnes, MD  
Dr. Michael C. Biddulph, MD  
Dr. Joseph G. Mollura, MD  
Dr. Anjali, MD  
Dr. Yuming Yin, MD

**Nursing:****May Patient Census**

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Intermediate Swing Bed (LTC) | = 15     |
| Swing Bed billable days      | = 45 (4) |
| Acute billable days          | = 23 (6) |
| Observation Days             | = 2      |
| Outpatient Nurse Visit       | = 0      |
| Adult Day Care Visits        | = 0      |
| Deaths                       | = 0      |
| ER Visits                    | = 31     |

**Physical Therapy**

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| May had a total: | 97 Visits |
| Outpatient:      | 80        |
| Acute Inpatient: | 0         |
| Swing Bed:       | 17        |
| LTC:             | 0         |

**Radiology:**

- We completed 14 CT Scans in May. Our benchmark is 10. We had a record week last week with 11 scans in just 7 days. So far with one day remaining in July, we are at 24 scans this month.
- The HVAC system failed to maintain proper room temperature several times this month. This required that we shut down the CT machine until the room could be cooled. Proper temperature is 70 and the room has reached well above 80. All parties from the original construction and installation were notified and have coordinated efforts to identify and resolve issues. The repair service was onsite multiple times, making several different adjustments. Right now, the system is operating as expected and the room is maintaining 70.
- In follow up of the radiology renovation project; the team met last week to work through concerns identified in the demolition portion of the current project. The concerns involve the exterior roof not actually being flat and the roof void being less than expected to accommodate ductwork. A change order to address these concerns is pending.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Stoppler CEO/DON