

# Outgoing CEO Hughes shares confidence in continued PVCH success

By **MIKE GILMORE**  
News Director,  
Hi, Neighbor!  
Newspapers

Outgoing Pawnee Valley Community Hospital administrator John Hughes is leaving office. However, he is leaving with confidence in the hospital's future.

"I have every confidence in the competence of the staff, the operations of the hospital and the expectations of our healthcare community," noted Hughes, who will be completing his tenure at PVCH on June 30.

He is also confident that the transition to a new administrator will be a smooth one; the hospital is operating in the black with an eye on its goal to make PVCH a model for other critical access hospitals to follow across the state.

"It should really be a good transition for an incoming administrator," Hughes said. "We are

having success in many aspects, including our association with HaysMed. "The beauty of that relationship that we have is that we have a wealth of experience and knowledge available that we can rely on. With HaysMed at our back, we will never be left holding the bag.

"When we go to hospital association meetings, people already know who Pawnee Valley Community Hospital is. They look at and understand our success, and the success of this community, when it comes to their hospital.

"We are fortunate that in our association, we're able to stay up with technology; stay up with equipment; stay up with human resources - all within the hospital's operating budget. We can do these things based on our community's support and faith in us. Our hospital board, our ladies' auxiliary, our Foundation - these are all



John Hughes

key factors in the success of our hospital."

Organizations such as PVCH's Patient-Family Advisory Council keeps the hospital informed, recognizing positive areas as well as areas in need of improvement.

Recently, the Council observed that signage postings would help patients, visitors and staff navigate to their intended department more efficiently.

The Council is composed of eight community members and two staff members, that meet and discuss information received from personal contacts and exit surveys, looking for ways to make PVCH even better.

"We get real community feedback on a wide range of issues," Hughes noted. "We add that dialogue to dialogue we receive from city entities, county entities and others so that we are prepared to respond to any situation - from regular single admissions to community-wide or county-wide disasters. With that support, we are able to face challenges with confidence more effectively.

"I can tell you, wherever we go, we are constantly approached by other administrations that are amazed at the level of participation we enjoy. They ask us how we can get wholesale participation when they have to work

to get two, three people together at a time? We say that our community is committed to its own success."

With that, "we definitely want to keep on progressing," Hughes said. "By September 1, we will be getting a new physician and a new nurse practi-

tioner. These additional providers will enable our clinic to see more patients and better serve the community's needs.

"We are wanting to open up our MRI more, but again, we have to look at sustainability issues. We are always looking to progress; we will always

keep an eye on our future.

"People are wanting to come to work at PVCH, and that's impressive, because these days it's extremely difficult to recruit from a rural setting. That's the true measure of our success - people are wanting to come and share in what we have."

## PVCH administrative search draws wealth of applicants

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Apparently, word about Pawnee Valley Community Hospital's success is getting around.

Shae Veach, vice-president of regional operations and marketing at HaysMed, reported that the hospital has built a large candidate pool for PVCH's CEO position following the conclusion of PVCH administrator John Hughes' tenure that ends in June.

Advertisements in healthcare trade journals and local newspapers has resulted in more than 40 applications received for Pawnee County's acclaimed critical access hospital, Veach said. "It's been a really good



Shae Veach

turnout," Veach noted.

The search process continues with interviews at PVCH for each applicant, which includes on-site viewing of the hospital and the local community. "We'll then be narrowing it down to about three to four applicants and then have additional interviews with hospital principals such as the PVCH Board

of Directors," Veach noted. "We'd like to get it done within the next 90 days, but we're not going to rush things. We want to make sure we get a candidate who will be a good fit for the hospital."

As the process continues, Veach will serve as interim administrator, making regular trips to Larned about 2-3 days a week. Veach also served as interim administrator for PVCH during the interval between inaugural CEO Matt Heyn and Hughes, who will be moving to the Kansas City, Mo. area.

"I always enjoy coming to Larned," Veach noted. "I enjoy the staff, I enjoy the community. It's always a positive experience for me."

## PVMA announces new clinician

Pawnee Valley Community Hospital is pleased to announce that M. Crystal Hill, M.D., will be joining the staff at Pawnee Valley Medical Associates in September.

Dr. Hill earned her medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kan. and Wichita, in 2002. She completed her family practice residency at Via Christi Regional Medical Center in Wichita.

Dr. Hill is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Kansas Academy of

Family Physicians. She is board certified with the American Board of Family Practice and the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

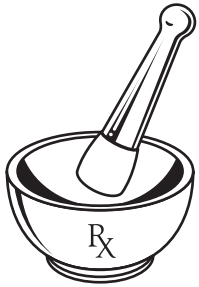
Originally from Emporia, Dr. Hill has practiced at the Hutchinson Clinic since 2011, specializing in family medicine and women's health.

"I look forward to joining the outstanding healthcare team at Pawnee Valley Medical Associates and becoming part of the Pawnee Valley community," Dr. Hill said. "Together, we

will maintain the existing healthcare services offered and provide the quality healthcare that the community deserves."

Hill worked with PVMA Chief of Medical Staff Dr. David Sanger at Via Christi. "She is a compassionate and well-rounded family physician, who will provide another excellent option to patients in our area," Dr. Sanger said. "I am excited to have Dr. Hill join our team at PVMA and she is an excellent fit for our clinic."

We look forward to your continued success!



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