

# KU, Hays hospitals finalize partnership agreement

**By MIKE GILMORE**  
**News Director,**  
**Hi, Neighbor! Newspapers**  
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The finalization of a partnership agreement between the University of Kansas and Hays Medical Center hospitals also means good things for HaysMed partner Pawnee Valley Community Hospital.

The two hospitals announced the completion of their agreement in a joint announcement Jan. 3. The agreement went into effect Jan. 1. “Pawnee Valley Community Hospital is excited about the recent announcement of the partnership between HaysMed and the University of Kansas Hospital,” said PVCH administrator

Eric Lybarger Wednesday afternoon. “The long-range goal of this partnership is to transform and enhance care and access for Kansans, including Pawnee County and the surrounding area. We are fortunate and pleased to be included in these discussions and look forward to working with the University of Kansas health system.”

In the joint release, leaders of the two hospitals noted that they share a long-term vision to enhance and extend comprehensive, high-quality, cost-efficient healthcare in a not-for-profit setting to transform healthcare delivery throughout Kansas. John Jeter, M.D., who continues as Chief Executive Officer of HaysMed, says the final negotiations went smoothly. “When both parties share the same patient care philosophy and vision, final agreements

flow naturally. Our staff is excited now that the partnership agreement is complete and we can begin realizing our goals for this partnership,” Dr. Jeter said. · The basic elements of the partnership remain unchanged from the letter of intent: · Staff will continue to be employed by their current organizations. · The HaysMed Board of Directors will remain in place. · A new Operations Council, made up of leaders from both organi-

zations, has been formed and is tasked with directing the HaysMed partnership. Leadership reports that both staffs are eager to begin working together. “We have spent months preparing to begin this partnership. Now the hospitals can truly work as one to improve the health of Kansans,” said Bob Page, president and CEO of The University of Kansas Hospital. A number of branding and signage examples will be unveiled in the next few weeks.

## Doc

**continued from page 3** came to Larned from the Hutchinson Clinic where she specialized in Family Medicine and Women’s Health. Dr. Hill joined the health care team at Pawnee Valley Medical Associates on September 1, 2016 and became a part of the Larned Community with her husband, Sam (whom she met at KU), two children, 8 year old daughter, Mya and 12 year old son, J.T. Of course no family is complete without the family pets. The Hills are Dachshund dog lovers and have three Doxie residents in their home, Toby (13), Abby and Charlie.

Dr. Hill is a very compassionate person and as a Family Practice Physician, Dr. Hill enjoys developing relationships with her patients. She prides herself on “listening” to her patients and wanting them to feel really “heard”. She cares about their needs and concerns.

“I love getting to know the whole family,” said Dr. Hill. “It’s all about building relationships with people and feeling like you made a difference in their lives by helping them to find solutions to their healthcare issues and treating them with respect....letting the patient participate in their own health care solutions.”

Besides Family Health Care, Dr. Hill is passionate about her study and practice of Palliative Medicine, which is the providing of relief to a patient from symptoms or stresses of serious

illnesses that would improve the quality of life for a patient and their family. Dr. Hill has worked with hospice organizations since 2009, including a company which today is called Kindred at Home.

“Women’s Health” also is a big part of Dr. Hill’s practice. She enjoys treating women of all ages concerning preventative care including women’s wellness exams regarding all issues of a woman’s life. When asked what she thinks sets her apart in the world as a female doctor, Dr. Hill was quick to say, “People seem more at ease to “opening up” to a lady doctor. I think as a woman, I relate a little more to their emotional side, which makes them perhaps feel a little more comfortable that I might understand.”

As a mom, Dr. Hill says it can be a tough schedule, but she is proud to say that her husband, Sam is invaluable when it comes to parenting and running the home efficiently. “Sam usually has a flexible work schedule to help with the children’s needs and those of the home and of course don’t forget the pets. I couldn’t do it all without Sam!”

Considering their new life in Larned, the Hills are looking forward to participating in school activities with Mya and J.T., who are both active and interested in 4-H and scouts. They are eagerly anticipating church involvement, along with the many hobbies and sporting events they

enjoy. Both Dr. Hill and Sam enjoy cycling and have participated in Bike Across Kansas and plan to join Team Larned for next year. They love to bowl and belong to a weekly bowling league in Great Bend. “Sam enjoys golfing, but I have not picked that one up yet.” says Dr. Hill. Since both graduated from KU, the Hills enjoy catching a few games in Lawrence, when time permits.

When asked, “What is the BEST part of being a doctor?” Dr. Hill’s response was, “Getting to know families.....the whole family and building a relationship with them....to become a part of their lives by serving my community and making a difference in the lives of the people who live here.”

Dr. Hill is truly a special person and the community of Larned is very lucky to have her. Dr. David Sanger, PVCH Chief of Staff, who worked with Dr. Hill in residency at Via Christy in Wichita agrees.

“She is a compassionate and well rounded family physician, who will provide another excellent option to patients in our area. I am excited to have Dr. Hill join our team at PVMA and she is an excellent fit for our clinic.” said Dr. Sanger.

Stop by your Pawnee Valley Medical Associates clinic.....make an appointment with Dr. Hill.....she has a stethoscope that listens to all your heart wants to tell her.....

## Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation



Dr. Moser

## Coordinator

**continued from page 3** excellence is to be commended. PVCH is also very community oriented which fits with my core values. The history of the hospital and what it means to the surrounding communities is a testimony on the sheer determination of what we as individuals can do together.”

Eric Lybarger, PVCH Administrator and Foundation board member said Julie’s successful track record raising money and her experience in healthcare made her a great fit to lead the Foundation.

“We are fortunate to

have Julie on our team to help build relationships in the community and increase funding for the foundation,” said Lybarger. “The pressure on small, rural hospitals is significant from a revenue standpoint, so having the Foundation as a partner is vital to the success of PVCH. We look forward to Julie continuing her career as a great fundraiser and helping us enhance healthcare in Pawnee County.”

If you would like to contact Julie, she can be reached by calling (620) 285-8632 or by e-mail: juliebugnersmith@haysmed.com.

**(Reprinted from April 11 Tiller & Toiler)**

On Thursday, March 30, the Cardiopulmonary Department from Pawnee Valley Community Hospital held their 6th annual Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation get together for the patients that have been through the program.

This is our sixth year of having this program for our patients. The program brings patients back together as well as reminds them of the importance of what they learned in the program. Cardiac and Pulmonary Disease is among the top diseases in the nation for death. Cardiac being number 1 and Pulmonary Disease being number 4.

There are many different diseases processes that we work with in our program. The hospital offers a Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab program to patients who qualify for the program. Annually these patients come back together for an educational and entertaining evening.

This year we were very fortunate to have Dr. Moser from the Kansas Heart and Stroke Collaborative. He talked about the goals of the program and all of the benefits this offers the patients

**see CARDIAC page 11**

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