

Nurses from 1A

ONA's Nov. 7 newsletter published statistics from the American Hospital Directory showing hospital revenue and

net incomes (total profits). In it, Peace Harbor Hospital's 2015 revenues were listed at \$100.6 million, with a net income of 37.8 percent.

By comparison, Bay Area hospital in Coos Bay had a net

income of 3 percent and Samaritan Pacific Communities in Newport was at 2.5 percent.

Comparatively, Sacred Heart at RiverBend-Springfield (a PeaceHealth facility) showed 15.3 percent net income.

Peace Harbor Medical Center CEO Rick Yecny said, "The American Hospital Directory is significantly off. The gross revenue is fairly close but the net profit (net income) numbers, for every one of the hospitals, is really significantly off."

The net income figure from the American Hospital directory is for Peace Harbor Hospital only, and does not take into account the income or loss from the non-hospital facilities of the Peace Harbor Medical Group, like the clinic and hospice center.

Yecny said a more accurate picture of the entire Peace Harbor Medical Center can be found on the state's Oregon Health Authority (OHA) website.

"We are pretty much in line with the rural hospital overall average," Yecny said of the OHA figures. "We are significantly under the large hospital average. Rural hospitals on average are significantly under what the large hospital average margins are."

Yecny explained that the profits stay within the organization and are basically used for what ever the mission statement of the organization is.

"Healthcare is a fairly capital intensive business," Yecny said. "We just replaced the CT scanner for the community at a cost of \$1.5 million. We have to build a little bit of a reserve to make major capital replacements."

A third round of negotiations is scheduled for Feb. 27 and 28.

"We are currently engaged in contract negotiations with the Oregon Nurses Association and we are committed to bargaining in good faith and reaching an agreement on a contract that supports our skilled and dedicated regis-

tered nurses," said Marcy I. Marshall, director of strategic communications and engagement for PeaceHealth in Vancouver.

According to Fleetwood, if the negotiations break down, the next step would be arbitration, followed by mediation if necessary.

"We want to avoid mediation and hope not to strike, but it wouldn't be off the table," said Fleetwood. "But even if there was a strike, nurses would still be allowed to cross the picket line to provide medical care."

The negotiations come at a time when PeaceHealth's corporate office has announced the lay-off of as many as 330 employees in Washington and Oregon after selling its off-sight lab services to Quest Diagnostics of New Jersey.

PeaceHealth Medical Group has been managing the PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center since 1979, when the facility was called the Western Lane Hospital.



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Palette Knife Painting with Patricia Williams
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For more information about classes, visit fraaoregon.org. To register for these classes, please call or visit FRAA at our art center on Maple Street.

Sentence from 1A

In February, a jury found Clay guilty of two counts of first-degree sexual abuse, two counts of using a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct and one count of third-degree sexual abuse.

During his sentencing on Feb. 14, Circuit Judge Mustafa Kasubhai said that it was the



Randy Clay

court's intent to not release Clay back into the community, telling Clay, "you are a predator — a sexual predator."
Clay was previously convicted in 2008 of a felony menacing charge in Colorado and of armed robbery in 1977.

Treatment from 1A

Immel approached Richard Yecny, chief administrative officer of PeaceHealth Peace Harbor, with a proposal that requested financial support to provide the nonopioid option to the community suggested by the Center for Disease Control.

Yecny responded favorably, accepting that nontraditional treatment plans can have an important place in patient care.

"These partnerships are a valuable opportunity to work toward achieving better patient outcomes, improving community health and delivering more efficient, cost-effective care," Yecny said. "Acupuncture can be a beneficial component of a patient's full spectrum of healthcare. It offers pain relief that can offset the risk of becoming reliant on medication."

The Points of Grace

Program operated briefly in 2003 and reemerged for six months last year on a bi-monthly basis.

Immel treated 683 patients during that time. Nearly all reported significant improvement in their pain levels and many were able to reduce their dependence on opioids to treat their longtime symptoms.

"By partnering and ensuring that the Points of Grace program continues, we're increasing the community's access to valuable health services while reducing the risk of addiction to pain medication," Yecny said.

Immel has seen up close the benefits that a more integrated approach to pain treatment can achieve.

"I've seen individuals who have been suffering from chronic pain as the result of injuries or constant headaches who would come in once a week and begin seeing positive results in their long-term health," she said.

The benefits of acupuncture can also extend beyond pain relief and positively impact patient health in other areas.

"Acupuncture is also such a powerful detox treatment," Immel said. "It really helps people that are on multiple medications to decrease their med intakes and more effec-

tively process what they already have in their body."

Last year, more than 300 million pain prescriptions were written and filled, for a revenue of more than 24 billion dollars.

The CDC also reports that more than 52,000 Americans died from opioid overdoses in 2016, with 63 percent perishing from prescription poisoning, the official designation for these type of deaths.

Immel feels that the patients that she sees, often older and taking multiple medications, can see dramatic benefits from acupuncture.

"When people are older and they have poly-pharmacy issues going on, and they are taking all these multiple drugs, their livers just get bogged down trying to process all the toxins in their bodies and acupuncture can help to improve liver function," Immel said. "We're grateful for this partnership, which allows us to continue offering a more integrative, holistic healthcare model to those we serve."

The Points of Grace clinics will run every Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., through June.

For more information on the program, call Wellspring Clinic at 541-902-8860 or visit TheWellspringClinic.com.

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