

# CCS seeks county boost for health department

The agency projects deficits for 2015-16

By **Scotta Callister**  
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY – Community Counseling Solutions is asking the Grant County Court to budget \$110,000 for the county Health Department in the fiscal year that begins in July.

Kimberly Lindsay, executive director of the Hepner-based nonprofit, submitted the request to the Court at its Jan. 28 meeting. CCS contracts to run the health department for the county.

The county contributed \$100,000 toward the health department operating in the current fiscal year, approving that investment last spring after CCS officials said they might need to turn the department back

to county administrators because of the cost.

Lindsay said that while she wasn't happy to be making the new request, she was pleased that her revenue projections and budget predictions from last year were on target. At that time she predicted a deficit of about \$150,000 would occur.

Scott Spears, CCS chief financial officer, laid out a financial picture forecasting a \$157,000 deficit for the health department in the coming year. However, CCS is asking for \$110,000 rather than the whole amount. Under the scenario he outlined, the remaining gap would be filled by CCS, chipping in its administrative costs of about \$40,000, and operational efficiencies and reserves.

Lindsay recalled the Court last year offered to invest in the health department for an additional year, giving the agency time to rebound from a slump in primary care revenue. That program lost patients in early 2013, after

the unexpected death of family nurse practitioner Tim Nielson and several months without a provider.

Lindsay said there have been efficiencies in the past year, and primary care is regaining clients. It would show a profit for this year, but for an anticipated "unusual budget expense" of \$55,000 to purchase an electronic medical records program.

The medical industry is moving to establish electronic record systems as the standard in record-keeping. In addition to facilitating coordinated care for patients, the electronic systems are required to qualify for certain types of accreditation and many grants.

The Court made no decision on the budget request. The county's budget committee, which includes the three-member Court and three citizen members, is scheduled to begin a series of meetings on the 2015-16 budget in March.

## NEW OCHOCO SUPER



Contributed photo/Kevin Spert

**Stacy Forson has begun her duties as the supervisor of the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland. She succeeds Kate Klein, who retired. A Bend native, Forson has more than 25 years of Forest Service experience, with posts including civil engineering technician, wilderness and trails supervisor, grant writer, recreation planner, interdisciplinary team leader and natural resources staff. Most recently she was the recreation, lands and heritage staff officer on the Siuslaw National Forest in Corvallis.**

## SUIT

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phrases "dyke" and "bad lesbian."

The county's filing denies that allegation, and says Hood-enpyl did not hear or process any discriminatory remarks.

However, the county's filing does admit, without elaboration, the claim that Hickerson used another more vulgar term.

(The Eagle has chosen not to publish the term.)

The county previously acknowledged the vulgarity, in papers filed by the county judge as part of a separate employment complaint related to the incident.

Friday's filing asks the court to rule in the county's favor and award any "costs and disbursements" it deems proper.

Last November, the county's attorneys filed a response in a

separate lawsuit filed by James N. Gravley. He claims he was fired as a probation officer for blowing the whistle on discriminatory talk in the 2013 meeting.

Both Gravley and Hanson are represented by Portland attorney Matthew C. Ellis.

In December, Judge Patricia Sullivan ordered the Gravley case to mediation, with the parties to select a mediator from the court-sponsored panel of qualified professionals.

## CEO

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"Every place has its own challenges," she said. "Right now I'm figuring out how we do things here."

However, Molitor said HealthTech assigns its interim CEOs to be active managers and not just hold down the fort during a transition.

"We're expected not just to manage, but to improve," she said. She said she'll focus on ensuring efficiency of operations and good customer service, and also assist the district board with the ongoing CEO recruitment process.

As for her own style, she said, "I believe in a culture of accountability, and doing things

the way they should be done."

Molitor is no stranger to small hospitals. She began her career as a registered nurse, and was a chief nursing officer for 14 years followed by 10-plus years in CEO work. She earned her nursing degree from South Dakota State University, and worked for Banner Health for 24 years, all of it in small hospitals in South Dakota, Utah, Nebraska and Wyoming.

She was the CEO at Washakie Medical Center in Worland, Wyo., where she and her husband, Leon, live. They have a son in college and a daughter attending high school.

Molitor, who is accredited as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, went to work for HealthTech last fall, and spent three months on an interim

CEO assignment in Nebraska.

She expects to be in John Day, except for a few trips home to Wyoming, until a new permanent CEO arrives. If all goes according to plan, that could be May or early June.

HealthTech has already been advertising the position, and the hospital board is expected to begin reviewing resumes this month.

The hiring process will include site visits and board interviews with the top candidates.

While HealthTech reaches out to attract candidates, she stressed, "the selection will be the board's decision."

She lauded the board's involvement.

"They are very interested in finding the right person for this job, and trying to foster that culture of accountability," she said.

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