

MCHD Health District selects new CEO

Morrow County Health District compliance officer Emily Roberts was selected as the interim CEO of the district in a unanimous vote of the board at the MCHD meeting Monday night in Irrigon. The board approved a \$185,000 annual salary plus insurance and other benefits for Roberts, who currently lives in Yacoult, WA. Roberts is in the process of moving here with her husband and young child.

Previous administrator Bob Houser retired in December and a subsequent administrator, Ryan Fowler, left the district after only several months. Interim administrator Victor VanderDoes resigned following statements he made at a Boardman Chamber of Commerce meeting. He had previously worked for the district as administrator. It was not revealed what VanderDoes said.

Earlier two MCHD physicians, Dr. Russ Nichols and Dr. Dan Hambleton resigned, at the time leaving MCHD with no full-time doctors. Dr. Betsy Anderson, who was a

part-time physician for the district and had previously worked full-time for MCHD, has stepped up to accept the role of MCHD Chief of Staff. At the time of Monday night's meeting Anderson was in Montana



MCHD CEO Emily Roberts



Dr. Betsy Anderson

to attend the graduation of her daughter.

The board approved locum tenens (temporary physician) service agreements for Nancy Hutnak, D.O., Kenneth Lindsey and William Everts and physician employment agreements for Dr. Ed Berretta, who was also previously employed full-time by the district, and Dr. Joshua Sirucek.

The board granted temporary locum privileges to Dr. Jeffrey Westin, a locum's physician from Comp Health and Dr. William Everts to cover the emergency room, hospital and clinic and to Dr. Samuel Milstein for the clinic.

The board also received a letter indicating approval of a request for a \$67,000 loan from the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC) for a real estate purchase. Terms are 120 months at a 1.5 percent interest rate. The loan will be used to purchase the former Lutheran Church building for use as the physical therapy building.

In other business, the board:

-learned that Jodi Ferguson moved from confidential administrative and

financial assistant to financial assistant, payroll and credentialing position; Mayci Richman, former Irrigon Medical Center medical assistant, to the community relations and communications coordinator role; and Larissa Gray from hospital business office clerk to the confidential accounting and administrative assistant. Human Resources Director Patti Allstott reported that the district is continuing to recruit for a Home Health & Hospice RN, a patient business office admitting clerk, a hospital RN and a maintenance technician. She said that an interview for a dietary director candidate is scheduled for this week.

-learned from Kathleen Greenup, R.N., Chief Nursing Officer, that the district currently has an opening for an RN and the position was posted for statewide exposure. She noted that all CNAs currently on the regular payroll have obtained their CNA-2 certification "which will offer them a broader scope to be able to assist nursing staff with more tasks." Greenup also noted that she has gotten "positive feedback from the nursing staff working with locums physicians." She added, "MCHD personal protective equipment and

COVID testing supplies remain adequate."

-learned of recent hires, Sarah Rea, Home Health & Hospice clerk, Jerry Conklin, Hospice chaplain and Katelynn Sowa, Home Health & Hospice VA homemaker.

-heard a report from Andrea Fletcher concerning "Morrow County Health District 2021 Impact Strategies": to "Provide education and/or programs to promote healthy lifestyles"; to "Improve communication and coordination among health service providers"; "Improve communication and coordination among health service providers, and "Improve communication between health care providers and the community," youth mental health, alcohol/tobacco/drug use, maternal and family health needs, oral health, chronic disease, social determinants (housing and food); and health workforce.

-approved a resolution authorizing the following to sign checking and savings accounts: John Murray, board chair, Emily Roberts, interim chief executive officer, Nicole Mahoney, chief financial officer, Kathleen Greenup, chief nursing officer, Kris Jones, chief operating officer, and Patti Allstott, human resources director.

-held two executive sessions, one for submis-

sion of confidential information to the board; and one to consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.

-received the following profit and loss statement through May from CFO Nicole Mahoney: \$1,149,644 in gross patient revenue, \$52 in provision for bad debts, \$97,770 in contractual and other adjustments, \$185,460 in tax revenue, \$2,964 in other operating revenue for \$1,240, 246 in total operating revenue; \$1,540,685 in total operating expenses, a \$27,547 non-operating gain for a loss of \$272,892 for the month and an average monthly-year-to-date gain of \$135,888.

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Dr. Russ Nichols



Dr. Dan Hambleton

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2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



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