

# Hospital board discusses future plans and services

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The new interim administrator for Cheyenne County Hospital, Les Lacy, gave a detailed account of how Great Plains Health Alliance has saved the hospital over \$140,000 in the last year. Mr. Lacy also brought up the idea of mission versus margin with the board, and a long discussion took place.

Mr. Lacy, vice president for regional operations with Great Plains Health Alliance, is serving as the interim administrator until a replacement is found. He said he anticipates this will be for about three months. Mr. Lacy told the board that other management companies would not do what he is doing, and it saves the hospital about \$10,000 a month. In addition, a health insurance holiday earned with the insurance company through Great Plains saved the hospital \$33,000 in December. Also, the purchasing group through Great Plains saved 8 percent over the next best competitor. On supply costs totaling \$1 million, that is a savings of \$80,000. Mr. Lacy stated that his Great Plains report is that it saved the hospital \$143,000 in the last year.

The cost of the lease with Great Plains Health Alliance is \$71,678 per year.

### Mission versus Margin

Mr. Lacy told the board that the challenge of running a hospital and deciding what direction to take it in is considering the cost versus the care. Some of the community's most popular departments are the ones that cost the hospital the most money, such as the emergency room. However, having the emergency room is important, and the community wants one, and so the hospital has to figure out how to help support that service.

Mr. Lacy spoke for some time about a few different departments and the high cost they burden the hospital with, although they are very popular departments. He went on to talk to the board about how there are many hospital services to choose from, and the hospital must choose carefully. Some services can end up costing the hospital a lot of money. Some

departments are not sustainable in hospitals that are small like Cheyenne County's.

Mr. Lacy asked the board what services they thought were important and how they thought they could help spread out costs.

Some board members expressed confusion. Member Rick Rogers told Mr. Lacy that he felt the board did not know what services were most important or would help spread out costs. He said he thought that was Great Plains' job as the hospital's management company.

Roxie Neitzel, board member, said that she thought this was what Shawna Blanka and Heidi Tice were good at, and that this was part of their job. She said that in her opinion they would have better recommendations than the board.

Board member Mike Bandel said it would be hard to look at every service in every department and get a clear picture. Erika Zimelman, board member, agreed, saying that it is difficult to even look at the clinic versus the hospital.

After the board members had some discussion on the issue, Mr. Lacy said that since the board feels it is Great Plain's job to determine what services the hospital should provide, he hoped that they feel like he is doing his job. He added that his hope was to address some of the concerns that the board had voiced at the last meeting. Last month, some board members said they did not feel involved in the decision-making process at the hospital.

Mr. Rogers explained that his understanding was the people that managed the hospital need to figure out what works, and what the hospital can afford, and let the board know what they think is good for the hospital and community. He felt that Mr. Lacy was trying to get the board too involved.

Mrs. Zimelman said she thought the board should be looking at the big picture; the board should discuss strategic planning. Looking at cost to charge ratios is not really what the board is there for. She suggested the board put time aside in future meetings specifically for strategic planning.

Mr. Lacy agreed that it would be good to look at strategic planning, especially with a new administrator coming soon. He said he did not want to take the board anywhere they did not feel comfortable going. Mr. Lacy suggested to the board that they look at the current big picture and ask themselves if they are happy with the quality of service right now, and if they are happy with the leadership.

The board plans to discuss strategic planning at future meetings.

### Department head reports

Nutrition services manager Christa Brown gave her report to the board this month. The nutrition department now has two full-time and one part-time employees. Mrs. Brown said they are conscious of the budget, and are down one less full-time employee right now.

Sara Wilson, the human resources manager, also gave her report to the board. There are currently some job positions open, including the administrator position, clinic manager, and two full time registered nurse night shift positions. She told the board that there is an interim clinic manager that will begin on May 27 until a replacement is found. She also went over some of the benefits that are provided to the employees.

### Next meeting

The next hospital board meeting will be held on June 24 at 3 p.m. in the basement of the Cheyenne County Clinic.

# Crop insurance available to some

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced a new risk management option that will be available for fruit and vegetable growers and producers with diversified farms. The policy, called Whole-Farm Revenue Protection, will provide flexible coverage options for specialty crop, organic and diversified crop producers. The program will be implemented in counties across the country and will expand in availability over the next several years.

Whole-Farm insurance allows farmers to insure all crops on their farm at once, rather than insuring commodity by commodity. Traditionally, many fruit and vegetable crops have not had crop insurance programs designed for them making it less attractive for a farmer that primarily planted a commodity crop like wheat or corn to use another part of his or her land for growing fruits and vegetables or other specialty crops. This allows farmers greater flexibility to make planting decisions on their land.

"Crop insurance has been the linchpin of the farm safety net for years and continues to grow as the single most important factor in protecting producers of all sizes from the effects of unpredictable weather," said Vilsack. "Providing farmers the option to insure their whole farm at once gives farmers more flexibility, promotes crop diversity, and helps support the production of healthy fruits and vegetables. More flexi-

bility also empowers farmers and ranchers to make a broader range of decisions with their land, helping them succeed and strengthening our agriculture economy."

The 2014 Farm Bill requires a whole-farm crop insurance policy option, and paves the way for the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to make it broadly available to specialty crop, organic, and diversified growers. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board of Directors (FCIC Board) approved the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection pilot policy for RMA to offer it through the federal crop insurance program in 2015.

USDA has taken many steps to provide effective insurance coverage for diversified, organic and specialty crops. The whole-farm crop insurance policy provides flexibility to meet the needs of specialty crop growers, organic producers and those with diversified farms, and who have farm production and revenue history, including five years of historic farm tax records. This policy is also part of USDA's commitment to small and mid-sized producers managing diversified operations.

USDA has been strengthening crop insurance by providing more risk management options for farmers and ranchers. The policy offers coverage levels from 50 to 85 percent; recognizes farm diversification through qualification for the highest coverage

levels along with premium rate discounts for multiple crop diversification. The Market Readiness Feature, as outlined in the Farm Bill, simplifies insurance coverage for producers under the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection pilot policy by allowing the costs such as washing, trimming, and packaging to be left in the insured revenue instead of having to adjust those amounts out of the insured amount.

The new Whole-Farm Revenue Protection policy combines Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) and AGR-Lite along with several improvements to target diversified farms and farms selling two to five commodities, including specialty crops to wholesale markets. The new policy is also designed to meet the risk management needs of diversified crop or livestock producers including those growing specialty crops and/or selling to local and regional markets, farm identity preserved markets, or direct markets.

As part of the pilot, Whole-Farm Revenue Protection will be available where AGR and AGR-Lite are currently offered, and will expand to other counties as data are available for underwriting and actuarial ratemaking. RMA will release information on the policy later this summer when it becomes available. This information will be announced on the RMA website at www.rma.usda.gov.



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## Public Notices

# Petition filed in court to determine descent

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursday, May 22, May 29, June 5, 2014. (22, 23, 24)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS  
FILED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 59 OF  
THE KANSAS STATUTES ANNOTATED

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
KEITH W COOK, Deceased. Case No. 14-PR08

### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this court by Brent Cook praying for the determination of the descent of the following described real estate situated in Cheyenne County, Kansas:

The Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SW1/4SE1/4) of Section 16, in Township 2 South, Range 40 West of the 6th P.M.

and all other property, real and personal, or interest therein, owned by the decedent at the time of his death; and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 16th day of June, 2014, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on said day in said court in the City of St. Francis, in Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition..

Brent Cook, Petitioner

VIGNERY & MASON LLC  
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