

# Nurse moves into administrator's position

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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After working as a registered nurse for several years, Barb Whitney became the administrator at Oberlin Medical Arts.

Mrs. Whitney said she started at the clinic as a registered nurse for Michael Kirk. Over the years she's also worked with Carolyn Rucker, nurse practitioner, Dr. Wendy Vogel, Dr. Elizabeth Sliter and Dr. Stelian Andreca. Mrs. Whitney said she started as a nurse at the clinic in July 1990, although she hasn't worked there this entire time; there's been some breaks in the last 10 years.

Last December Mrs. Whitney took over as the administrator, after Larry Ganje retired.

As the administrator, she is the human resource manager, chief financial officer, the health insurance privacy and portability act compliance officer, in charge of payroll, the physician on-call schedule, insurance credentialing and contracts, maintaining all rules and regulations regarding a rural health clinic and corporation and various other tasks. She added that she works closely with all of the doctors and the nurse practitioner at the clinic too.

The clinic staff, she said, includes 15 full-time and three part-time workers.

Mrs. Whitney was born in north central Missouri and moved to Kirwin in 1980 and to

Norton 10 years later.

She received her nursing degree at Barton County Community College and hasn't had any other formal training, other than on the job, for the administrator's position.

Mrs. Whitney and her husband Evan, who works at the Norton Correctional Facility, still live in Norton. They have five grown children and two grandchildren, plus one on the way.

She said she is a member of the Kansas Medical Group Management Association. The mission of the group, is "to improve the effectiveness of Kansas-based medical group practices and the knowledge and skill of the individuals who manage and lead them." Mrs. Whitney plans to serve on the Rural Health Clinic Committee through the group.

In order to be a successful administrator, it takes perseverance of which she said the definition is "steady persistence in a course of action, purpose, a state, especially in spite of difficulties, obstacles or discouragement."

"I feel it is the single most important factor in success," said Mrs. Whitney. "It can more than make up for any shortcomings that a person may have."

She added that she feels anyone can be a success at any job they choose if they just keep on keeping on.



**ADMINISTRATOR** Barb Whitney, at the Oberlin Clinic, looked at a document with Dr. Stelian Andreca.  
 — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

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**PRESCRIPTIONS**

Cynthia Haynes, Sharon Addleman, Mollie Kisner and Alex Ortiz

*Thank You*

Thanks to these working women of the Decatur Cooperative Association: Front: Penny Soderlund, Hope Brown, Chandra McKenna and Anna Leibbrandt. Back: Tammy Wasson, Jackie Mayberry, Nadine Green, Lori Roe, Brenda Fought and Dalene Horton.

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