

# pulse



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A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR PHYSICIANS, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS FOCUSING ON THE HOSPITAL'S MISSION OF PROVIDING QUALITY CARE AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE TO THOSE WE SERVE

## Annual meeting held



Addington



Dillon



Haley



Kirst



Phelps



Sorbera

The Lodi Memorial Hospital Association held its 66th annual meeting and dinner at Wine and Roses on April 20. The association is the "owner" of Lodi Memorial Hospital and is open to any interested party for a one-time, lifetime fee of \$100. Contact community development for membership information. Members annually elect who will represent them on the association's board of directors. Board members are 17 community volunteers who are elected to three-year terms. Mary Kraft, election chair, announced that six board members were reelected to serve an additional three-year term. Those members are Ron Addington, Cecil Dillon, Paul Haley, Jeff Kirst, Dan Phelps and Thomas Sorbera, MD. At the meeting Board Chair Dillon thanked all hospital staff for their commitment to the hospital and for the personal sacrifices they have made during this extended economic recession. Also at the meeting, president and CEO Joe Harrington reported on the hospital's 2010 accomplishments and its plans for 2011. Opening a new emergency department, settling in to the South Wing for med/surg, opening a new gift shop, launching a progressive-telemetry unit on the third floor of the North Wing, and launching a clinical-decision unit adjacent to emergency were among 2010's key activities. The year ahead includes many projects related to improving customer service, quality and technology-enhanced communications. Additionally, LMH will focus on the best uses of space and resources, especially as they relate to LMH's West Campus. To save more than \$1 million that would have been required in renovations, the hospital determined it was best to close its transitional-care unit, for long-term-care patients, and relocate its physical-rehabilitation inpatient unit to the main campus, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).

## Service highlights

	2010	2009
Patient beds	261	270
Admissions	7,902	8,174
Average length-of-acute stays (days)	4.3	4.2
Newborns	1,176	1,286
Surgeries	4,275	4,411
Laboratory tests	536,257	507,298
Diagnostic-imaging procedures	33,984	34,130
CT scans	16,016	15,138
Physical-therapy treatments	42,859	51,224
Emergency patients	28,188	24,272
Urgent-care patients	14,302	18,150
OB-clinic visits	16,506	17,637
Pediatric-clinic visits	21,373	25,820
West primary-care-clinic visits	10,146	15,033
Pulmonary-care-clinic visits	4,070	5,079
LMH-outreach-clinic visits	1,438	1,280
Occupational-health-clinic visits	4,506	6,351
Wound-treatment-clinic visits	2,164	4,893
Galt Medical Services visits	16,656	16,079
PrimeMed clinic visits, lone	6,719	8,872
Iris primary-care-clinic visits	5,187	9,136
Millsbridge primary-care-clinic visits	27,279	11,821
Trinity primary-care-clinic visits	7,017	4,873
Vine specialty-care-clinic visits	4,525	1,644
Home-health visits	11,104	12,378
Adult-day-care visits	4,858	4,561
Camp Hutchins visits	14,159	13,375
West Fitness visits	59,485	55,969
Volunteers	196	210
Employees	1,334	1,314
Active-medical staff	137	133

## Call on interpreters

In 2010, LMH's two staff Spanish interpreters, Antonio Gomez and Sonia Padilla-Casillas, interpreted for LMH employees and patients a combined total of 10,710 times. Please continue to call them Monday through Friday, from 6:15a-7:30p, for Spanish-interpreting needs. They can be reached on Vocera or pager 494. They are happy to assist. When they are not available, please use the back-up interpreter list, (Sonia Padilla-Casillas, ext. 5307).

### ***Celebrate hospital week***

National Hospital Week is May 8-14. In appreciation of all LMH staffers do every day, a week full of treats is planned. On Mon., May 9, LMH staff in Galt, Lone, Hutchins Street Square, Guild, Trinity, Millsbridge and clinic administration will have pizza provided by their department directors. On Tues., May 10, continental breakfast is offered to all in the dining rooms at both campuses between 6:30-9:30a. On Wed., May 11, from 2-4p, an ice-cream social will be held in both dining rooms, and ice-cream bars will be delivered to departments at the West Campus. On Thurs., May 12, stop by for fruit and desserts in the main-campus dining room from 12n-2p. Cookies will be delivered to the West Campus. On Fri., May 13, all are invited to enjoy a barbecue lunch, from 11a-2p, at both campuses. A barbecue will also be held from 5-8p at East. Thanks, again, for all the good works, (*Joe Harrington, ext. 7560*).

### ***BOOST aims for better outcomes***

Beginning May 2, the LMH Readmission Task Force, BDI #3, will be implementing a three-month trial for the BOOST program on LMH's 4 South med/surg unit. BOOST stands for "Better Outcomes for Older Adults through Safe Transitions." It is a follow-up program to help patients transition into the community after discharge and prevent unnecessary readmissions. The trial will target patients with acute myocardial infarction (AMI), congestive heart failure (CHF) and pneumonia (PNA). It includes a risk assessment to allow staff to specifically address barriers to healthy functioning in the community. Staff will utilize the "teachback" method of instructing patients, which requires patients to communicate back their understanding of instructions given to them. Robin Clay, med/surg, and Mia Alcalá Van Houten, education, are leading classes to train staff for teachback. Patients will be discharged with a "PASS" form, which is a "passport," with instructions for their follow-up care. The PASS form was carefully designed with leadership from Sharon Paoletti from the home-health department. Utilization-management staff will call these patients 72 hours after discharge to ensure that they are following through with taking medications correctly, going to physician appointments, etc. BDI #3's goal is to implement the BOOST program, on all floors, by Oct. 31, (*Valerie Cronin, ext. 7480*).

### ***Shop for moms in the gift shop***

Don't forget that Mother's Day is right around the corner, Sun., May 8. Those seeking gifts for mothers, grandmothers, sisters, or any other women worthy of appreciation, should check out the unique gifts available in the gift shop. New items that would make a perfect gift for any mother include travel mugs, picture frames, sewing kits and stationary sets. There is also a wide selection of jewelry, the ever-popular martini candles, numerous Willow Tree figurines and beautiful serving ware. There are also plenty of new sparkly headbands and scarves. Stop by to find something for that very special woman, (*Sarah Beasley, ext. 7616*).

### ***New art graces walls***



***"Spring Flow, Mokelumne River," by Dan Kasser***

New art has been hung in the North Wing and around outpatient services and ICU. Community member Jeannette Powell graciously donated a beautiful Marty Stanley painting. The other 17 pieces were purchased with

funds raised from South Wing art sponsorships. Those interested in sponsoring art pieces may do so by filling out the white sponsorship card accompanying the piece and returning it to the LMH Community Development Department. Most pieces can be sponsored for \$250, and payroll deduction is available for as little as \$25 per pay period. Note cards featuring the LMH Art Collection are now available in the gift shop for only \$2 each. They are blank inside, making them ideal for any occasion. Looking for a particular piece? Contact Megan Johnson with requests, (*Megan Johnson, ext. 5170*).

### ***Learn about voluntary benefits***

LMH offers voluntary benefits, such as disability plans, cancer and life insurance plans, to full and part-time benefited and non-benefited employees after 90 days of employment. Starting May 2, representatives from Farmington Company will be at LMH to discuss plans, enroll employees and answer questions. Representatives will visit each department, including outside facilities, to meet with eligible employees, including night shift personnel. Please contact Lynette Havens in human resources, ext. 7598, with questions, (*Lynette Havens, ext. 7598*).

### ***Enroll kids in summer program now***

The 2011 Camp Hutchins summer program will run from May 31-July 29, M-F, 7a-6p, for school children ages 5-12. Located at Hutchins Street Square, the program provides activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, outdoor sports and more. Space is limited to a first-come, first-served basis. LMH employees receive a 10-percent discount on tuition, (*Jillian DeGagne, 334-2267*).

### ***Way to go, Colleen***



In April, med/surg RN Colleen Kwiatkowski passed the exam to become a Certified Medical Surgical Registered Nurse. This is a national certificate, and Colleen is the first LMH med/surg nurse who has reached this goal. Colleen started her LMH career as a med/surg nurse at LMH in January 2001. Since then she has become one of the main pediatric nurses, lead day-shift preceptor to students and new employees and, recently, a relief charge nurse. Med/surg is very excited and proud of Colleen for this accomplishment, (*Robin Clay, ext. 7868*).