

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED SERVICES WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOSPITAL

(This is another series article to educate the public on the proposed construction project for Osborne County Memorial Hospital (OCMH) prior to the election on November 7th.)

The proposed new hospital and rural health clinic will be approximately 39,000 square feet. The combined square footage of the current hospital and two existing clinics is estimated around 28,000 square feet. The additional 11,000 square feet in the new facility will give OCMH the ability to increase existing outpatient services and the potential for new outpatient services.

OCMH has provided physical therapy services out of a converted patient room for numerous years. In September we hired our own Rehabilitation Director, Aaron Geist, Doctor of Physical Therapy, and have doubled our space to perform physical therapy as well as investing in several pieces of equipment to allow Aaron to offer more definitive treatments. In the new facility the Rehabilitation space will be approximately 1200 square feet and will allow us to offer an after-hours wellness area for the community. In addition, we hope to add new rehabilitation services such as cardiac rehabilitation and possibly pulmonary rehabilitation.

Another area that will be a new addition for the facility is the Specialty Clinic area for providers that offer specialized care. In our current facility we do not have this area and have to utilize the Emergency Room and Operating Room areas which aren't conducive for the providers that offer these services. Currently we only have a couple of providers that offer specialty clinics due to our lack of space. Our goal is to increase these clinics with potential new specialty clinics for orthopedics, cardiology, OB/GYN and pulmonology. This would allow patients to remain in Osborne County for services rather than having to drive out of town to the specialty provider's offices. In turn the specialty providers would be ordering more lab and radiology which would increase our revenue. We will also have a much larger surgical suite in the new facility allowing these providers to perform minor surgeries at our new facility as well.

With the increased space and potential for new services, we anticipate growth in these areas and the necessity to hire additional staff such as therapist's, RN's and even a custodial position. The new facility will be helpful with both recruitment and retention of employees and providers with the newest technology available for providing care to our patients.

OCMH will be hosting another tour on Saturday, October 14, at 9:00 a.m. to show you the issues we are currently facing with the age of the facility and lack of space to increase outpatient services. We are also going to include an Open House at the same time for the Physical Therapy Department to introduce Aaron Geist, DPT, and show you the newly created space and equipment. The Open House will also showcase the Radiology Department and our newest employee, Kristin Wagner, who is now available to perform ultrasounds five days a week. Kristin will also begin performing echocardiograms next month which will also be available five days a week. They are currently only offered once a month through a mobile service. Please make plans to join us for the tour, open house and coffee and cookies on October 14th.