



CCCWN News

April 2022

Samaritan Health Services committed to providing comprehensive cancer care

A sad truism of modern life is that almost everyone's life will somehow, irrevocably be afflicted by cancer, be it a personal diagnosis or that of a loved one. Another is that access to high quality, cutting-edge oncology therapies and treatments is critical to patient outcomes. Beyond medical oncology services, patient and family supports can be an emotional lifeline and can help improve overall quality of life and health outcomes. Samaritan Health Services, through a comprehensive constellation of cancer prevention, treatment, and support services, is committed to ensuring that its patients and their loved ones receive the highest quality of care.

The Samaritan Pastega Regional Cancer Center (SPRCC) serves as regional hub for cancer treatment and support and offers a wide range of oncology care for all types of cancer tailored to each patient's unique needs. Available services include chemotherapy, radiation therapy, onsite laboratory, lymphedema services, clinical trials, surgery, plastic surgery, and integrative medicine. Additional services through the SPRCC include a hospitality house, resource centers, social workers, financial counseling, nurse navigators, nutrition and fitness classes, and hospice and home health. Satellite cancer care centers at the SHS hospitals in Albany, Lebanon, Newport, and Lincoln City also provide high-quality cancer care through the provision of chemotherapy, palliative care, nurse navigation services, integrative medicine, and specialized dietician and social worker services.

The SPRCC is also home to one of the two Samaritan Cancer Resource Centers—the other is in Albany—that offer robust rejuvenation, information, and support services to patients in every stage of their cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survival. Rejuvenation services include access to a salon stocked with wigs, headdresses, and hats; massage therapy; healing gardens; and stress management through yoga, caregivers self-care, art therapy, and mind-body workshops. Knowledgeable and friendly staff help patients access information about their diagnoses and treatment options through information libraries with print materials and online access to Samaritan's health library. Various classes, education and outreach within the community, and free consultation with a dietician are also available to help support the information needs of patients and their caregivers.



The SPRCC also hosts support groups for both the patient and their loved ones to help build a sense of community, alleviate distress and uncertainty, and ultimately contribute to better medical outcomes. Additional supports include referrals to local services and resources; cancer survivor networking opportunities; linkages to chaplains, dietitians, medical insurance specialists, pharmaceutical counselors, social workers or counselors; financial assistance; and transportation assistance.

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Member Spotlight: Laura Hennem

Laura Hennem, Chief Executive Officer of Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center (GSRMC), doesn't do anything by halves—just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, she was working two jobs, one as the Regional CEO of Dignity Health–St. Rose Dominican Neighborhood Hospitals in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the other as the Executive Director of the MultiCare Good Samaritan Emergency, an innovative neighborhood emergency room. But the pandemic brought a lot of things into stark relief for the PNW native, and the siren call of her homeland and being near family was alluring. The timing was good, too—her 19-year-old twin sons had just graduated high school—and she started her current position with Samaritan Health System (SHS) in the summer of 2020. Relocating and starting *any* job at the height of the pandemic is no small feat; taking leadership of a Level II trauma center and the largest hospital in the tri-county region at the height of the pandemic *almost* reeks of sheer folly.



But Hennem, impressed by SHS's level of commitment to community health, its leadership, and its vision, was excited by the prospect of taking helm of a hospital that could help its community navigate the novel hurdles of a pandemic and maintain a high quality of care for its patients. No novice to healthcare leadership and innovation—she holds a Master of Health Administration from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University, was a proud member of the inaugural cohort of the Executive Education Innovative Health Care Leader program at Stanford University Graduate School of Business and Stanford Medicine, and has over 25 years of experience in health care administration—she immediately set about meeting the unique challenges of a healthcare system in crisis.

She credits the region-wide integration between SHS, the CCCWN, and the community as providing both a conduit for understanding an ever-evolving landscape and a strong framework for creatively pivoting to meet urgent community health needs. Under her management, GSRMC was quickly able to deploy a wide range of digital health offerings like telehealth and alternative sites of care that were critical to ensuring both access to and continuity of care for community members in need of acute care.

While the COVID-19 pandemic may be flagging—statistically at least—its effects on healthcare systems across the world are profound and long-lasting. Hennem admits that some of her challenges moving forward will be directly and indirectly related to the pandemic. Workforce recruitment, retention, and development will continue to be a struggle for GSRMC—and most health care organizations. This need is starkly evident in the unfortunate confluence of increased mental and behavioral health needs born of pandemic-related issues (e.g., isolation, anxiety, depression, increased substance use, etc.) and an acute deficit of mental and behavioral health professionals, and it's something Hennem won't ignore. In her words, "...the pandemic served to push us further away from each other, and mental and behavioral health got worse with isolation."

With an influx of available federal and state funding, she was able to oversee the launching of a mental health out-patient hospitalization program during the pandemic that was able to provide daily therapy and treatment sessions to patients without requiring admission. It's a small success that she would like to see replicated and expanded.

She quickly offered that the "silver lining" of COVID was learning how quickly things changed and in developing skillful strategies to pivot, identify, and adapt to changing needs and parameters. In fact, she is making this a centerpiece of GSRMC's new strategic plan: be cooperative, be responsive, be creative; but most of all, be able to be nimble and flexible.

Speaking of nimble, Hennem jokes she "isn't much of a runner" because she only likes to run 10-13 miles at a time but lest you think she's a slacker, her (potentially deaf?) husband got her a drum set because she's dreamed of learning to play the drums for a long time. Her quest for a late-career shift to rock star was temporarily derailed by one of her two pandemic puppies breaking her finger, but in the meantime, she's been jammin' to Electric Dance Music—much to the mortification and delight of her sons—because she does "like it heavy on the baseline!"

Monthly Updates

Bridges to Recovery

The biannual progress report was submitted to HRSA on 3/30/2022. The PIMS report is due by 5/31/2022. The grant will end on 8/31/2022; the grant team will be working with partners and other key organizations to develop an evaluation report, a sustainability report, and a final report. Grant funds were used to host a regional stigma summit on 3/11/2022. The grant team is working with BRINK communications, OHA, RC-SWAY, and Measure 110 Access to Care to develop a region-wide stigma reduction campaign.

Regional Assessment and Implementation Disaster (RAID) plan

The final annex table top exercise will take place at Boulder Falls Inn in Lebanon, OR on 5/3/2022. The PIMS report was submitted to HRSA on 3/31/2022. An evaluation report is due by the end of May, and the no-cost extension period will end on 8/31/2022.

Oral Health Co-Location

KayLynne Todd, Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist (EPDH), is fully credentialed and will begin work at the beginning of the grant Year Two on May 1, 2022. Equipment, materials, and supplies are in final stages of procurement and approval. The Strategic Plan was submitted to HRSA on 3/14/2022, and the PIMS report is due by 5/31/2022.

Rural Communities Supporting Women and Youth

The grant is working to establish a new PSS Group Leader and Peer Support Specialist to serve the youth population in rural Linn County. Narcan was purchased for the grant program and will be distributed to grant partners through STARS. The Project Director is working with STARS to develop a handout of local resources that will be distributed with the Narcan kits. Additionally, the regional stigma reduction media campaign is underway; sites for billboards have been identified and two messengers have been identified.

Measure 110 Access to Care

The second progress report was submitted on 3/6/2022. The Access to Care grant was extended to 10/1/2022; grantees will receive a pro-rated three-month allocation of funds based on the original award amount.

Samaritan Treatment and Recovery Services (STARS) Rural Outreach

The new Peer Support Specialist will begin work in mid-April. The grant continues to distribute Narcan kits to the community and the Brownsville and Sweet Home clinics.

Parenting Success Network

April 2022:

- El Padre que Disciplina- A Dad's workshop offered in Spanish. In partnership with Acosta Services

April 20th

- Nurturing Parenting Skills- In partnership with Seashore Family Literacy Center.

Starts April 4th

Ongoing supports include:

- Spanish Parenting Coaching
Llame a Luis (541) 220-9686
- Triple P Primary Care
Email Sommer smcleish@samhealth.org
- Triple P Online
Email Sommer smcleish@samhealth.org
or llame a Luis (541) 220-9686

New Parenting Educator Trainings this month:

- Nurturing Parenting
- Active Parenting of Teens
- Active Parenting Families in Action

Questions and Comments?

For questions and comments related to the monthly CCCWN Newsletter, please email Shelagh Baird at sbaird@samhealth.org

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