

ROTARY CLUB OF THE NORTH FORK VALLEY

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WEB SITES:

www.rotary.org

www.rotary5470.org

www.paoniarotary.org

LAST MEETING:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

October 18 will be *Octoberfest* to benefit Paonia Chamber of Commerce, held at the Living Farm Café.

Peggy won the football pool (no surprise) and donated her winnings to the Scholarship Fund.

PROGRAM:

JASON CLECKLER, Administrator of the Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) was introduced by Betsy. He moved to MTJ 2005 and to DCMH in 2008. He took over as the hospital CEO in 2012 where he had a great staff and hospital foundation. It is rare to come through the clinical ranks to become an administrator. He started in psychiatric nursing which is enjoyable as is the job of administrator.

Jason said there were some changes made after Tom Mingen left the administrator job because of the challenges of the times in 2012. His job has been to get the hospital back on track of providing quality care to pa-

tients, the hospital's basic mission.

The changes are in the view of how to provide care. To focus on moving from expensive care to primary care. His first year was to stabilize the clinics the hospital runs. His second year was to stabilize primary care, particularly in the North Fork area.

Patients were seeking care outside the county primarily because of the lack of access. So the hospital decided to get more involved in the North Fork clinics and took making the Hotchkiss and Paonia clinics partners with DCMH. Access has improved but there is more to be done.

We need more physicians throughout the county. Effects of health care reform: Insurance for more people access; quality and reducing cost. We need more providers to accommodate new patients.

DCMH is opening an urgent care facility on 1/1/14 across the street. They are trying to reduce the pressure on the emergency room. Urgent Care will branch out beyond 8-5 on Monday thru Friday and into the North Fork.

Jim Briscoe represents the North Fork on the hospital board of directors.

Jeff Berkosky represents Hotchkiss.

Health Care Reform: As a county we spend astronomically more on medical care than any other county in the state. The United States ranks 21 or 22 best in the world for health care, not #1.

Colorado expanded the Medicaid program to more eligible, but no money to support that. In Delta County there were 1000 eligible for Medicaid in 2011, today there are 4,000 eligible. But we need good access.

Medicaid pays 20 cents on the \$1;
Medicare pays 30 cents on the \$1;
Private insurers pay 80 cents on the \$1.

The state needs to step up to paying the costs. Rural counties are hit the hardest. At DCMH 76% of the patients are on Medicare or Medicaid. Compare that to Pitkin County (Aspen) where only 5% of the patients are on Medicare or Medicaid.

Electronic records are now required and instantly available to the patient. The DCMH has a patient portal.

Re Obamacare: health care was not sustainable; something had to happen.



As said before, with people involved in community work, there will be a bunch of Rotarians!