

## Cabell Huntington Hospital and St. Mary's Medical

On Tuesday, May 1, Cabell Huntington Hospital (CHH) completed the final steps of financing and paperwork for the consummation of the transaction with Pallottine Health Services, Inc., to acquire St. Mary's Medical Center (SMMC). This was the final step in the lengthy process that began in 2014.



"Today is a historic day that we will reflect on for decades," stated Kevin Yingling, RPh, MD, Chairman, CHH Board of Directors. "Throughout the nearly four-year quest, members of the medical community, business community and community at-large have maintained the vision of creating a

medical system that benefits the community by improving quality, access and affordability. On behalf of the Cabell Huntington Hospital Board of Directors, thank you for your unwavering support. We are committed to working with these separate organizations to build a regional system that will exceed your expectations."



"We now have the opportunity to work together and share best practices in quality and patient experience that will move care in this region to the next level for patients," stated Kevin Fowler, President and Chief Executive Officer, CHH. "We look forward to continuing as independent entities, yet

challenging each other to improve specialized services, implementing new technologies and defining the future health care for this region and beyond."



According to Michael Sellards, President and Chief Executive Officer, SMMC, "We are pleased that the transaction has been finally been completed. While we embrace our separate and distinct cultures, CHH and SMMC have a shared vision for the needs of our community and are fully invested in

meeting them. The significance of local ownership ensures decisions are made that benefit our region and meet the growing health care needs of the poor and uninsured."



"The driving force behind the transaction is to deliver access to the highest quality care in the most cost effective and efficient manner to our community," said Monte Ward, CHH Senior Vice President and Chief Acquisition and Financial Officer. "Reducing health care costs while improving the specialized

services offered at both facilities are essential to longterm sustainability in this new health care environment. By complementing our unique strengths, we can reinvest dollars locally and bolster the region's economic vitality."

With the closing of the transaction, the process can begin to create a comprehensive healthcare system for the region. The first step in that process has been taken with the naming of Gary White to serve as Interim CEO of the system. Owner of JRW, LLC, a consulting firm that provides management and transactions services, Mr. White has been retained to initiate the forthcoming corporation; guide the joint workgroups of SMMC and CHH to accomplish access, quality and efficiency initiatives; oversee the operational and strategic planning responsibilities of the two hospitals; and lay the groundwork



## **Center Finalize Acquisition Transaction**

for a permanent system CEO. A life-long West Virginian, businessman and coal mining executive, Mr. White holds a Regents Bachelor of Arts degree from Marshall University.

Mr. White served as Interim President at Marshall University, from January 2015 to January 2016, following the sudden death of long-time president Dr. Stephen J. Kopp. Prior to that, he served as Executive Vice President of Blackhawk Mining, LLC. Before joining Blackhawk, he provided assistance to senior management at James River Coal Company in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, lessor relations, government relations and regulatory affairs. Mr. White was President and Chief Executive Officer of International Resource Partners, LP, from June 2007 to 2011; President and Chief Executive Officer of International Industries, Inc., from 1992 to 2007; and President and Chief Executive Officer of the West Virginia Coal Association from 1985 to 1992.

Mr. White is currently a Director of United Bankshares, Inc., (UBSI); member of the Marshall University Board of Governors; Chairman of the James H. Harless Foundation; and serves on several other industry, advisory and charitable boards. He is a past member of the Cabell Huntington Hospital Board of Directors.

"Both St. Mary's Medical Center and Cabell Huntington Hospital will maintain individual identities with a business model that aligns the organizations to become a regional healthcare leader," stated White. "Each nationally-recognized organization will continue to operate as a separate, fully functioning facility, while working together to provide the best technology, processes and expertise."

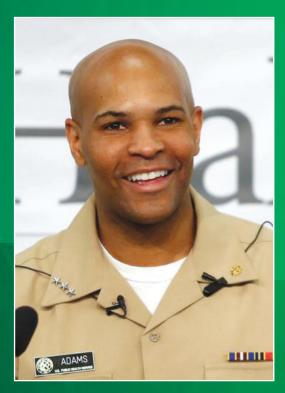
Now that the transaction is complete, CHH and SMMC will begin carrying out the plans that were outlined four years ago. They include adopting uniform best practices and common protocols, developing centers of excellence, integrating electronic medical records, avoiding costly equipment duplication, recruiting highly trained physician specialists, and coordinating and implementing wellness and population health measures.





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#### 2018 Summit Keynote Speaker

Dr. Jerome Adams, U.S. Surgeon General was the 2018 Regional Health Summit keynote speaker on Thursday, May 10th. Jerome M. Adams, MD, MPH, the 20th Surgeon General of the United States, was sworn into office by Vice President Mike Pence on September 5, 2017.

Dr. Adams' motto as Surgeon General is "better health through better partnerships." As Surgeon General, Dr. Adams is committed to maintaining strong relationships with the public health community and forging new partnerships with non-traditional partners, including business and law enforcement. He has pledged to lead with science, facilitate locally led solutions to the nation's most difficult health problems, and deliver higher quality healthcare at lower cost through patient and community engagement and better prevention.



### **Regional Health Summit Highlighted by US Surgeon** General and Blue Zones

Following its most recent Community Health Needs Assessment, Cabell Huntington Hospital (CHH) developed a comprehensive implementation plan for improving the health of the communities it serves. To collectively identify and strategically craft regional solutions to common health challenges, CHH sponsored the inaugural Regional Health Summit, in June 2017. The goal of the Summit is to strengthen the region's health, wellness and prevention efforts by providing opportunities for multi-sector collaboration. The 2017 Summit was held in May 2018.

The Summit focuses on access to care, chronic disease prevention and management, behavioral health and the use of technology to improve population health outcomes. The overarching focus was access to care, as it relates to optimal health, particularly for patients in rural communities.

Both years, nearly 45 health care groups and organizations West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky participated in the Summit. Attendees included over 175 health care and public health professionals, nonprofit and academic partners, state government officials and elected officials. The Summit featured local, regional and national speakers from the public health arena, as well as regional workgroups for healthcare and community agencies to collaborate and address the region's public health concerns.

CHH also established a collaborative partnership with Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center's Faith and Health Ministries movement, an initiative focused on uniting faith communities and health care providers to better serve the public health needs of the community.

The inaugural Regional Health Summit sparked conversations for four regional workgroups that took place in the fall, continuing the focus on the four target areas: Chronic Disease, Access to Care, Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse and Data & Technology. The Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse workgroup welcomed Terry Horton, MD, national addiction specialist from Christiana Care Health System, who presented Project Engage, an early intervention and referral to substance use disorder treatment program designed to help hospital patients who may be struggling with drug or alcohol use. Regional workgroups are planned to continue throughout 2018 as well.

The 2018 Summit brought in keynote speakers Jerome Adams, MD, U.S. Surgeon General, and Tony Buettner, senior vice president of business development at Blue Zones, a company dedicated to building healthy communities. Each day of the Summit focused on a different topic — Building Sustainable Community Networks to Improve Health, Working Across the Region to Create Meaningful Change and Good Health is Good Business.

From providing individualized patient care to sponsoring a comprehensive, collaborative effort to combat the region's public health concerns, CHH leads the region in caring for the community.

## Veteran pharmacy educator named dean of the Marshall **University School of Pharmacy**



Gayle A. Brazeau, Ph.D., a longtime pharmacy educator and former dean at the University of New England (UNE) College of Pharmacy in Portland, ME, has been named dean of the Marshall University School of Pharmacy.

Brazeau becomes the school's second dean following inaugural dean Kevin Yingling, R.Ph., M.D., who stepped down from the position last year, but maintains his clinical practice with the school of medicine.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Brazeau to the Marshall University family, "said Gayle Ormiston, Ph.D., university provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. "Her expertise in pharmacy education, from administration to teaching to mentoring students, is outstanding. She will help us build on our success and move our school of pharmacy forward."

Brazeau is currently a professor in the department of pharmaceutical sciences at UNE. Prior to joining the faculty in Maine, she was an associate dean for academic affairs at the University at Buffalo's School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Buffalo, New York, and an assistant dean for curricular affairs and accreditation at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy in Gainesville, Florida. She began her professional career at the University of Houston in Houston, Texas, as an assistant professor.

"I am so honored and humbled to be joining the Marshall family with the exciting opportunity to work and serve with the dedicated and talented students, faculty and staff in the school of pharmacy and in the university," Brazeau said. "Deans Yingling and Gallagher have provided a strong foundation for the success of the school. I am committed to working collaboratively with faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends to build on the strong foundations to further facilitate the growth and continued success of the school, university and our community and as we work towards the university goal of changing lives and inspiring extraordinary futures."

After finishing both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in pharmacy at the University of Toledo, Brazeau completed a doctoral degree in pharmaceutics at the University at Buffalo in New York in 1989.

Over her nearly 30-year career, Brazeau has received more than two dozen academic and professional awards including the 2017 Educator Award from the Maine Pharmacy Association, the 2009 State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service, the 2008 University of Buffalo Faculty Senate Outstanding Service Ward, among many others.

In addition to her busy teaching and administrative schedule, Brazeau serves as editor for the prestigious American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education and sits on the editorial board for scientific journals. She has written extensively, publishing more than 100 peer-reviewed papers, editorials, books and book chapters. Beyond that, Brazeau has presented at more than 160 local, national and international conferences and symposiums. She has been very active in scientific, clinical and educational professional organizations through service on committees and as an elected officer. Brazeau also has served as a faculty advisor for various pharmacy student organizations throughout her academic career.

Her husband of 38 years, Daniel Brazeau, Ph.D., is a faculty member in biomedical sciences and the department of pharmaceutical sciences at UNE. He is currently chair-elect of the Council of Faculties for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. They have collaborated in the area of pharmacogenomics/ pharmacogenetics. Rounding out their family are their two Labrador Retrievers, Morgan and Mendel.

Provost Ormiston said that interim dean Brian Gallagher has returned to his faculty position teaching at the school of pharmacy and school of medicine, as well as his government affairs post with Marshall.

"Brian has done a superb job leading the school during this interim time," Ormiston said. "Coming from the clinical side of Marshall Health, he provided cohesive, seamless leadership for the school over the past year. We are indebted to him for his service."

The Marshall University School of Pharmacy opened in 2012 and graduated its first class in 2016.



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## Senate Bill 273 Provides a Roadmap for Pain Management

Cabell Huntington Hospital is joining hospitals across the state in embracing Senate Bill 273 that went into July 7. This new legislation, introduced by Gov. Jim Justice in March, requires providers to prescribe alternative methods of pain management such as physical therapy and chronic pain management programs prior to prescribing Schedule II controlled substances such as oxytocin, benzodiazepines and Vicodin. It also limits the prescription of opioids to a seven day supply at the lowest effective dose, along with education and counseling.

According to the new bill, a prescription for a Schedule II opioid drug for greater than a seven day supply now requires a patient to sign a "narcotics contract" with their provider, agreeing to only obtain a prescription from that provider, to only fill prescriptions at a single pharmacy and to tell the provider within 72 hours if they are prescribed a Schedule II drug because of an emergency. If the patient fails to honor the narcotics contract, the provider may terminate the patient or continue to treat the patient without prescribing a Schedule II opioid.

The second time a provider prescribes an opioid to a patient; the provider must document a need for continuing the prescription. On the third prescription, the provider will consider referring the patient to a pain clinic or pain specialist.

"Our number one priority is patient safety," said Hoyt Burdick, MD, senior vice president and chief medical officer at Cabell Huntington Hospital. "This bill stresses the use of alternative methods of pain management and sets parameters around prescribing opioids that our physicians strongly embrace."

The new bill also limits the amount of opioids that can be prescribed in an emergency room or urgent care facility to a four day supply with documented rationale in the patient's medical record. The bill also limits prescribing minors Schedule II opioids only a three-day supply with education and risks discussed with the parents or quardians.

"This bill isn't trying to prevent treatment for chronic ailments," Burdick said. "It provides a roadmap to the right solutions to aid in pain management."

The bill does not apply to cancer patients or patients in hospice or end-of-life care or to an existing provider-patient relationship established before January 1, where there is an established and current opioid treatment plan reflected in the patient's medical record.

For question or more information regarding Senate Bill 273 please visit www.wvlegislature.gov .

### **Oncoplastic Surgery Provides Positive Cosmetic Outcome** after Tumor Removal



A diagnosis of breast cancer can threaten not only a woman's life, but her self-confidence after surgery and treatment. With new techniques, surgeons are able to achieve optimal cosmetic results and improved quality of life for breast cancer patients. Oncoplastic surgery is performed on patients with breast cancer to reshape the breasts

after tumor removal. The procedure combines plastic and reconstructive surgery techniques with breast cancer surgery so that the appearance of the breast can be preserved to provide the best possible cosmetic outcome.

"In many cases, a lumpectomy can leave a significant breast deformity and patients must schedule reconstructive surgery to reshape the breast," said Jack Traylor, M.D., breast surgeon at the Diagnostic Breast Center at the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center and associate professor in the department of Surgery at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. "Oncoplastic surgery need for two surgeries by doing both procedures at the same time."

During oncoplastic surgery the tumor is removed and the breast is reshaped. Often, the opposite breast will need reduction or a lift to achieve the closest breast symmetry. According to Traylor, each patient is unique. He can either perform both procedures or have a plastic surgeon join him so the patient essentially undergoes one surgery.

"We evaluate and assess patients as candidates for oncoplastic surgery," Dr. Traylor explained. "The breast and tumor size determines whether I can perform both procedures or as a team approach with the plastic surgeon."

Dr. Traylor has completed over 50 hours of extensive training in oncoplastic surgery at the Postgraduate Institute for Medicine. Mary Legenza, MD, board certified breast cancer surgeon at the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center and the first certified Hidden Scar® Breast Surgeon in the state of West Virginia has also completed training in oncoplastic surgery through the American Society of Breast Surgeons and Invuity.



"With oncoplastic surgery or Hidden Scar breast surgery the consideration is to eliminate as much scarring or vacancy in the breast as possible so that looking in the mirror is not a constant reminder of a woman's cancer journey," Legenza said. Dr. Legenza is assistant professor in the department of Surgery at the Marshall

University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

For more information about oncoplastic surgery call the Diagnostic Breast Center at the Edwards Comprehensive Breast Center at 304.399.6600 or visit us on the web at www.edwardsccc.org.

#### Cabell Huntington Hospital's OPERA Swing™ Only One in the United States



Cabell Huntington Hospital is the only hospital nationwide with the ability to perform the highest quality imaging procedures with complete patient accessibility through use of the OPERA Swing™ medical imaging system. The OPERA Swing provides the safest and most accurate diagnostic imaging for patients of all ages and levels of mobility.

The OPERA Swing can be used to perform diagnostic imaging procedures on the skeletal system, thorax and lungs, gastroenterology, gynecology, digital angiography and tomography.

"We are excited to be the first in the United States to provide this technology for our patients," said Nancy Godby, director of Radiology at Cabell Huntington Hospital. "We have hospitals all across the nation requesting a site visit to follow in our footsteps as trendsetters in best practice, high quality care."

"The new system allows us to perform imaging by adjusting to allow a bed or wheelchair for a patient who may be unconscious or too heavy to move," said Melanie Dailey, clinical coordinator of Radiology at Cabell Huntington Hospital. "In the past, we would move the patient to the equipment to perform an x-ray or fluoroscopy. Now the equipment makes the adjustment for the patient."

Patients who are able to use the adjustable and innovatory tabletop design of the system are afforded complete access without the use of stepstools and assistance.

"The table itself will lower to the ground and is backed up by complete automated and programmed movements," said Dailey. "We can move and adjust the patient where we need them without out asking them to change their position once they're comfortably situated."

In addition to ease of use by the patient, the OPERA Swing allows the technologist the ability to control the unit from an insulated console that reduces the amount of exposure they receive to radiation throughout the day.

"The remote room is extremely user-friendly and offers the ability to work behind a protective console which reduces the amount of exposure to radiation that we as clinicians receive each day," Dailey said.

Daily explained that controls are still available within the room if a technologist needs to remain with a patient such as a small child or a frail individual.

For more information about OPERA Swing please call 304.526.2120.



#### **Cabell Huntington Hospital and** Marshall Health Now Making House Calls for Frail and Homebound

Cabell Huntington Hospital (CHH) in partnership with Marshall Health is now making house calls. The new CHH Home Care Medicine provides pre and post-acute care for homebound patients ages 18 and older, throughout the Tri-State. Skilled and highly trained physicians and nurse practitioners provide many of the same services received in a physician's office within the comfort of the patient's home.

"Our goal is to deliver a smooth transition of care," said Cynthia Pinson, MD, CMD, medical director for CHH Home Care Medicine and assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Health at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. "Patients can receive experienced, quality care wherever they live."

#### CHH Home Care Medicine offers:

- physical examinations
- disease management
- medication management
- coordination of lab and x-ray services
- coordination of care (hospice, home health and hospitalization)

A physician referral is not necessary to receive services. Patients who qualify for services must be at least 18 years of age and considered frail or homebound. Patients who reside in a nursing home and/or assisted/non-assisted living facilities also qualify for services with the consent of the patient and/or relative or legal guardian. Medicare, Medicare with supplemental insurance, Medicare with Medicaid and private insurance are all accepted.

For an appointment or questions please call our friendly and caring staff at 304.529.7004 in Huntington or 304.720.0210 in Charleston, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

# Cabell Huntington Hospital Awards and Accrediations





150
Great Places to Work in Healthcare



## CHH Named Center of Excellence for Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery

Cabell Huntington Hospital (CHH) has been recognized as a Center of Excellence for Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (COEMIG) by the Surgical Review Corporation (SRC). CHH is the only hospital in the state of West Virginia to achieve this recognition.

Minimally invasive surgery offers numerous patient benefits including:

- Shorter hospital stay
- Less post-operative pain and faster recovery
- Less risk of infection
- Decreased blood loss
- Less scarring
- Quicker return to normal activities

"Accreditation by the SRC demonstrates exceptional minimally invasive gynecologic surgical care," said Nadim Bou Zgheib, MD, gynecologic oncologist at the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center at CHH and assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. "We are dedicated to continually improving healthcare quality and patient safety and this designation confirms it."

## CHH Surgeons of Excellence Recognized by Surgical Review Corporation

Cabell Huntington Hospital is pleased to announce seven surgeons who have achieved Surgeon of Excellence designation by Surgical Review Corporation (SRC). CHH is the only hospital in the state of West Virginia to be recognized as a Center of Excellence for Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (COEMIG) by the SRC. In addition to accreditation, SRC recognized Surgeons of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecology and Robotic Surgery.

Surgeons of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecology and Robotic Surgery have served as the primary surgeon in more than 150 minimally invasive procedures and have performed at least 30 procedures annually. To attain this designation, the physicians underwent a rigorous review of all aspects of their practice by a panel of independent reviewers.

Physicians recognized as Surgeons of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecology include:

- Nadim Bou Zgheib, MD, FACOG, chairman of the CHH Robotics Committee and assistant professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine
- Brian Bower, MD, OB/GYN., CHH Women's Health Merritt's Creek
- Yolanda Campbell, MD, FACOG, obstetrician/ gynecologist with Marshall Health and assistant professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Marshall School of Medicine
- Brenda Mitchell, MD, FACOG, obstetrician/ gynecologist with Marshall Health and professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Marshall School of Medicine
- Amanda Pauley, MD, FACOG, obstetrician/ gynecologist with Marshall Health and assistant professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Marshall School of Medicine

Physicians recognized as Surgeons of Excellence in Robotic Surgery include:

- Dr. Bou Zgheib
- Dr. Bower
- Paul Bown, MD, FACS, a general surgeon with Marshall Health and assistant professor in the department of surgery at Marshall School of Medicine
- Dr. Campbell
- James Jensen, MD, urologic oncologist, interim medical director of the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center and professor in the department of surgery at Marshall School of Medicine
- Dr. Mitchell

The goal of the SRC is to improve patient safety and satisfaction, increase access to minimally invasive procedures and provide data-driven results.

#### Cabell Huntington Hospital named as a great place to work in healthcare

CHHI is the only hospital in the state of West Virginia and only one of two in the Tri-State named among the 150 Great Places to Work in Healthcare by Becker's Hospital Review.

Each year since 2011, Becker's Hospital Review develops a list through nominations and editorial research for their robust benefits, wellness initiatives, commitment to diversity and inclusion, professional development opportunities and work environments that promote employee satisfaction and work-life balance. This is the third year that CHH has received this honor.

"Our employees are the heart of our organization," said Kevin Fowler, president and CEO. "It is important to create a culture that recognizes and rewards the passionate individuals who care for our community. This award recognizes our commitment to our talented and dedicated staff."

#### **Epilepsy and Seizure Center Achieves Accreditation**

CHH Epilepsy and Seizure Center has been accredited by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC) as a level 3 epilepsy center for 2018 and 2019. CHH has held this honor since 2015 and is the only level 3 center in West Virginia.

The Epilepsy and Seizure Center is the region's first center staffed by epilepsy specialists and dedicated to the diagnosis, care and treatment of adults, adolescents and children suffering from epilepsy and other seizure-related illnesses as well as a wide range of neurological disorders and conditions.

Accredited level 3 epilepsy centers have the professional expertise and facilities to provide the highest level medical evaluation and treatment for patients with complex epilepsy.

"We are proud to hold this designation promoting high standards of epilepsy care," said Sona Shah, MD, medical director of the Epilepsy and Seizure Center and associate professor for the Department of Neuroscience at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. "It takes a team dedicated to high quality standards to repeatedly achieve this type of recognition."

NAEC was founded in 1987 by physicians committed to setting a national agenda for quality epilepsy care. NAEC is a non-profit association with a membership of more than 230 specialized epilepsy centers in the United States.

#### **Welcome New Physicians**



Amjad Alwaal, MD Urology JCESOM – University **Urologic Associates** 304.691.1900



Matthew Bullock, DO Orthopedic Surgery Marshall Orthopaedics 304.691.1262



Patti Jo Marcum, MD Family Medicine CHH Family Practice -**Proctorville** 740.886.1150



Chad Lavender, MD Orthopedic Surgery Marshall Orthopaedics 304.691.6710



Michael Stinnett, Psy.D. **Psychiatry** Marshall Psychiatry 304-691-1500



Marc Subik, MD Gastroenterology Marshall Internal Medicine 304.691.1100 (Huntington) 304.691.6910 (Teays Valley)

**Ambryan White, MD** Geriatrics CHH Home Care Medicine 304.529.7004 (Huntington) 304.720.0210 (Charleston)

## #CHHCares in the Community



#### **Standing Out In Our Field**

The Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine hosted the annual fundraiser for medical student scholarships on June 2 in Proctorville, OH. Medical students served dinner to a sold out crowd of 500 attendees. The event raised nearly \$500,000 in scholarships over the last five years.



#### **Cancer Survivors' Day**

The Erma Ora Byrd Clinical Center was the setting for the annual Cancer Survivor's Day celebration on June 3. Families and friends enjoyed a meal and made their way through the Olympic themed games.



#### **City Mission Rededication**

The Huntington City Mission reinstated its lunch program after a \$40,000 donation from Cabell Huntington Hospital and numerous donations from the community. The mission averages 130 meals during lunch each week.



## Gift Shop Ribbon Cutting

A ribbon cutting ceremony on June 11 marked the completion and opening of the new An Added Touch Gift Shop at Cabell Huntington Hospital.

The newly constructed gift shop, formerly located in the atrium on the ground floor, is now between the new parking garage and Marshall Health entrance. In addition to giftshop, the structure provides a climate-controlled connector from the parking garage to the hospital.

# Your Partners for Life.



## PROACT designed to serve needs of families, individuals, providers and community



Health care leaders in the Huntington/ Charleston region have joined forces to form PROACT, the Provider

Response Organization for Addiction Care and Treatment, to address the clinical, behavioral, spiritual and professional issues of those affected by the epidemic of substance use.

Partner institutions include Cabell Huntington Hospital, St. Mary's Medical Center and Marshall Health, which have each committed financial and human resources to the collective organization. Additionally, Thomas Health and Valley Health have become members of PROACT, extending the reach of and expanding the partnership. The non-profit organization will rely on funding from its founding institutions, grant awards, business operations and private donations to sustain its efforts in the years to come.

PROACT services will be provided to individuals on a referral and walk-in basis. The center's staff will provide an immediate needs assessment for the individual and then placement within the most beneficial avenues for that person's needs. The PROACT system is designed to fill the gaps at critical access points that currently exist in the substance use disorder arena for both patients and providers.

"We are very excited to see this partnership of health care providers using their collective resources to address a very significant public health issue," said Gene Preston, vice president at Cabell Huntington Hospital and president of the PROACT board of directors. "Truly, our community's strength is harnessed in what will make a substantial difference in this area."

PROACT's goal is to provide individuals and their families with a viable system that provides positive outcomes. The center will function as the centralized hub for treatment, recovery, therapy, education, research, workforce opportunities and support for those affected by addiction. PROACT will improve and increase access for patients and providers dealing with substance use disorder as well provide the necessary support for all community physicians treating patients with the disorder.

"Our community has needs that run very deep. All of our organizations have made efforts to combat the addiction issues here and the most recent statistics have shown that progress is being made in our community. We hope that the unification of those efforts will further help perpetuate these positive results," said Angie Swearingen, vice president of finance at St. Mary's Medical Center and PROACT board member.

PROACT will be staffed by one coordinating director and rely upon committed human resources from the sponsoring organizations and outside entities. Individual and group therapy options, medicationassisted treatment (MAT), recovery programs and other substance use-focused considerations are among the many pathways that will be available.

"Going back threeto-five years, you can recognize efforts throughout Huntington as pioneering in many of the most beneficial and proven innovations that have helped in the treatment of substance use disorders," said Kevin Yingling, R.Ph., M.D., chair of the board of directors



at Cabell Huntington Hospital and professor of internal medicine at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. "The Quick Response Team, Lily's Place and the development of the enhanced Harm Reduction Coalition are examples of the work initiated by our community's leadership toward the challenges of substance use. It's a cornerstone moment for this effort and hopes are that it will be a model for other communities to replicate."

The long-term vision for PROACT includes growth in services and areas recognized as beneficial for all those involved, including individuals, families, employers, government and others.

"This hub and spoke model will allow us to implement best practices for the treatment of substance use disorders including important care pathways and continuum of care, "said Beth Hammers, CEO of Marshall Health and vice president of the PROACT board of directors.

Geographically, the PROACT model will initially encompass the Charleston- Huntington region and other areas of the state via telemedicine capabilities.

"The struggles of substance use are not unique to Charleston, to Huntington, or to any city. They're real and they're happening everywhere. We believe in the PROACT effort and we're proud to join the team," said Daniel Lauffer, President and CEO of Thomas

The center's physical location in Huntington will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

More information about PROACT and the partner organizations is available at www.proactwv.com.





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