



## CLINIC HIGHLIGHTS

### November 2022

November brings many things for us to be thankful for and for me, it's all of the great people I spend my days working alongside. There have been so many amazing things happening for our health system that we sometimes forget to celebrate each other and only focus on the tangible things. This month I would like to focus a bit on the people.

Delta Health West Elk Hotchkiss Clinic has seen their provider presence double in 2022 and our patients are happy they are able to get in and be seen. Dr. Lebsack, Christi, Joe and Becky did a great job of "holding down the fort" while we awaited the arrival of Dr. Rose and Dr. Frantz. The new physicians have settled in well so far and we are getting great feedback from patients about them. Geri is working hard to get the clinic to Patient Centered Medical Home recognition and we are working on some additional integrated services to better provide whole person care such as access to a pharmacist while in the clinic. We're still working out the details but in other practices this has proven to help patients remain compliant with medications, manage their chronic diseases and lower ED usage and hospital readmissions. Joe Jones brought this idea forth from his work on the front range and we are excited to explore this idea further.

Delta Health Pulmonary is continuing to grow their patient base with the addition of Birgitt Schmalz, NP. Dr. Abuid is excited about the additional services they can provide in that clinic for their patients. Patients can now get vaccines and screening testing that would normally be done by a PCP, but if a patient is not yet established with a PCP, Birgitt can help bridge that gap for patients while we connect them with a primary care provider.

Delta Health Family Medicine is all settled into their new space and patients are raving about the changes. They love the bright, cheery space and the beautiful pictures along the main hallway. Dr. Jimenez has fit right in and she is getting great patient reviews. I especially love her sense of humor; she always makes me smile. We have also been getting a lot of positive feedback on the front desk staff and how caring and helpful they are. The MAs and nurses have been so helpful in the transition to the new space for the providers and for the patients, they are always smiling and positive even when a challenge arises. Jessica Zlomke is just about to complete her Bachelor's degree in Health Administration and I couldn't be prouder of the work she is doing at DHFM. DHFM is ready for their Patient Centered Medical Home recognition survey and they are just waiting on the surveyors to show up.

Delta Health Pain Center is almost ready to be a one stop shop for pain management. The C-Arm room is nearing completion and once it is complete, both injections and RFAs can be done in the clinic setting allowing for less confusion for patients and movement of staff and supplies. Carol and Joe are working on streamlining the process for our patients and trying to get additional access opened up so patients are not waiting too long for care. Kim Sweeden completed her MA certification recently and we are so proud of her!

Delta Health Adult Primary Care is still celebrating the addition of Dr. Ochoa and Kelsey Stark, NP. Both of these providers are hitting the ground running and patients are loving that Dr. Ochoa is back. Melinda is also ready and waiting for her Patient Centered Medical Home survey. It feels strange to want a survey to happen, but we do! Dr. Freese, Dr. Reed and Dr. Ochoa are working closely with Melinda to ensure the APC clinic is staying up to date on quality metrics and payer requirements for the inevitable shift to value based payment.

Delta Health Urology is back to full speed. We have hired one full time MA and one temporary MA while Sam is out, both have learned the clinic flow quickly and the physicians couldn't be happier with their skills and work ethic. Sharon Dale, the front office clerk, did a great job of ensuring we didn't miss things during the transition and was a great help to everyone who helped out. Sharon has been invaluable to the urology clinic and to Delta Health.

Delta Health Orthopedic Clinic is staying busy. We have filled our x-ray tech position and we are full steam ahead.

Delta Health Pediatric Clinic is humming along nicely. Dr. Lovette is loved in our community and continues to grow her patient volumes.

I am thankful for all the staff and providers we have and how much they truly care about our patients. I am also thankful for the support the Board gives to our clinics and to me. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

**Vickie Moore, M.Ed**

*Executive Director of Clinic Operations*