

OSH Recovery Times

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Pendleton Superintendent Assigned to Help OSH

By Jim Sellers

Robert Furlow, superintendent of Blue Mountain Recovery Center in Pendleton, has been temporarily reassigned to assist Oregon State Hospital administrative staff.

Bob Nikkel, Oregon Department of Human Services assistant director for addictions and mental health, said Furlow would help the State Hospital deal with increased workload issues and meet budget targets. "Bob Furlow

is an experienced, high-energy administrator whose expertise will be a great help to State Hospital staff," he said.

Before joining DHS last year as superintendent in Pendleton, Furlow was director and deputy director of 300-employee Douglas County Health and Social Services Department for 15 years, including serving as the county mental health director. Furlow will return to the Pendleton job when his State

Hospital work is complete, presumably by late this year or early next, Nikkel said. The Pendleton hospital's director of nursing, Kerry Kelly, will serve as acting superintendent until Furlow's return, he said. Kelly, at the Pendleton hospital since February 2000, has been nursing director there for five years.

DHS operates psychiatric hospitals in Salem, Portland and Pendleton.

Your Suggestions, Please

By Ted Ficken

With every external survey that the hospital experiences, it seems that surveyors comment on the quality of staff members at Oregon State Hospital.

Employees have been described as caring, compassionate, hard working, positive, helpful, creative and innovative. The quality improvement department has initiated a simple employee suggestion program to tap into these staff qualities. Do you have an idea that could improve patient care? Would you like to contribute to continuous improvements at the hospital? Would you like to express your own creativity and innovative thoughts? Are you inspired by your co-workers and want to be a contributor? *If you answered yes to any of these questions, we want to hear from you.*

"SUGGESTIONS" continued on page 2

OSH Recovery Times is edited by Jessica Loewen Preis. Contact Jessica at 503-945-2892 with questions, comments or suggestions.

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Caring Tree Project Under Way

By Jessica Loewen Preis

Two decades ago, some believed each patient at the OSH should receive a gift during the holidays. The Caring Tree Project was born and is now in its 20th year. OSH staff, community members and outside volunteers are already hard at work to make sure that every patient at the hospital will receive a personal, festively wrapped present this year.

The budget for this project consists entirely of donations, both in cash and gift form. Last year gifts were donated by 30 different organizations and money was received from 13 individual donors.

Between October and December patients are asked what gift they would like and tracked as they move in and out of the hospital and between wards. In addition, gift pick-up is arranged, wrapping supplies are purchased, and space is prepared for the sorting and wrapping of the gifts. Plans are also made to deliver the gifts to both Salem and Portland wards by Dec. 25.

On Nov. 17 gift tags will be made available on Salem Campus at the Administration Building for people wishing to buy gifts for patients. The Communication Center and Portland Campus reception will have tags available as well. Gifts will be due back to the hospital by Dec. 11.

On Dec. 15 and Dec. 18 through 20, the wrapping room will be open at its new location on 40A on the Salem Campus. Many volunteers will be needed to come and wrap more than 700 gifts.

Thank you to all who have helped to make this project possible in past years. Thank you in advance to all who will help to make it successful this year. Please call Jessica Loewen Preis at (503) 945-2892 for more information, to volunteer or to make a donation.

“SUGGESTIONS” continued from page 1...

We want input from any interested OSH employees, and we want to keep it simple. If you have suggestions related to continuous improvements at the hospital, please send them to the Quality Improvement department. You can send a GroupWise email to: OSH Quality Improvement (note the new email address), or you can send a note to the Quality Improvement department through the interoffice mail.

AS400 Migration Update

By Chris Betts

The Migration Team is excited about the achievements of the project over the past several months. Here are some highlights:

- ◆ The Hummingbird icon for access to the Oregon Patient Resident Care System (OP/RCS) has been rolled out and, with a few management approved exceptions, is now the main point of entry into OP/RCS on the DHS mainframe.
- ◆ Training for key staff on the use of DHS' Add, Move, Delete (AMD) form took place Oct. 25.
- ◆ Training on the newly migrated assortment of electronic hospital forms is nearly complete.
- ◆ Access to most of the electronic hospital forms on the AS400 will be disconnected on or about Nov. 15. These forms are now available on the Novell network and are currently in use in the new environment.
- ◆ Requirements gathering for AS400 database conversion will be completed by Nov. 30.
- ◆ Our student intern, Shua Yang, secured full-time employment at a local medical office. Her last day with us was Oct. 27. We thank her for her service and wish her continued success!

Change can be challenging, and yet, if managed wisely, it can be rewarding. Our success on this project is due to your willingness to change and consider new ideas.

More Than 1,000 Trees

By John Hamilton

More than 1,000 trees adorn OSH's 144-acre campus. From White Oaks (*Quercus garrayana*) to Flowering Cherry (*Prunus serrulata*), it has been said that one could find at least one of each species of tree indigenous to Oregon on the State Hospital's sprawling grounds.

According to Oregon State University, Dept. of Horticulture, you can find about 103 trees native to Oregon. A former patient, who worked with the OSH Grounds crew, nearly finished a complete inventory of all the trees at OSH before he was discharged. He catalogued 1,084 individual trees and 62 different species. We are grateful for his work.

Regardless of the exact number of species, as one can imagine, more than 1,000 trees are a lot to manage and keep healthy. Many factors affect the health of individual trees: too much or too little rain, rot, damage from equipment and insects, just to name a few. The OSH Physical Plant has hired a Department of Forestry Community Assistance Forester and an independent Pacific NW International Society of Arboriculture-certified arborist to examine our trees and to give us a general condition and risk assessment of our trees.

The Community Assistance Forester, Kristin Ramstad, said, "Several of the trees on the hospital grounds are over-mature and will need to be replaced within the next few years. Some of the older trees were mistreated many years ago and now suffer long-term effects of poor pruning, mower gashes, and summertime lawn watering, which often lead to root disease among certain tree species." She also states, "A goal for managing these trees (all trees on OSH Campus) should be to sustain a collection of healthy trees of diverse species and ages." The certified arborist concurred with her recommendations and suggested we prune/thin a questionable large White Oak in an effort to save it.

Based on the information gathered, there is a consensus that a total of 10 trees need to be removed. If not removed, they pose a risk of injury to staff, patients and property. We have obtained a permit from the City of Salem to remove a White Oak, a protected species, which was given a hazard rating of 10 (10 being the highest on a scale of 1-10). We are in the process of soliciting bids for the removal of all 10 trees, which are currently marked with yellow tape. We hope to complete the project by year's end. Our plans are to replace the trees with trees of similar kind in the existing or nearby locations. We are doing our best to keep the hospital's trees healthy for everyone to enjoy.

September Milestones

...25 Years of Service...

Pete Kuor, 50C

Michael McGregor, Food Services

Catherine Ross, Medical Records

Heike Tash, Food Services

•20 Years of Service•

David Shields, 50F

William Olson, 41A

Julee Engelsman, 50E

...15 Years of Service...

Cynthia Prater, 35C

Dennis Nash, Housekeeping

Patricia Merritt, Food Services

...5 Years of Service...

Cynthia Gonzales, 34A

David Alligood, Ed. and Development

Latricia Graf, 50D

Michael Robinson, 50F

Debra Russell, 50F

Priscilla Walters, 50J

...Promotions* and New Hires...

Roberto Alves-Clinical Psychologist 1

Eric Bergreen-Clinical Psychologist 1

**Jaquin Bowman*, MH Supervising RN

Tanya Bramhall-Habilitative Train Tech 1

Ilona Buresh-Habilitative Train Tech 1

Melissa Cogdill-Habilitative Train Tech 1

Christopher Corbett-Clinical Psychol 1

Stan Eades-Auto Mechanic 1

Laura Eisenman-Habilitative Train Tech 1

Zina Estrada-Habilitative Train Tech 1

Rochelle Frehling-Clinical Psychologist 1

Carlton Fuller-Habilitative Train Tech 1

Kyle Iv-Habilitative Train Tech 1

**Deborah Kelling*, Psychiatric Social Worker

Danielle Kingsberry-MH Therapy Tech

Terry Landau-Habilitative Train Tech

Matthew Marquardt-MH RN

**Julieta Myers*, Food Services Worker 3

Amanda O'Brien-Habilitative Train Tech 1

Kimberly Oxford-Psych Social Worker

David Paz-Medical Lab Tech

Curtis Peden-Food Services Worker 3

Laura Pippin-Habilitative Train Tech 1

Willis Pritchett-Auto Mechanic 2

Hepsi Ruffle-Habilitative Train Tech 1

Sara Slack-Rehab Therapist

Cynthia Stokes-Clinical Psychol 2

Kara Supalla-Habilitative Train Tech 1

Obichang Timarong-Habilitve Train Tech 1

Laurie Vandyke, Habilitative Train Tech 1

Victor Vega, Habilitative Train Tech 1

Savannah Vigue, Habilitative Train Tech 1

Cheryl Voigt, MH RN

Sara Walker, Physician Specialist

Amanda Williams, Habilitve Train Tech 1

Robert Wingett, MH Therapy Tech

Barbara Wood, Office Specialist 2

Diversity Spotlight

By Rebecca A. Sweetland

“There’s a world to see!” After watching John Wayne movies for years and seeing the wide-open plains, an 18-year-old Swiss, Connie Finn, finally traveled to the U.S. She spoke no English at the time. A year later, on her way back, she met her husband in California and never moved back to her “old home” of Switzerland.

Connie, an accountant in the OSH Business Office for the past seven years, wanted to travel ever since she was a young girl. Her mother told her that she had the most Gypsy in her of anyone in the family. Connie’s grandfather was an itinerant Gypsy from southern Spain until he got tired of traveling and decided to settle in Switzerland. Connie continues to travel extensively, including road trips to places from California to British Columbia, with frequent trips to Europe.

Connie enjoys the open and easygoing nature of Americans who seem to smile a lot. The Swiss tend to be much more cautious, conservative and ‘proper,’ although Connie does appreciate Switzerland’s neutrality status. She values that the U.S. is not as dependent on other countries as Switzerland is. Although she feels the U.S. gets involved in too many other countries’ affairs, Connie likes this country’s helpfulness toward others, such as after World War II.

As do even the most fluent non-native English speakers, Connie has difficulty understanding conversations with sarcasm, puns and other types of jokes. When she mentions she doesn’t “get it” (something that took her a long time for her to do, coming from the reserved Swiss culture), Connie often feels humiliated by the speaker’s response. She wonders, “How do Americans expect me to react when I don’t get your joke?” This is a question we can all ponder.



EDD Schedule

Following is a list of classes being offered at the OSH Education and Development Department (EDD) during the remainder of November.

All classes are located at EDD unless otherwise noted. For more information about these classes, you can call 503-945-2875.

Pro-ACT Refresher Training:

Nov. 6, 8 am – 5 pm, and Nov. 7-8 am – noon

Roadcraft Driver’s Safety

Training: Nov. 7, 21, 8 am – noon

Pro-ACT Refresher Training:

Nov. 8, 8 am – 5 pm, and Nov. 9, 8 am – noon

CMA Pharmacology: Nov. 8,

8 am – noon

Ed Day: Nov. 14, 28, 8 am – 5 pm

November Calendar

10 - Veterans’ Day Observed

13 — 10:00 a.m.

OSH Foundation Meeting

Callan Room

Contact Jessica Loewen Preis:

(503) 945-2892

15 — 1:30 p.m.

Valuing Diversity Committee

Brooks Room

Contact Rebecca A. Sweetland:

(503) 945-2806

16 — 30th Annual Great American Smokeout

17 — 8:15 a.m.

Wellness Committee

Callan Room

Contact Sue Wimmer:

(503) 945-2886

22 — 2:30 p.m.

General Staff Meeting

30 Building Gym

Contact Pam Dickinson:

(503) 945-2852

23 - Thanksgiving Holiday

29 — 1:30 p.m.

Superintendent’s Cultural Comp. Advisory Committee

Brooks Room

Contact Rebecca A. Sweetland:

(503) 945-2806

Pro-ACT Refresher Training:

Nov. 20, 8 am – 5 pm and Nov. 21, 8 am – noon

Pro-ACT Refresher Training:

Nov. 21, 8 am – 5 pm and Nov. 22, 8 am – noon

General Orientation: Nov. 27 – Dec. 7, 8 am – 5 pm