



The No Name News*

The Newsletter of the Oregon State Hospital

Volume 1, Issue 1

July 29, 2005

From the Desk of the Superintendent

By Marvin D. Fickle, MD

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the return of the Oregon State Hospital Newsletter. In an attempt to bring us into the 21st Century, the newsletter will be available in both paper and electronic forms (See the DHS Web Site). We will be using the electronic format to provide late-breaking news to staff and patients, with the traditional format being distributed monthly.

This has been a year of many changes; I don't have to tell you that if you work or are a patient at the state hospital. We continue to have significant problems with overcrowding and understaffing, but there appears to be a broad consensus among the public and the legislature that we have no choice but to fix this problem. The Phase I of the Master Plan was released with much fanfare, and all signs point to the starting of Phase II as soon as the 2005-07 fiscal year budget is approved. Long before any new hospital is constructed however, we will need to address the overcrowding issue, and the housing of patients in units, which are "seismically unsound." Work is proceeding at Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) and the hospital to assess various options that will improve the situation in a more timely fashion. You may have heard

**You could name the OSH Newsletter. Please send your name suggestions to OSH Volunteer Services by September 21st and your name could be chosen.*

of several things under consideration, including the possibility of several state-run group homes, which will hopefully relieve some of the congestion.

In the little over a year that I have been at the hospital, there has been real progress in both

Welcome

Welcome to all those who were newly hired to OSH or promoted in May:

- Anissa Bahrenburg, Psychiatric Social Worker
- Lois Davis, Mental Health Therapy Tech
- Agnes Foster, Mental Health Therapy Tech
- David Holley, Auto Shop Superintendent
- Adrienne Houston, Mental Health Therapy Tech
- Kari Johnson, Mental Health Registered Nurse
- Jack Kobe, Mental Health Registered Nurse
- Regina Lathrop, Accounting Technician 2
- David Melendez, Mental Health Security Tech
- Yvonne Rice, Psychiatric Social Worker
- Virginia Russell, Mental Health Therapy Tech
- Karen Warden, Mental Health Registered Nurse

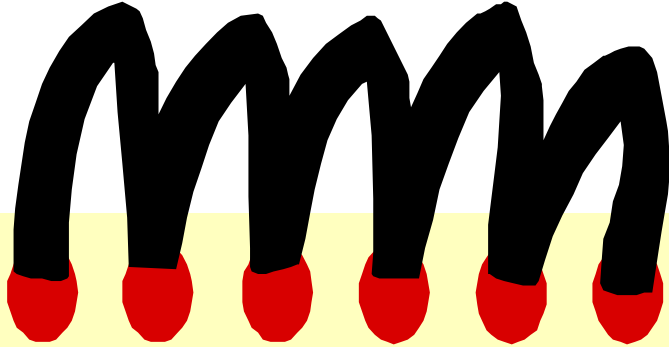


treatment methods (Recovery and Sanctuary Models) and technology. The two are a testament to the vigorous efforts of both treatment and facilities staff, and further evidence of the ability of state employees to be creative, energetic and socially responsible. Increasingly, the community believes us to be a good partner, and the disgruntlement of the

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past is rarely heard. Clearly, our efforts and future is intimately entwined with community providers; a successful relationship is essential for all involved.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Congratulations to all OSH employees who reached milestones

Retirement in May and June:

- ✓ Marguerite Dickey, Mental Health Registered Nurse
- ✓ Nancy Jennings, Mental Health Therapist 2
- ✓ Joyce Zook, Principal Executive/Manager C
- ☐ Judith Carter, Mental Health Registered Nurse
- ☐ Ken Griffiths, Corr Treatment Therapist 1

25 Years of Service in May and June:

- ✓ Mesme Tomason, 41A
- ✓ Jamie Musgrove, Admin
- ☐ Carolyn Hopper, Evaluation & Treatment

20 Years of Service in May and June:

- ✓ Carolyn Carter, Recovery Services 1
- ✓ Patricia Mitchell, 35A
- ☐ Marjorie Holloway, 34D
- ☐ Pauline Tyson, P5A
- ☐ Donell Chapman, 41B

15 Years of Service in May and June:

- ✓ Kimberly Keuscher, 34D
- ✓ Roberta Odell, Dental Clinic
- ✓ Donna Minar, Security
- ✓ Arthur Snelling, 41B
- ✓ Mary Carroll, Food Services
- ☐ Ellen Jay, 35C
- ☐ Quang Nguyen, 35C

10 Years of Service in May and June:

- ✓ Virginia Weller, 50F
- ✓ Luann Bock, 48B
- ✓ Linda Bylsma, Clinical Services 2
- ✓ Patrick Sprauer, 34D
- ☐ Kathryn Roy, 35C
- ☐ Fidel Romero, Housekeeping

5 Years of Service in May and June:

- ✓ Jeffery Birkholz, 48B; Raoul Van Landuyt, 50E; Daniel Boone, 35C; Natalie Schuette, P5A; George Onaga, 48C
- ☐ Annette Haider, 50J; Karen Cannon, 35A; James McGovern, 50F; Amber Steckler, 34A; Sherri Randall, 35B; Mark Broadus, 34C

Our understaffing issue continues to be problematic, with both salary issues and lack of positions in need of resolution. Some will hopefully be fixed through the contract negotiation process; others will be addressed through management and legislative proposals. We remain seriously understaffed in comparison to other states, and are unable to fill even the positions that we have available. This has led to the overtime and mandating situations that we all detest. Every effort is being made to change this.

Despite our current troubles, I believe that we have turned the corner to making the changes that have been needed for so many years. The next few years should be exhilarating ones. 🌱

New Communication Tool at OSH

By Don Abel

OSH is in the process of switching to the Nextel system. Currently OSH uses two-way radios, cell phones, and pagers for day-to-day and emergency communications. 320 Nextel devices were ordered that have cellular phone as well as two-way radio capabilities. This change was precipitated by the limitations of our current two-way radio system, especially during emergency events and drills.

The new phones will replace all ward two-way radios and cellular phones and most pagers. Training for staff began on July 18th and will continue into August. The training classes are provided and scheduled by EDD. Staff are to trade their old two-way radios, phones, and pagers for the new Nextel phones at the training classes. A Nextel phone and direct connect number directory for staff will be available soon.



OSH Computer Update

By *Wayne Dickinson*

The OSH Infrastructure project and the original PC Deployment project are now complete. The PC Deployment project is currently in the “mop up” phase because there are still some PCs being deployed that were originally missed and some printers that cannot be ordered until the 2005-07 DHS fiscal year budget is approved.

Many of the PCs that are being replaced have been in service since 2000; and some of the terminals date back to the early 1980s, so the upgrades were long overdue. By the time the project is finished, the staff at OSH will have access to new computers and be able to be reached by e-mail. The Infrastructure project was funded out of Oregon State Hospital capital improvement funds (not operating dollars), and the DHS Office of Information Services provided the funding for the PC Replacement project.

The Infrastructure project was completed by a team of Verizon contractors, with support from OSH and OIS employees. Roughly 9,800 feet of fiber optic cable were installed during the project. The cable is the backbone for the network and can be seen encased in bright orange conduits throughout the tunnels. In addition, 425 network drops were installed for PCs and printers. There are a few network drops that were unintentionally missed and are being added as they are found.

The computer deployment team was made up of OSH and DHS employees as well as one contractor. Almost 400 new PCs have been deployed and the remaining few are being deployed as quickly as possible.

Peggy Ross Fund

By *Dr. David Freed*

The Peggy Ross Trust Fund was established to provide direct benefit to patients at Oregon State Hospital and is administered by the hospital’s Institutional Review Board for Research (IRB). Each year, the IRB reviews proposals that are supported by the earnings from this trust fund. Proposals may be submitted by a department, program, unit, or individual but must clearly demonstrate benefit to patients.

Applications are typically distributed in July with an October 1st deadline for submission. Grantees are expected to submit a written evaluation after completion of the project. In 2005, funds were awarded to four projects including Honor Cultural Diversity Through Celebration on 48B, the Guitar Project for the 41 Building, Music Performances for OSH-P, and the Photography Project on 50J. There were many creative projects submitted, but funds are limited and difficult decisions had to be made. The IRB looks forward to receiving the next batch of proposals in October, so get the creative juices flowing!

New Incident and Medication Variance Report Forms

By *Ted Ficken*



Over several months, a work group has been working on a review of the OSH incident and medication variance reporting systems. The work group included Judy Endahl, David Alligood, Sue Zakes, Don Abel, Lori Martin, Gerry Orr, Sue Johnson, Pat Wireman, Wayne Dickinson, and Maria Prokhorova. The process included a review of a national study of incident reporting systems, visits to other hospitals, reviews of systems from three other

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August Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Time	Contact Person
8 th	OSH Foundation Board Meeting	Callan Room	10:00-12:00 noon	Jessica Loewen 945-2892
19 th	Wellness Committee	Callan Room	8:15-9:15 am	Sue Wimmer 945-2886
17 th	Diversity Committee	Callan Room	1:30-2:30 pm	George Bachik 945-2860
24 th	General Staff Meeting	30 Building Gym	2:30-3:30 pm	Pam Dickenson 945-2852

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state hospitals, an internet literature search, review of commercial incident reporting software, and many opportunities for input.

The result of the work group is a new incident reporting format, and a separate medication variance reporting format. The new forms have been approved by all required OSH committees, and will be piloted on several OSH units starting August 1st. Hospital-wide implementation is set for October 1st. The forms will also be available in electronic format, and staff will be encouraged to submit reports electronically, over our new local area network (LAN). The advantage of the new system will be more timely review of incidents and greater ability to aggregate data for quality improvement purposes. Training will be provided to assure that all staff know how to use the new forms.



Wellness Committee at OSH

By Sue Wimmer

The Wellness Committee is a volunteer group at OSH that sponsors a variety of healthy activities on campus including Wellness Walks, PEBB Health Screens, and "Weigh the Same" contests. Workplace wellness can help decrease stress, improve outlook, and promote

better overall health.

The Wellness Committee meets the third Friday of each month at 8:15 am in the Callan Conference Room of the Administration building. We are always looking for new members, ideas or energy. Come join us or send us any ideas you may have.

OSHF to Give \$6,000 to Patients

By Jessica Loewen

The Oregon State Hospital Foundation (OSHF) has \$6,000 in grant money to fund requests that will directly benefit OSH patients. Twenty-Nine requests were submitted this year by hospital staff from various program areas. The Foundation will announce the grant requests that will be funded this year on August 22nd.

The OSHF is a private, non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for patients at the Oregon State Hospital. For more information, please contact Jessica Loewen at (503) 945-2892.

The No Name News is edited by Jessica Loewen. Please contact her at (503) 945-2892 with questions, comments, or suggestions. The deadline to submit stories or September calendar entries for the next issue is 12:00 noon on Monday, August 22nd.