



Insight

**Stage Set for
Changing
of the Guard
at WMH**



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ON DECEMBER 31, 2021, longtime Wayne Memorial Health System & Hospital Chief Executive Officer David L. Hoff will step down and hand over the reins to James Pettinato, RN-HP, MHSA, currently Director of Patient Care Services. Pettinato was offered the position by the Wayne Memorial Hospital & Health System Board of Trustees, as recommended by a sub-committee after a national executive search.

“We reviewed 23 resumes and conducted several on-site interviews in our search,” said Board and Search Committee Chairperson Hugh Rechner, Esq., “but throughout our process Mr. Pettinato stood out as the best candidate. Since 1999 he has demonstrated not only his clinical knowledge and expertise, but also his leadership and vision for this health system and we are more than confident that he will continue to build upon Mr. Hoff’s excellent service and leadership in advancing this organization in its service of providing exceptional health care to our community.”

Pettinato, who also received Mr. Hoff’s blessing, said he was humbled and grateful. “It is a privilege to serve Wayne Memorial and even more of a privilege to be trusted to take the helm. I have worked alongside Dave (Hoff) on and off for more than 20 years, and he has helped build a great team focused solely on providing the highest quality of care and the safest environment possible for the community we serve.”

Hoff noted that “Jim (Pettinato) brings an extraordinary dedication to every role he has taken on in healthcare. Add this to his clinical knowledge and leadership experience, I have no doubt Jim will make an excellent chief executive for Wayne Memorial.”

Pettinato was born and raised in Carbondale, Lackawanna County, and he earned both a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and a master’s in Health Administration from Marywood University. He started out in the Intensive Care Unit at Community Medical Center (CMC) in Scranton, but eventually, in 1999, found his way to Wayne Memorial where he was the Head Nurse for the Emergency Department, the Intensive Care Unit and the Telemetry department. In 2008, Pettinato left Wayne Memorial for a position as Director of Critical Care at CMC, which became a Geisinger facility in 2012. He returned to Wayne Memorial in his present role in 2010. As Director of Patient Care Services, Pettinato heads up all departments that provide direct patient care, such as the ICU, the ED, New Beginnings Birthing Suites, Oncology/Hematology, Wound Care and inpatient units.

Despite his hectic schedule at the hospital, Pettinato has maintained his position as an EMS captain with Cottage Hose Ambulance Company since 1982. To this and to his job at the hospital, Pettinato brings an impressive slew of certifications—EMT Instructor, IV Therapy Program Instructor, Basic and Advanced Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Hazardous Materials First Responder Awareness and more.

COVID Response

Pettinato’s “many hats” certainly played a role in the hospital’s response to COVID-19. “During this past year, Jim Pettinato, along with Dr. Sean McVeigh, really stepped up to the plate,” said Hoff, “and helped Wayne Memorial and our entire community respond to what is certainly this century’s biggest health crisis to date—the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Jim was the Operations Director for the hospital’s Incident Command Team, which acted immediately to implement safety measures and treatment protocols. Hoff oversaw the Team, but Jim was the go-to person for day-to-day issues—of which there were many.

“While COVID is still with us, Wayne Memorial saw no hospital transmissions of the virus during the height of the pandemic last year,” said Pettinato, “We were able to train and cross-train staff, manage other resources such

as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and eventually distribute vaccines. We saw many survivors of this horrible virus. I cannot tell you how proud I am of the staff here at Wayne Memorial Hospital.”

Jim Pettinato will take over as the chief executive on January 1, 2022.

Photo: Jim Pettinato, RN, helped serve a free lunch to staff in March to thank them for all their hard work on the one-year anniversary of COVID-19. Cindy Lazorack, RN, looks on as Pettinato hands lunch to Holly Miszler, RN. Photo, cover, l. to r.: Pettinato, Rechner, Hoff.



HOFF'S LEGACY



SHORTLY AFTER HE arrived at Wayne Memorial in 2001, David Hoff was tasked with helping the entire staff cope with the sudden death of their iconic chief of staff, Harry Propst, MD. Not long after that, Hoff began a series of improvements, service enhancements and building projects that would take the hospital to new levels of care and improve the organization's financial strength as well. In 2005, a new, 10-thousand square foot Emergency Department was constructed; in 2007, he helped facilitate the birth of Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers (WMCHC), a federally qualified health center and independent affiliate that helped assure the continuation and growth of accessible physician services; in the subsequent years, Hoff helped the hospital achieve Level IV Trauma status, acquire certification as a Primary Stroke Center, and develop a cardiac catheterization laboratory. In 2019, Hoff and the Board of Trustees completed a brand new patient tower, housing 50 private patient rooms. That tower proved especially significant when COVID struck just months later. A former patient unit, now vacant, was reopened to provide isolation treatment and care to COVID-19 patients.

"Many people in the community thanked us for our response to COVID," said Hoff, "and for our front-liners who went fearlessly into the COVID unit and worked long hours in heavy protective gear."

Hoff, who hails from Michigan, came to Wayne Memorial with a Bachelor of Psychology degree from Michigan University and two master's degrees, one in Business Administration from Eastern Michigan University and one in Health Administration from Ohio State. (He would later joke about his divided loyalties between two "Big Ten" football schools—Michigan and Ohio State—and say he was backing whoever won!)

Prior to Wayne Memorial, Hoff held several posts at hospitals in Kansas and Michigan, including CEO of Iron County Community Hospitals in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Hoff continues to own property in the "U-P" of his home state and intends to visit it more often in retirement with his wife Jennifer.

During his tenure at Wayne Memorial, Hoff has been very involved in the community, including serving as chair of the Wayne Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO), serving on the board of the Greater Honesdale Partnership, the Wayne County YMCA, the Northeast Pennsylvania Business Alliance, Keystone Accountable Care, the Pennsylvania Mountain Health Alliance and the WMCHC board.

All told, Hoff has 40 years of healthcare experience, and it's time, he says, to retire. "Few chief healthcare executives stay in their positions in one place as long as I have at Wayne Memorial, and I can truly say it's been a team effort that has led to our many successes and my longevity here. Jennifer and I raised our two children here in this area, and we have many friends and fond memories. Thank you to all who helped grow Wayne Memorial to where it is today—Jim Pettinato being one of those people."

In making their decision to tap Pettinato to fill Hoff's seat, the search committee and Board Chair Hugh Rechner were quick to acknowledge not only Pettinato's background, but Mr. Hoff's. "The Board and I recognize that Jim has some large shoes to fill," said Rechner. "Mr. Hoff has advanced Wayne Memorial Health System to great heights and achievements in his twenty years at the helm."

CONTRIBUTIONS

August 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Wayne Memorial Health Foundation accepts tax-deductible gifts throughout the year from individuals, corporations, organizations and foundations for the benefit of the Wayne Memorial Health System, Wayne Memorial Hospital and Wayne Memorial Long-Term Care.

Contributions from a generous and caring community are vital to sustaining well trained personnel and modern equipment and facilities. Memorials and gifts in honor of a family member or friend, and gifts recognizing an anniversary or other occasion, are ideal ways to express love, respect and honor for those special people in our lives. Such gifts also demonstrate your spirit of community. You are invited to direct your questions about special occasion gifts and other contributions to Wayne Memorial Health Foundation, at (570) 253-8274.

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NANCY PROPST, CHAIRPERSON

Nancy Turano Propst joined the Wayne Memorial Health Foundation in 2011, but she has been involved with the hospital since 1980 when she was a dietetic student.

Nancy is a registered dietitian and earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Marywood University. A resident of Beach Lake, Nancy is married to Michael Propst and has three children, Steven, Andrew and Kristen and four grandchildren. They keep her busy in the community through volunteer work with school, sports, church, scouting and 4-H.


PETER BOCHNOVICH, SECRETARY

Pete Bochnovich, chief executive officer at The Dime Bank, is a 23-year resident of the area. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Marywood

University and a bachelor's degree in economics from Penn State. Bochnovich serves on the boards of many local organizations, including the Wayne County Community Foundation and the Wayne Economic Development Corporation, but the Foundation Board represents his first appointment to a Wayne Memorial entity.


CLAY LACOE, TREASURER Clayton S.

LaCoe III (Clay) grew up in the Bald Mountain section of Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania and attended the public schools of the Abington Heights Schools

District until his graduation in 1989. From there, he attended the University of Scranton, graduating with bachelor's and master's degrees in Biology and Chemistry Education respectively in 1993 and 2000. In 2006, Clay graduated from the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania with his doctorate in Educational and Organizational Leadership. Clay and his wife Sheri, an audiologist, have two children and live next to the family farm in the Bald Mountain section of Clarks Summit.


KEVIN BURKE, ASSISTANT

SECRETARY/TREASURER Kevin Burke graduated from Honesdale High School in 1990. He went on to attend Penn State

University, University Park campus, graduating in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science degree in finance and a minor in economics. Mr. Burke joined AMSkier Insurance in 1995 and began working in the Accounting Department. He later moved to the IT Department and progressed to the role of IT Director.

Recently, Kevin's role at AMSkier evolved once more. He is now the Personal Lines Supervisor. Kevin has been married to his wife Pamela, a teacher in the Western Wayne School District, since 1997. They have three children and reside in Cherry Ridge. Kevin is a past president of the Honesdale Area Jaycees and a member of the International Order of Odd Fellows, Freedom Lodge, Honesdale. He has coached and been a board member of the Honesdale Little Baseball Association and Honesdale Missy Softball League. In 2013, he coached Honesdale Missy Basketball and the undefeated team won the Senior Division championship.



JEFF GOGOLSKI Jeff Gogolski is a Certified Public Accountant and partner with Beck, Gogolski & Co., Inc. Honesdale, PA. A graduate of East Stroudsburg

University with a master's in Taxation from Kings College, Jeff has a wealth of experience in accounting and finance including working with 501C3s. Jeff is actively involved in the community as a board member and treasurer of the Western Wayne School Board, Presbyterian Church Trustee, and Masons among other organizations. He enjoys traveling and outdoor recreational activities including mountain biking, fishing, and running.



BROOKE JAMES As a member of the third generation ownership of Woodloch Resort, Brooke James is the Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Beyond her title

role, Brooke is the driver of Woodloch's hospitality development and company culture code. On the rare occasions Brooke is not on Woodloch's property, she enjoys vacationing with her husband Mark and two daughters, and enjoying her daughters' sporting events.

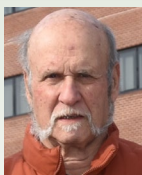


JEFFREY OLSOMMER Jeffrey Hinds Olsommer, CIC, is the principal agent at Olsommer Clarke Insurance Group, Inc. which has four offices in Northeast

Pennsylvania and one in Kentucky. Jeff is a graduate of Western Wayne High School and East Stroudsburg University. He is very involved in the community serving in many capacities from education and civic boards to Sterling Township Supervisor, United Methodist Church Trustee, and more. In his spare time Jeff enjoys outdoor activities throughout the seasons, travelling, and quality time with family and friends. He's a longtime dedicated statistician with the Delaware Valley High School football team.

**LAUREN RUTKOWSKI, Ph.D.**

Dr. Lauren Rutkowski is a director and co-owner with her husband Joel of Camp IHC, a well-known nine-week children's camp in Equinunk, Pa. Lauren, who is originally from the U.K., met Joel while both were working at a summer camp in the U.S. They now have four children. Lauren holds two doctorates, in Clinical Psychology and Behavioral Sleep Medicine. She joined the Foundation Board to become more connected to the local community and the hospital, and has a desire to further fulfill a commitment to meaningful causes.

**LEONARD SCHWARTZ "Lenny"**

Schwartz is president of the family-owned Hotel Wayne, Inc which operates the historic hotel, its restaurant, Bistro 1202, in Honesdale, as well as the Wayne Inn, Wayne on the Hill and Wayne on Main. Trained as a chemist, Lenny was formerly the chairman and CEO of Aceto Corporation, from which he retired in 2009. During his time with Aceto, Mr. Schwartz had the honor of opening the NASDAQ market with John Snow, former secretary of the Treasury, and closing it on December 4, 2008. Mr. Schwartz and his wife, Marge, reside in Wayne County.

**JEFFREY SKIER**

Jeffrey Skier is a Vice President at AM Skier Insurance in Hawley, a third-generation family business. Jeff, a graduate of Syracuse University, specializes in summer camps and serves on several boards including Project Morry, SCOPE, and the American Camp Association NY/NJ.

**ROBERT SUHOSKY, CHAIRMAN****WAYNE HEALTH SERVICES**

Robert "Bob" Suhosky served 25 years in the U.S. Army and retired at the rank of colonel. His wife, Linda, is a retired registered operating room nurse. She was employed by Wayne Memorial Hospital in the mid-1960s. The Suhoskys have three children, one who resides in Texas, one in Maryland and Peter, who, with his wife Jennifer, lives in Honesdale. Bob founded Northeast Infrastructure LLC, an architectural and engineering design firm in 2011. Bob also raises beef cattle and is a member of the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association, as well as the National Cattlemen's Association. He joined the Wayne

Health Services board in May of 2006 and was selected chair in July of 2014. Bob's other community activities include membership in the Knights of Columbus and serving on the Finance committee of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church parish in Honesdale. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Northeast Pennsylvania Business Finance Corporation and a member of the Tobyhanna chapter of the Military Officers of America.

**CINDA TIETJEN, RN**

Cinda, a Honesdale native, is a retired registered nurse who worked at Wayne Memorial Hospital for 40 years. She was married to the late Wayne Memorial Chief of Staff, surgeon George Tietjen, MD. In addition to patient care, Cinda served on the Quality & Performance Improvement staff at the hospital. A mother of six, including three stepchildren, Cinda brings a broad set of healthcare and people skills to her post on the Foundation Board.

**MARTHA WILSON**

Martha Wilson and her husband Dave live in the Rowlands area and have been full time residents of Pike County for over 20 years. Martha is an enthusiastic member and past President of the Wayne Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and former Chairman of the Community Advisory Board. A mother and grandmother, Martha is also active with The Wayne County Public Library and Grace Episcopal Church.

**DIANE WYLAM**

Diane Wylam, Esq. is Senior Vice President and Senior Trust Officer in the Wealth Management and Trust Department at Wayne Bank in Honesdale. She brings a solid background in finance to her volunteer post, including experience with planned giving. Wylam attended the University of Scranton and Lackawanna College before securing her law degree from the Widener School of Law in 1994. Prior to her position at Wayne Bank, she was the Director of Major and Planned Giving at Misericordia University and, before that, she started the Trust Division and served as Senior Trust Officer at Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank in Dunmore. Ms. Wylam also has experience in business ownership and in health-care. She worked in family businesses and from 2001–2010, she served on the Board of the St. Joseph's Center.



Wayne Memorial Awarded Four Stars

WAYNE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL earned four out of five stars in the federal government's Overall Hospital Quality Star rating System. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) report released in April, reflects the experiences of Medicare beneficiaries with their health plan and healthcare system, measured in five categories: Mortality, Safety of Care, Readmission, Patient Experience and Timely & Effective Care.


"We are pleased to have this confirmation that Wayne Memorial's staff continues to step up to the plate of high-quality care day in, day out," said WMH CEO David Hoff. "This rating should help our patients continue to feel more comfortable, safe and well taken care of at Wayne Memorial. Hoff noted that "when consumers shop for healthcare, especially on the government's website that compares hospitals, the meaning of the stars jumps out. Four stars is very good, it's a select group."

Out of 3,355 hospitals, only 988 received a four-star rating; 455 received a five-star rating. The majority, 1,018 came in at three stars. According to the CMS hospital-compare website, Find Healthcare Providers: Compare Care Near You | Medicare, Wayne Memorial received the highest number of stars in its service area of Wayne, Pike, Lackawanna and Susquehanna counties.

Your health is our only agenda

Vaccinate.

It works. It's safe. It's time.

Dr. Paula Bennett  Dr. James Cruse

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Shown is one of nine billboards appearing throughout Wayne Memorial's service area in an effort to increase COVID vaccine rates. The campaign features seven providers—Dr. Paula Bennett, Dr. James Cruse, Dr. Paul Diamond, Dr. Sean McVeigh, Dr. David Tomazic, Dr. Apurva Jain and Ken Bannon, PA-C.

VACCINATE. IT WORKS. IT'S SAFE. IT'S TIME.



Grants Awarded to Support Community Wellness

WAYNE MEMORIAL HEALTH Foundation (WMHF), through its 2021 community grants program, will provide funds to 12 local nonprofits. WMHF awarded a total of \$18,842 in grant monies to support special projects committed to promoting good health across Wayne Memorial Health System's service area.

This year, two Wayne County middle-school nutrition projects, one submitted by the Wayne Highlands Middle School in Honesdale and the other by a combined program serving students in the Damascus and Preston schools, received funding. The goal of both these programs is to encourage healthy eating habits through special learning experiences hosted by the school's Family and Consumer Sciences Department.

Wayne Highlands faculty member Sara Zabrowski coordinated the middle school program, (which has received funding from WMHF since 2009) before handing it off to current Family and Consumer Sciences teacher Marissa Fasshauer. After transferring to Damascus and Preston in 2020, Zabrowski wanted to bring the nutrition project there with her.

"The programs will look similar but we both have our own ideas and are excited to put our own spin on the events," stated Zabrowski. "We are looking forward to having all 6th through 8th grade Wayne Highland School District students involved."

2021 recipient organizations are: The Cooperage Project; Fair Hills Therapeutic Riding Center; Honesdale Fire Department—Hose #1; Project Linus; PROSPER program at Wayne Highlands, Western Wayne and Wallenpaupack School Districts; Nutrition Project at Wayne Highlands Middle School and Damascus and Preston schools; Rail-Trail Council of NEPA; Victim's Intervention Program and Women's Resource Center.

Shown, left to right are Marissa Fasshauer, teacher, Family and Consumer Sciences, Wayne Highlands Middle School; Carol Kneier, MS, RD, CDE, LDN, manager WMH Community Health, Wayne Memorial Hospital and member, Community Grants Committee; Martha Wilson, chair, Community Grants Committee and Sara Zabrowski, teacher, Family and Consumer Sciences, Wayne Highlands Damascus/Preston schools.

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Dr. Matt Haley, Eric Williams,
Wayne Stephens-58*

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Steve Hudacek, Steve Hudacek,
Charles Hudacek-58*

3RD PLACE Spencer Williams,
Steve Kent, Myles Berg, Jeff Skier-59

Men's 2nd Flight

1ST PLACE Dr. John Bulgar,
Paul Forlenza, Mike DiMare,
Lou Yacovoni-61

2ND PLACE Rory McGhie, Joe Arnone,
Russ Ridd, Mark Lawrence-62

3RD PLACE Dr. Scott Epstein,
Joe Rydzewski, Howard Rothberg,
Dave Rothberg-63

Men's 3rd Flight

1ST PLACE John Carmody,
Dominic Panza, Mike Clifford,
Ashok Direcha-66

2ND PLACE Dr. David Tomazic,
David Tomazic, Dr. Andy Nebzdoski,
Dr. Joe Cimochoowski-67*

3RD PLACE Paul Madden, Matt Guedes,
Paul Deluca, Rich Masucci-67*

Men's 4th Flight

1ST PLACE John Brennan, Paul Sedlak,
Zack Brennan, Dave Iskra-68

2ND PLACE Robert Schwartz,
Pete Mallon, Dan Card-69

3RD PLACE Tim Dailey, Tom Dailey,
Rob Gentile, Rick Davis-71

Mixed 1st Flight

1ST PLACE Sean Buckman,
Charly Galat, Mike Mancuso,
Susan Mancuso-64

2ND PLACE Mike Treanor, Melissa Sader,
Brian Annable, Donna Maire Quidley-67

Mixed 2nd Flight

1ST PLACE Alan Cooper, Peggy Olson,
Julie Gardas, Paul Edwards-72*

2ND PLACE Ed Karabin,
Chad McConnell, Wynter Newman,
Irene Parks-72

On Course Prizes

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#17-Charles Hudacek: 4'4"

LADIES CLOSEST TO THE PIN

#4-Julie Gardas: 62'6"

LADIES LONGEST DRIVE

#18-Nancy Moro

MEN'S LONGEST DRIVE

#9-Eric Williams

STRAIGHTEST DRIVE

#13-Julie Gardas





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Wayne Memorial Opens Physician Specialty Clinic

THE WAYNE MEMORIAL Physician Specialty Clinic, a joint venture between Wayne Memorial Hospital and Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers, opened in late December of 2020 and as anticipated—has grown.

The clinic, located on the 4th floor of the hospital, now houses three specialty services—cardiology, pulmonary and nephrology. A desire for more space and enhanced communications with hospital-based departments prompted the formation of the clinic. Prior to occupying the centralized location, both cardiology and pulmonary outpatient visits were held at off-site offices.

“Having the Physician Specialty Clinic inside Wayne Memorial offers a unique opportunity for physicians to communicate more effectively with our hospitalists, our cardiology technologists, our respiratory therapists, and other departments, including our Emergency Department,” said David Hoff, CEO, Wayne Memorial Hospital.

The clinic offers a waiting room, 11 exam rooms, nurse accommodations and physician offices. The following provider practices are headquartered within the clinic, however, each utilizes a separate phone number based on specialty: Walid Hassan, MD, FACC; Bradley Serwer, MD, FACC, Joseph Laureti, DO and Jennifer Arnold, PA-C – Cardiology – 570-253-8185; Sean McVeigh, MD and Christina Cobb, FNP, Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine – 570-253-8643; Zaima Choudhry, MD, Nephrology – 570-253-8346.

Photo: Staff members of the Physician Specialty Clinic which includes pulmonary, cardiology and nephrology are shown seated, left to right: Cheryl Robinson, Brianne Swartz and Kelly Gregory. Second row: Catherine Clouse, Theresa Knowlton, Lynn Murtaugh, and Sharlene Mott. Back Row: Michele Summa, practice manager; Christina Cobb, FNP; Sean McVeigh, MD; Zaima Choudhry, MD; Walid Hassan, MD, FACC; Joseph Laureti, DO; Jennifer Arnold PA-C; Kristy Borer and Annette Ciarrocchi.



Honesdale Orthopaedics Office Relocates to Larger Facility

Now Has X-ray on Site!

HONESDALE ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY moved this year and Orthopaedic Surgeons David Caucci, MD and Keith Cordischi, DO, began seeing patients at their new office the week of March 1st. A Wayne Memorial Hospital outpatient physician clinic, the location is still on Route 191/Lake Ariel Highway, just up the road at 3202. The building at the new site is nearly double the space and includes both X-ray and a handicap access ramp for patient convenience. The phone number remains the same, 570-647-0001.

Photo, left to right, seated, Velitia Aronica, medical assistant; Wendy Schaffer, ortho tech-CST; Nora Kane and Gail Burnett, medical secretaries. Standing Lisa Evans, medical secretary, Debra Sargeant, practice manager, Dr. Keith Cordischi, Dr. David Caucci and Tammy Rogalski, radiology tech.

Nephrology Services at Wayne Memorial



WHEN ZAIMA CHOUDHRY, MD, arrived at Wayne Memorial in July she brought with her an array of much-needed services to the community. Dr. Choudhry is board-eligible in Nephrology, a specialty that focuses on diseases of the kidney, board-certified in Internal Medicine and is a Certified Hypertension Specialist.

Wayne Memorial CEO David L. Hoff noted that the final stages needed for Dr. Choudhry to oversee inpatient dialysis at the hospital are underway. “Often a patient will come to the Emergency Department for something unrelated to his or her kidney function, but because they are on routine dialysis, we have to transfer them to another facility because we could not offer it here. Soon we can.”

Dialysis is a procedure to remove waste products and excess fluid from the blood when the kidneys stop working properly. Hoff said he also hopes that Dr. Choudhry will work with any of her patients who utilize the DaVita outpatient dialysis clinic at the Stourbridge Complex in Honesdale in the very near future.

“I’m very excited to treat patients in the Wayne Memorial service area,” Dr. Choudhry states, “offering them important services close to home.”

Her practice is located at the Wayne Memorial Physician Specialty Clinic inside the hospital at 601 Park Street, Honesdale. Her office can be reached at 570-253-8346. For more information, visit www.wmh.org.

Photo: Zaima Choudhry, MD, Nephrologist.



Women's Health Photo: Shown left to right are, Norma Nocilla, clinical operations & quality director, WMCHC; Heather Kellam, office supervisor, Women's Health Center; Kara Poremba, RN practice manager, Women's Health Center; Michael Clifford, chair, WMCHC board; Ronald R. Schmalzle, commissioner, Pike County; Angela Tang, MD, OB/GYN, Women's Health Center; Steve Guccini, commissioner, Pike County; Lisa Pathak, MD, co-owner, Dingmans Medical Center; Matthew M. Osterberg, commissioner, Pike County; Frederick Jackson, executive director, WMCHC; David Hoff, CEO, Wayne Memorial Hospital and WMCHC board member; Miranda Swartwout, director, Human Resources, WMCHC and Wynter Newman, administrative director, WMCHC.

Pike County Commissioners Support Wayne Memorial Services

THE PIKE COUNTY Commissioners were on hand for two Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers' ribbon cutting ceremonies this past summer.

In June, the Women's Health Center relocated from the Pike County Family Health Center at 750 Route 739 in Lords Valley to a larger site at the Dingmans Medical Center, 1592 State Route 739—just eight miles away. The office, renamed the Women's Health Center of Pike County, provides outpatient obstetrics and gynecology services by a staff of five providers made up of OB/GYNs and Certified Nurse Midwives. Appointments may be made by calling 570-775-8838.

By August 10th the ribbon was rolled out once again to celebrate the opening of WMCHC's fourth outpatient pediatric site—the Pike Pediatric Center. The office occupied the space vacated by women's health at the Pike County Medical Center. Staff at the Pike Pediatric Center provides care for newborn to age 18 including well-child visits, school physicals, immunizations, medical evaluation, and treatment of chronic and acute conditions. Call 570-775-4264 for an appointment.



Pike Pediatrics Photo: Shown, front row, left to right are, Michael Clifford, chair, WMCHC board; Steve Guccini, commissioner, Pike County; Matthew M. Osterberg, commissioner, Pike County; Frederick Jackson, executive director, WMCHC; Larryl Damon, DO, pediatrician, Pike Pediatric Center; Kayla Esterline, PA-C, Pike Pediatric Center; Dr. Basya Marcus, per diem pediatrician, Pike Pediatric Center; Miranda Swartwout, director, Human Resources, WMCHC; Jennifer Davis, front desk supervisor, Pike Pediatric Center and Rowan Boyle, medical secretary, Pike Pediatric Center. Back row, Norma Nocilla, clinical operations & quality director, WMCHC; David Hoff, CEO, Wayne Memorial Hospital and WMCHC board member; Ronald R. Schmalzle, commissioner, Pike County; Robert Fortuner, director, Finance, WMCHC; Elizabeth Lehnert, medical secretary, Pike Pediatric Center; Melissa Valenti, LPN, Pike Pediatric Center; Karen Bates, LPN, Pike Pediatric Center and Linda Penwarden, practice administrator, WMCHC Pediatric Centers.



Participants Welcome Health and Nutrition Assistance

SEVEN MONTHS INTO the official launch of the Wayne Memorial Food Prescription Program (WMFRxP), organizers are seeing results. The program is designed to help participants with certain diagnoses —diabetes, congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, hypertension—eat healthier and consequently see improvements in their conditions.

George Barton, 57, of Lackawaxen, is one 66 enrollees who have seen a measurable difference in their lives. As a person living with diabetes, Barton says he not only likes the program but “my sugar levels have gone down.”

The WMFRxP is a coordinated effort between Wayne Memorial Hospital (WMH), Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers (WMCHC), and Wayne County. The three-year program is funded by a grant from the AllOne Foundation with additional monies from WMH and WMCHC.

Program Coordinator Carol Kneier, MS, RD, LDN, CDE/manager WMH Community Health, says WMFRxP got off to a slow start due to COVID, but as of today, eight of the nine primary care WMCHC offices are actively involved in the program. Each month, working with their healthcare providers, the program provides enrolled individuals with various perishable ingredients and vouchers for fresh food including low fat meats, fruits, and vegetables to be used at one of the local supermarkets. Enrollees also receive recipes to prepare at least one healthy meal a day, as well as education and guidance to support good nutritional habits.

“It’s a wonderful program,” says Kneier, “and the feedback has been positive. It allows us to teach people that eating healthy will make a difference in their medical condition.”

Barton agrees. “It’s convenient, and they’re very helpful whenever I have questions,” he said, adding “It’s especially helpful when you’re on a fixed income. I highly recommend it.”

For information or to see if you qualify for the program call Carol at 570-253-8422 or email Kneier@wmh.org.

Photo: WMFRxP participant George Barton and Program Coordinator Carol Kneier, MS, RD, LDN, CDE.

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MARCI KOWALEWSKI, PA-C, Family Medicine, Waymart Family Health Center

Kowalewski earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the Physician Assistant Program at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA. She is certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Prior to joining Wayne Memorial she was an established provider for nearly 25 years caring for patients in Waymart, PA.


TRACEYAN MENDEZ, MD, Family Medicine, Highland Physicians Family Health Center

Dr. Mendez earned her medical degree from the New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY. She completed residency education and training at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers—Brooklyn and Queens/New York Medical College and received an undergraduate degree in Biomedical Education from Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education in New York, NY.


ALEXIS FELSMAN, DO, FACOOG, OB/GYN, Women's Health Center

Dr. Felsman earned her medical degree from Midwestern University's Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, Downers Grove, IL and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Penn State University. She completed her OB/GYN residency at Inspira Health Network, Vineland, NJ where she served as Chief Resident.


KEITH CORDISCHI, DO, Orthopaedic Surgery, Honesdale Orthopaedics

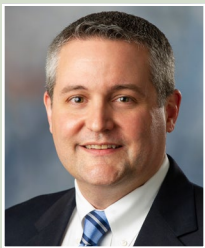
Dr. Cordischi is a graduate of the University of New England, College of Osteopathic Medicine in Maine. He completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at Memorial Hospital in York, PA as well as a fellowship in Orthopedic Surgery Sports Medicine and Arthroscopy at the University of Massachusetts, Worcester. He earned both a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Physiology and a master's degree in Applied Anatomy and Physiology from Boston University.


JESSICA WOODMANSEE, MSN, FNP, Honesdale VA Outpatient Clinic

Woodmansee earned her Master of Science degree in Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Chamberlain University, a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Chamberlain University and an Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing from Morrisville State University in New York.


JANET ERICKSON, MD, Internal Medicine, Honesdale VA Outpatient Clinic

Dr. Erickson completed her Internal Medicine Residency at Lehigh Valley Hospital, Allentown, PA. She earned her medical degree from Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine in Hershey, PA and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Scranton. She is an Assistant Professor at the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine and the Medical Director of Commonwealth Home Health, both in Scranton.



BRADLEY SERWER, MD, FACC, Honesdale Cardiology Dr. Serwer served in the U.S. Navy for 24 years retiring at the rank of Commander. Among his military assignments were leadership positions including U.S. Navy, Chief of Cardiology and Interventional Cardiologist at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir, VA and U.S. Navy, Chief of Cardiac Cath Lab, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Bethesda, MD. He received his medical degree from the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK and performed his Internal Medicine residency at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. In addition to a Cardiology Fellowship at the National Capital Consortium in Bethesda, he also completed a Fellowship in Interventional Cardiology at George Washington University, Washington, DC.



BRIANNE FRASCELLA, FNP, Hamlin Family Health Center Frascella holds a Master of Science degree in Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Chamberlin College of Nursing, Downers Grove, IL and a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA.



JOSEPH LAURETI, DO, Board-Certified Cardiologist, Honesdale Cardiology Dr. Laureti is certified in Cardiovascular Disease and Internal Medicine by the American Osteopathic Board and is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology. He earned his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and performed postgraduate training in Cardiovascular Disease at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA.



ZAIMA CHOUDHRY, MD, Nephrology, Honesdale Nephrology Dr. Choudhry is board-certified in Internal Medicine and is a Certified Hypertension Specialist (CHS). She completed a Fellowship in Nephrology from Temple University in Philadelphia. A native of Pakistan, she attended the Shifa College of Medicine in her home country, then went on to complete an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at St. Mary's Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Michigan.



EBI ROWSHANSHAD, DO, Family Medicine, Hamlin Family Health Center After earning a medical degree from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, New York, New York, Dr. Rowshanshad relocated to Scranton, PA to complete his family medicine residency at the Wright Center for Primary Care. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Cognitive Science from the University of California, Los Angeles, CA.



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