

Coffey Health

April 2026

Insider

Employee news for Coffey Health System



Gwen Mays Receives BEE Award

IN THIS ISSUE

- Heart of Health Care nominations open
- New surgeon joins staff
- Congratulations, CHS graduates!
- Board meeting recap

Understanding the Rural Health Transformation Program and Clinically Integrated Networks



You may have heard recent discussions about the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). This is an important and positive initiative, and I'd like to highlight a key aspect and how it will benefit Coffey Health System (CHS) and the communities we serve.

The RHTP is a five-year program created to strengthen and sustain rural healthcare. As part of this effort, in year one Kansas has been awarded \$221 million from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

It is important to understand that these funds will not be distributed directly to hospitals like CHS. Instead, the funding will support statewide programs and initiatives that help rural providers improve care, operate more efficiently, and prepare for the future of healthcare—particularly the shift toward value-based care (where quality and outcomes matter more than volume of services).

Joining a Clinically Integrated Network is an important step in preparing CHS for the future. While the concept may feel new, the goal is simple: to strengthen our ability to provide high-quality, sustainable healthcare for our community now, and in the years ahead!

What This Means for CHS

One key initiative we are seeing develop is the formation of Clinically Integrated Networks (CINs) across Kansas. CHS will be joining a CIN to collaborate with other facilities that share similar goals.

A CIN is simply a partnership of healthcare providers who work together to improve quality, coordinate care, and manage costs while each organization remains independent.

Each CIN member hospital remains independent, but they work together, share resources, and follow common standards to achieve better results.

The easiest way to think about a CIN is comparing it to a cooperative: Each member remains independent, but they work together, share resources, and follow common standards to achieve better results.

What is a CIN?

- A partnership between hospitals, physicians, and providers
- Focused on improving care quality and managing costs
- Organizations remain independent but collaborate through shared data, standards, and improvement efforts

What does a CIN help accomplish?

- Improves coordination between providers
- Shares data to track quality and outcomes
- Follows best practice care guidelines
- Enhances chronic disease management
- Reduces duplicate services
- Helps smaller hospitals participate in value-based care

Why does this matter to our community?

- Helps maintain access to local healthcare services
- Improves quality of care through shared best practices
- Provides access to additional tools, resources, and expertise
- Supports long-term financial sustainability for rural hospitals

Healthcare is shifting toward value-based care, and Critical Access Hospitals will soon be required to participate. CINs can help rural hospitals work together and succeed in these types of programs typically designed for larger systems.

Important: What joining a CIN does NOT mean

- The hospital is not being sold or acquired.
- Local leadership does not lose control and governance.
- Services are not moved out of the community.
- The hospital does not become part of a larger system.
- Patients are not restricted on where they can be transferred for care.

What is the benefit to patients?

- Better coordination between healthcare providers
- More consistent care standards
- Improved management of chronic conditions
- Fewer hospital readmissions
- Continued access to high-quality care close to home

Stacy Augustyn
Chief Executive Officer

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Stacy Augustyn Tracy Jones
Chief Executive Officer Director of Marketing

Submit ideas or items for consideration in The Insider by contacting the marketing office at (620) 364-4507 or tjones@coffeyhealth.org.

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Trustees and administrative staff hear a legislative update from Kansas Hospital Association President Chad Austin during the March 20 board retreat.

Board receives new monthly data, conducts planning retreat

March 30 was busy for the Coffey Health System Board of Trustees. The day started with the hospital's Doctors Day celebration, followed by the monthly meeting and the board's annual planning retreat.

Chief Executive Officer Stacy Augustyn introduced a new, color-coded report—covering clinical measures in the emergency department, inpatient, swingbed, and patient safety—that will now be shared monthly with the board to enhance the hospital's quality program. Previously, the board received a quarterly report, even though the medical staff reviewed this data each month. Now, with more frequent reviews, board members can more promptly address trends, ask questions, and provide actionable input to improve quality outcomes.

Augustyn explained, "As board members, when you're looking at the dashboard, if you see an area of red for several months in a row, you absolutely should be asking questions about that—and we should be reporting to you what is happening there

While quality has always been a priority, it will become increasingly important for our Board of Trustees to have a strong understanding of our quality measures and performance.

and what we are doing about it. We will continue to do our quality management oversight committee quarterly, where we will actually deep-dive into the dashboard, but in the meantime, we wanted you to have a pulse on all things quality."

The increased emphasis on quality data aligns with several initiatives within the federal government's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), a five-year plan designed to strengthen and sustain rural healthcare. In year one, Kansas was awarded \$221 million from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This funding does not go directly to individual hospitals; rather, it is distributed through the state in accordance with the approved program plan to support various programs and initiatives focused on strengthening rural health.

One key RHTP initiative encourages collaboration among healthcare entities

Continued on page 10

Cook, Ledom join board

Two new trustees joined the board this year. Marlene Cook and Gailyn Ledom replaced Steve Hopkins and Jodi Thomas.



Marlene Cook

Cook graduated from LeRoy High School in 1975 and owned Cook's Plumbing in Burlington for 38 years.

In her application for appointment, she wrote: "I am interested in the betterment of the hospital. I have dealt with a lot of business issues over the years. I desire to see our hospital still in business for the good of our Coffey County citizens, and the citizens of the surrounding area."



Gailyn Ledom

Ledom is a familiar face, having worked at CHS from 2014-2022. She graduated from Johnson County Community College in 2007, and will complete her Bachelor of Nursing degree from Ottawa University this fall. She is an RN Care Manager for Centene Corporation/Sunflower Health Care Plan.

"I bring over 18 years of nursing and leadership experience...My background includes staff education, policy implementation, and expertise in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, positioning me to contribute to regulatory evaluation, financial oversight, and strategic planning...I will apply this experience to strengthen rural health access, identify barriers to care, and guide decisions that sustain high-quality, compassionate services for our community."

Employee Health Scoop



Linsey Knipp, R.N.
Director of Quality & Risk Management,
Infection Preventionist,
Employee Health

Soccer brings the world to KC—and Kansas hospitals!

OK, I don't know a whole lot about soccer, so bear with me for a minute while I talk to you about the FIFA World Cup! FIFA World Cup 2026 takes place from June 11 to July 19! It is happening across Canada, Mexico, and the United States, with eleven host cities in the U.S.!

You may be asking yourself, *“What does soccer have to do with infection control for Coffey Health System? And why is Linsey rambling on about it?”* Well, let me tell you! Kansas City is a host city for four of the teams! Organizers estimate 600,000+ visitors. Lodging is booking out in a four-hour radius of Kansas City, suggesting Coffey Health System could see a few extra patients.

As we head into the summer months, you will probably hear more from the preparedness committee and me as we start to think about everything that could be coming our way. We could see germs that

are not typical in our area; therefore, people may be more susceptible to them. We could see a potential increase in traffic accidents as people drive to Kansas City from across our state. All this coincides with our nation's 250th, so we may see people who don't usually celebrate the 4th of July handling fireworks for the first time—leading to extra fireworks injuries! And we may see increased difficulty transferring patients out of the hospital, especially to the east.

As the committee works through different scenarios to help us be as prepared as possible, we are asking you to watch for information and be receptive to the education. We may not see any influx or out-of-the-ordinary diseases here, but it is better to be prepared just in case! And as always, remember to wash your hands!! Hand hygiene still remains one of the best ways to prevent the spread of infection.

2026



What to know before you head to KC this summer!

FIFA World Cup 2026 in KC

Four base camps:

- Argentina - Sporting KC - KC, KS
- England - Swope Soccer Village, KC, MO
- Netherlands - KC Current - KC, MO
- Algeria - Rock Chalk Park - Lawrence

Games @ Arrowhead Stadium

- Argentina vs Algeria – June 16
- Ecuador vs Curacao – June 20
- Tunisia vs Netherlands – June 25
- Algeria vs Austria – June 27
- “Round of 32” – July 3
- “Quarterfinal” July 11

Fan Festival is located outside the WWI Museum (by Crown Center). Festival is open on various dates from June 11 to July 11. Games during business hours will be on big screens. Maximum capacity is 25,000 people.



Taking Care of You

More Than Just “I Need Another Cup of Coffee”

Let's be honest—rural healthcare asks a lot. On any given day, you're wearing multiple hats, covering gaps, and hearing “just one more thing” more times than feels reasonable. Add in staffing shortages, and it's the perfect setup for burnout. And in smaller teams, there's often an unspoken pressure to keep going, even when you're running on empty.

Burnout isn't just being tired—it's a deeper exhaustion that doesn't go away with rest. It can look like feeling drained before your day starts, becoming more irritable, feeling disconnected from your work, or just simply going through the motions.

Sometimes it even shows up physically, like headaches, trouble sleeping, or getting sick more often.

If you notice this in yourself or a coworker, don't ignore it. A simple “Hey, are you okay?” goes a long way. Listen, offer support, and encourage breaks (and really take them). Sometimes just showing up for someone matters more than fixing anything, especially in environments where everyone is used to being the helper.

At CHS, we can't eliminate stress—but we can support each other better. There are resources here for you, and they only work if you use them. Reaching out isn't a sign

of weakness; it's part of staying effective and healthy in the long run.

Bottom line: burnout isn't a personal failure - it's what happens when good people give too much for too long. And if there's one thing I know about people here at CHS - it's that we show up. Every day. For our patients, our community, and each other.

So, maybe the goal isn't to “push through” burnout like we tend to do with an extra-long shift. Maybe it's to recognize it sooner, talk about it more openly, and actually take care of ourselves and each other along the way.

Take the break. Check on your people. And yes...maybe grab that coffee, Alani, or Celsius, too.



Amy Osner
Director of
Social Services &
Mental Health Therapist



Getting to Know Dr. Landry

General Surgeon Dyllan Landry, M.D., joined the CHS medical staff in January. His services are shared with Newman Regional Hospital in Emporia. He is at Coffey County Hospital on Mondays, and will be adding another day as his surgery program grows. He recently sat down with Marketing Director Tracy Jones to share his story.

How has your experience prepared you for this position?

Growing up in smaller communities for most of my life, I've seen how hard it is for some people to access healthcare, so being in a position now where I can come out here to a smaller community and share some of our expertise, I think that's really beneficial. And that's one thing that's really helped me.

What types of procedures are you looking at doing here?

We are planning to do endoscopy (screening colonoscopies) and EGDs, also skin lesion removals, gallbladders, appendectomies, and hernia repairs.

Colonoscopies are frightening for many people. What would you tell someone who is due for their screening?

Screening colonoscopies are very important. Colon cancer is one of the three leading cancers in the U.S. and something that can also be prevented. Screening colonoscopies should begin for any average-risk patient at age 45. And that means you don't have any family history of colon cancer or colon polyps. These

are procedures we do under sedation, where we can look at the lining of the colon and find colon polyps, which are precancerous growths. If we remove these polyps during the colonoscopy, we can prevent colon cancer in the future. It's a very quick, easy procedure. And if you don't have any concerning findings, you're usually good for another 10 years. So it's really important to get these done as an attempt to keep from getting colon cancer.

How would you describe your patient care philosophy?

I think the most important thing about caring for patients is making sure you listen to them and give them a voice. What we do is among the most invasive things some people will ever have done. It's really important that patients understand everything that's going on, including why we recommend the things we do. Establishing that understanding is probably the most important part of my patient care philosophy.

And what would you tell a prospective patient about yourself?

I grew up in Louisiana, and I still have lots of family there. I'm married, and my wife and I have six children. They keep us pretty busy.

What is your impression of Coffey Health System?

I've had a great time here. Coffey Health has a lot of good providers and staff. They've made it a really, really easy transition to come here and take care of patients.



Mandatory Retirement Plan Meetings

Gallaghers will be onsite to provide group and 1:1 retirement education meetings and review the transition from AUL to Voya Financial. These are mandatory meetings for all full- and part-time employees. If you are unable to attend, the information will be assigned in Paycom learning.

Additional details will be provided and circulated for your review.

Wednesday April 29, 2026
Allen Woods 2
7:45 am / 12:30 pm / 5 pm



Mock accident conveys real life impact

High school and eighth-grade students from Lebo-Waverly, Burlington, and Southern Coffey County schools got a close look at the serious risks of impaired driving during a mock accident staged by local first responders on March 25.

A video shown at all schools that morning set the scene for the accident that played out at the event: three girls running errands in one car, three boys enjoying a ride in a new truck, and a drunk driver in the third car on a collision course that would change their lives. The stadium at Kelley Park in Burlington was full of students, but, at times, you could have heard a pin drop as local first responders carried out a mock accident.

After the “victims” were extricated and removed by first responders, Coffey County EMS Paramedic Raquel Geddry shared her real-life story.

“On June 14, 2014, just before 3 o’clock in the morning, I got a phone call that no parent should ever, ever have to answer.

On the other end, I heard the words that shattered my world. ‘Allyssa and Brett are gone.’”

Her 19-year-old daughter and 15-year-old son—along with their sister

and other friends—were struck by a car driven by a young mother who was intoxicated. Her son’s best friend also died in the accident.

Geddry shared how the heartbreak of that night impacted many lives and gave her an added mission in life.

“We can’t bring Allyssa, Brett, or Carlos back. But by sharing their story, I hope you will think before picking up your phone, before drinking and driving, or before riding with someone who isn’t safe. Your life matters. Your friends’ lives matter. Your family’s lives matter,” Guidry said.

Coffey County EMS Director/Paramedic Jesse Presley helped to coordinate this community effort.

“The event went really well. We had multiple agencies working together to show the important hazards of distracted driving as well as impaired driving. A lot of the kids are starting to learn to drive, and it helps guide them about the difficulties with distracted driving, whether it be with friends, family, or with electronic devices,” Presley said. “It also shows that you may not be the one fully distracted or impaired, but you still need to drive defensively because one second can change your life forever.”

An event like this is truly a community effort.
 Air Methods - Burlington Police Department
 City of Burlington - Coffey County Attorney’s Office
 Coffey County Emergency Management
 Coffey County EMS - Coffey County Fire Dist. 1
 Coffey County Health Department - Coffey County
 Highway Department - Coffey County Sheriff’s
 Office - Coffey Health System - Crosswinds
 Crow-Moddie - DCCA - DUIVCKS
 Kansas Highway Patrol - Lebo Garage
 The Meadows Dietary Staff - USD 243 - USD 244
 USD 245 - and the actors who portrayed drivers,
 passengers, and parents.



2026 Call for Nominations

Coffey Health System

Heart of Health Care Award

Nominations are now open for Coffey Health System's representative for the Kansas Hospital Association's Heart of Health Care Award. Previously called the Health Care Worker of the Year, this award was established in 2013 by the KHA to recognize individuals who routinely go above and beyond the call of duty. Nominees should demonstrate leadership, teamwork, dedication and perseverance, and be role models for other staff.

Important Dates & Deadlines

- April 27 Nominations for the CHS Award are due in the marketing office. See process below.
- April 30 Ballots will be distributed to each department. All employees are eligible to vote.
- May 8 Ballots must be returned to marketing by 4 p.m.
- TBA CHS Health Care Worker of the Year will be announced during Hospital Week.

CHS Nomination Process

Full-time employees in good standing, including previous nominees, are eligible. Previous recipients are ineligible. Typed or written nominations must include the following information:

- Name and department of the nominee.
- At least 50 words describing how the candidate goes above and beyond the call of duty and serves as a role model for other staff OR at least 50 words describing a significant contribution the nominee has made that improved Coffey Health.

- Name and phone number of the person submitting the nomination.
- Nominations must be submitted to Tracy Jones at tjones@coffeyhealth.org or placed in the marketing mailbox by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27.
- Nominees will be screened for eligibility before being placed on the CHS ballot.

The CHS Heart of Health Care winner will be featured in The Insider, social media, local print media, and nominated for the Kansas Hospital Association Heart of Health Care Award competition.

Statewide Recognition

The KHA nomination process requires significantly more candidate information. The marketing staff will meet with multiple coworkers of the CHS nominee, prepare the required essays, and submit the final nomination. Kansas Hospital Association will recognize candidates at the annual convention on September 11 in Overland Park. Up to three nominees will receive the statewide Health Care Worker of the Year Award. Recipients will receive:

- A plaque/award (along with a plaque for display in their hospital),
- Cash award of \$500,
- Recognition at the Kansas Hospital Association Convention,
- Coverage in KHA publications and on the KHA website,
- And media announcements of the award.

If you have questions, please contact Tracy Jones at Ext. 4195.



Only Stacy Augustyn can take a plain Easter egg and turn it into an award-winning contest entry that celebrates our "Berry Best Care!"

The Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Committee greatly appreciated everyone who participated in the Eggstravaganza event during the Critical Issues Summit in Wichita in March. The event combined luck and creativity with special egg prize drawings and a unique Egg Decorating kit.

We are excited to share that there's a tie for first place in the Egg Decorating Contest: Winners are Pawnee Valley Community Hospital, a HaysMed partner and Coffey Health System!

Congratulations, graduates!



Bryson Augustyn
Park Hill High School
Son of Stacy Augustyn
Administration



Korryn Bolen
Burlington High School
Daughter of Lynn Bolen
Radiology



Logan Ferrara
Burlington High School
Son of Heidi Ferrara
CCMC



Paige Gebhardt
Lyndon High School
Daughter of Abby Johnson
Surgery



Kynli Hoch
Burlington High School
Daughter of Kacie Hoch
Med/Surg



Alex Mautz
Burlington High School
Intern/PRN
Physical Therapy



Kaitlyn Martin
Burlington High School
Daughter of DeeDee Myers
Infusion Therapy



Kiara Martin
Burlington High School
Daughter of DeeDee Myers
Infusion Therapy



Alexa Ratzlaff
Burlington High School
EVS Tech
Daughter of Pamela Ratzlaff
Nutritional Services



Jaylin Reppert
Burlington High School
EVS Tech
Environmental Services



John Rolf
SCC High School
Cook at The Meadows
Son of Monica Rolf
Surgery



Natalie Strawder
Humbolt Virtual HS
EVS Tech
Granddaughter of Terrie
Griffith, Human Resources

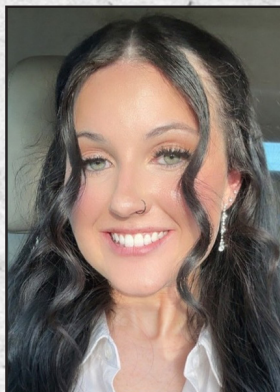
Class of 2026



Trevr Bahr
Wichita State Univ.
Son of Lana Bahr
Finance



Madison Coursen
Emporia State Univ.
EVS Tech
Granddaughter of Terrie
Griffith, Human Resources



Addey Froggatte
Pittsburg State Univ.
Daughter of Theresa Thoele
Human Resources



Joshua Fulton
East Texas A&M
Son of Gerald Fulton
Lab



Maggie Jarvis
University of Kansas
Daughter of Chris Jarvis
Physician



Jordan Hartpence
Barton Community College
Paramedic Certification
Coffey County EMS



Max Kuhlmann
Kansas State Univ.
Son of Joan Kuhlmann
Physical Therapy



Miranda Meats
University of Kansas
Daughter of LeAnna Meats
Billing



Maci Miller
Neosho County
Community College
Radiology



Rich Plue
Barton Community College
Paramedic Certification
Coffey County EMS



Nichole Shaver
Neosho County
Community College
CCMC



Kayla Woodbury
School of EMS/Missouri
Paramedic Certification
Coffey County EMS

Board meeting

Cont. from 3

and providers. One way to achieve this is through participation in Clinically Integrated Networks (CINs), which allow hospitals and providers to work cooperatively to enhance services and ensure sustainable, high-quality care. Coffey Health System has elected to join the Kansas Clinical Improvement Collaborative. CHS has maintained an active partnership with this collaborative for many years, particularly in improving outcomes for time-critical diagnoses, and recently steps have been taken to formalize this collaboration into a CIN structure.

“Quality is at the core of everything we do, but as we move forward with Clinically Integrated Networks and the Rural Health Transformation Program, additional quality reporting will be required, and it will be extremely important,” Augustyn said. “Within the Rural Health Transformation Program, there will be some quality-based incentive reimbursement we could be eligible for. Through the CIN, quality measures are integrated across participating facilities, and strong performance will be essential as we begin to shift toward value-based reimbursement. While quality has always been a priority, it will become increasingly important for our Board of Trustees to have a strong understanding of our quality measures and performance.”

Board action

Under the consent agenda, the board approved two medical staff re-appointments—Cardiologist Gilbert Katz, M.D. and Tele-radiologist Starla Segovia, M.D.—and cash expenditures totaling \$935,430.46

Patient revenue for February was \$3.1 million, reflecting lower-than-expected inpatient volumes. However, cash reserves remain strong at \$2 million, and accounts payable stayed under \$700,000. February’s accounts receivable hit \$5.3 million.

The finance committee presented updated policies and procedures for accounts payable, including a resolution establishing the trustees and officers authorized to sign financial documents on behalf of the organization. The four trustees and officers are Chairman Eric Ervin, Treasurer Perry Chapman, Chief Medical Officer John Shell, M.D., and Augustyn.

Chief Nursing Officer Suzanne Garcia reported that Pharmacist Dondi Eichman is retiring after 41 years of service. Eichman is maintaining his license and will fill in as needed. Eric Peterson, a familiar face to Coffey Countians who has served at local retail pharmacies, takes over the hospital pharmacy program on April 13.

Garcia also reported that the hospital is preparing for the potential impact of the FIFA World Cup coming to Kansas City this summer. International fans are booking hotels and rentals within a four-hour radius. Hospitals in eastern Kansas might see an increase in accidents, infectious diseases,

and foreign language barriers, along with reduced availability of hospital beds in the KC metro area, and longer transfer times.

All nine board members were present for the meeting: Peter Allegre, Perry Chapman, William Conroy, Marlene Cook, Eric Ervin, Robert Fleming, Gailyn Ledom, Arden Payer, and Dan Redding. Staff present included Chief Executive Officer Stacy Augustyn, Chief Medical Officer, John Shell, M.D., Chief Nursing Officer Suzanne Garcia, Chief Financial Officer Ray Leadbetter, Chief Human Resource Officer Theresa Thoele, Director of Marketing Tracy Jones, Director of Social Services & Mental Health Therapist Amy Osner, and Executive Assistant Rhonda Beets.

Annual Board Planning Retreat

The retreat began with presentations from Kansas Hospital Association President Chad Austin, Vice President for Member Relations Cindy Samuelson, and Vice President of Education and Special Projects Jennifer Findley, who reviewed key legislative issues facing Kansas hospitals.


A presentation from Director of Facilities Vic Blaufuss examined the needs of each CHS facility.

The afternoon concluded with Augustyn giving a brief progress report of the strategic plan.

The CHS Board of Trustees meets at 6 p.m. on the last Monday of each month in Allen Woods 2 Conference Room at Coffey County Hospital.

KNOW

your numbers!



Coffey Health System Community Blood Tests 2026

Coffey County Hospital

Blood draws are also offered by appointment only with limited availability. To schedule an appointment, call (620) 364-2121 Ext. 4337.

Comprehensive profile
\$40

Optional prostate screening
\$20

CASH/CHECK ONLY

Community blood draws are on a walk-in basis. Please be fasting 12 hours (no food or liquid other than water) at the time of your blood draw.

Gridley Medical Clinic
Monday, April 27, 7:30 - 9 a.m.

LeRoy Community Building
Tuesday, April 28, 7:30 - 9 a.m.

Waverly Medical Clinic
Wednesday, April 29, 7:30 - 9 a.m.

Lebo Community Building
Thursday, April 30, 7:30 - 9 a.m.

Yates Center Medical Clinic
Fridays, April 24 & May 1, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Burlington - 4H Building
Monday-Friday, May 4-8
7:30 - 9:30 a.m. daily
4-H Building @ Kelley Park

Employee Blood Tests

April 20 & 22
7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Allen Woods 2

Participants are expected to pay for the labs at time of service, unless you are participating in the Wellness Program and have your voucher.

Learning Something New

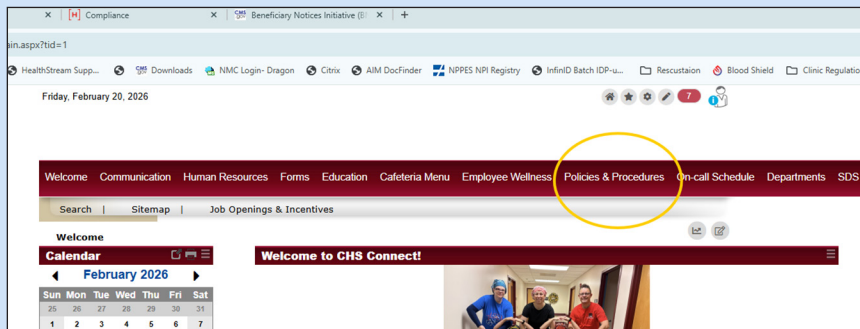


Michelle McVey
Nursing Education
& Informatics

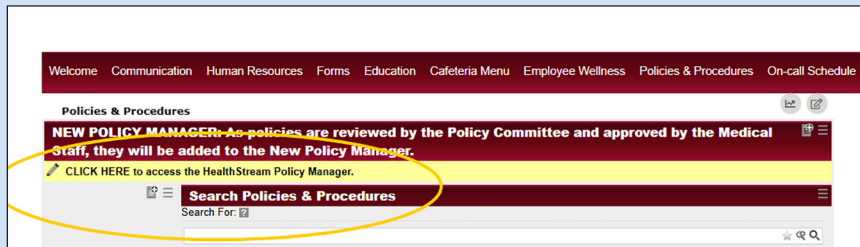
A new platform has been implemented for policies and forms. As documents are reviewed and updated, they will be uploaded to the HealthStream Policy Manager. Staff are encouraged to discontinue searching departmental files for policies and forms and, instead, utilize the HealthStream Policy Manager as the primary source for all current documents. If a policy or form cannot be located within the policy manager, staff should contact their supervisor for assistance.

Finding your way to HealthStream Policy Manager is as easy as 1-2-3!

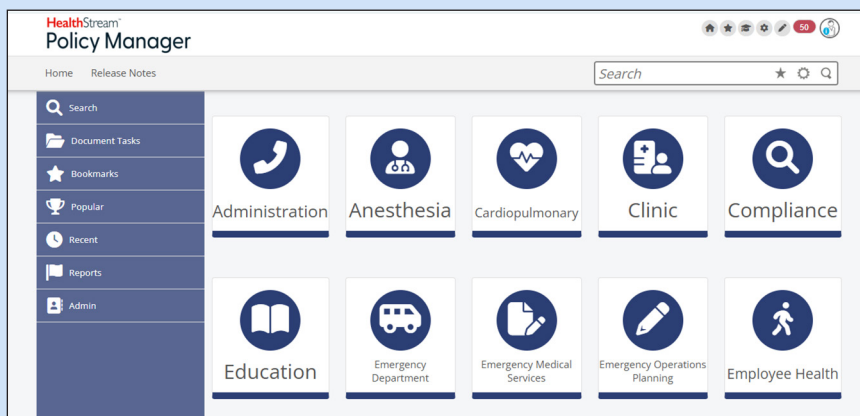
1. On the employee portal, click "Policies and Procedures"



2. Click on "CLICK HERE" to access the Health Stream Policy Manager



3. Use the search function or navigate to your specific department to locate policies and forms.



Save the Date

May Day for The Meadows

April 27 - May 1

AW3 Conference Room

Departments are invited to decorate a potted flower for a resident at The Meadows. Supplies and instructions are provided.

Mandatory Employee Benefit Meetings

April 29

AW2 Conference Room

7:45 a.m. / 12:30 p.m. / 5 p.m.

See page 5 for additional information.

DAISY Award Presentation

May 12

12:30 p.m

AW2 Conference Room

Hospital Week Activities

May 11-15

Watch for announcements and join the fun!

EMS Picnic & Awards

May 19

11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Ambulance Bay

Lunch & Learn

Stacy's 10 Things to Know

About CHS

May 22

12-1 p.m.

AW2 Conference Room

RSVP to tjones@coffeyhealth.org or Ext. 4195.

Blood Drive

July 10

1-5 p.m.

Allen Woods 2 Conf. Room

Coffey Health Foundation Golf Classic

August 29

Rock Creek Country Club

Women's Health Conference

October 14

Burlington High School

Gwen Mays earns BEE Award

Gwen Mays received Coffey Health System's BEE Award for her exceptional service to the residents at The Meadows. She has been a cook and certified nursing assistant here for 25 years.

The BEE Award is presented twice yearly and recognizes non-nursing employees for "Being Excellent Everyday." Nominations come from patients, residents, families, and staff at all CHS facilities.

In nominating Mays, a resident wrote: "Gwen's cooking reflects the care, dedication, and work ethic of someone who was raised with strong values and a deep appreciation for feeding and caring for others. The meals she prepares are not only delicious but also made with pride and genuine care for everyone she serves... More than anything, she treats the residents here like extended family. She genuinely cares about their comfort, well-being, and happiness, and she would do anything she could to make sure they receive the care and kindness they deserve."

Beyond her assigned duties, Gwen is willing to help wherever she is needed, approaching every responsibility with a positive attitude. She gives 100 percent effort in everything she does to support the residents and staff, including tending large outdoor planters.



The resident further wrote: "She takes pride in making our outdoor space beautiful so that everyone can enjoy it. It is a small example of the many ways she goes above and beyond to make the Meadows feel welcoming and cared for. She is the kind of person who never says 'That's not my job.'"

Fellow nominees include Melissa Weiss, Jared Erps, Erika Steffens, Kacie Hoch, Dondi Eichmann, Kodi Audiss, and Heather Noonan.

All CHS associates are eligible for the DAISY or BEE Awards, and the nomination process is quick and easy! Use the QR code or visit www.coffeyhealth.org/patientexperience and answer a few questions about how your nominee goes above and beyond for our patients, residents, and teammates!

If you have questions, please visit with Shelly Moss or Suzanne Garcia.



Thank you for your "jean-erosity"

Thanks to the jean-erosity of our employees, we raised a total of \$358.75 for the Coffey Health Foundation in the first quarter of 2026.

Where does that money go? Over the years, the Foundation has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships to local high school graduates, funded several capital equipment projects for the hospital, and supported health-related education throughout our county, including CPR classes for students. In recognition of your support, the total donation will be rounded up to \$400!

Second quarter proceeds (April-June) will be used to purchase personal hygiene supplies for students in need at our local schools. For the privilege of wearing jeans on Fridays, you simply drop off the typical \$1 or an *unopened personal hygiene product* in the basket in the admin department. Suggestions include deodorant, shampoo, soap/body wash, tampons, pads, etc.

Thank you again for your continued support!



Montly Totals

January	\$131.25
February	\$126.00
March	<u>\$101.50</u>
QTR 1 Total	\$358.75

Friends of Coffey Health System



Lois Brinkman is our longest-serving volunteer with over 20 years of service, many of which were spent as chairman. She takes special pride in the gift shop.

"I feel appreciated when people say, 'I love to come into the gift shop, you have such pretty things.'"



ALL FOR ONE

"All for one" is a regular feature in *The Insider* to share information about news in the lives of the CHS family. We share life's happiest moments and feature ways that we are pulling together to help colleagues in times of need. Please call Tracy at Ext. 4195 or send information to tjones@coffeyhealth.org.



Ellison Rand Drury was born February 3. Her proud parents are **Aubrea Drury** (med/surg) and husband Luke.



Stetsyn Lane Crooks is the son of Lane and **Makayli Crooks** (radiology). He was born on March 6. Stetsyn is the great-grandson of **Lynn Crooks** (pharmacy), great-nephew of **Paige Crooks** (radiology), and nephew of **Maycee Garbee** (med/surg) and **Myranda Stoner** (EVS).



Maycee Garbee (med/surg) and her husband Tyler welcomed River Hayes Garbee on March 18. River is the nephew of **Makayli Crooks** (radiology) and **Myranda Stoner** (EVS).



Layton Lynn Farthing arrived on March 24. Her very happy mommy and daddy are **Erika Steffens** (CCMC) and Gus Farthing.

Thank You Note

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who bought a T-shirt, supported the bake sale, or simply offered kind words or a hug in the hallway. Every single gesture has meant more to me than I can put into words.

I feel incredibly lucky to work in a place that truly takes care of their own in times of need. The love and support I've received has helped carry me through.

A special thank you to my Rad girls—you have been my rock through everything, and I don't know what I would do without you.

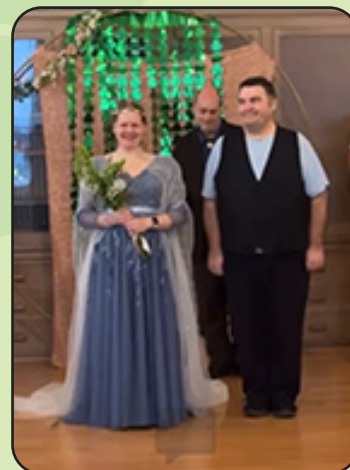
Thank you all so much. I feel beyond blessed with the very best.

Kristin Baker (radiology)

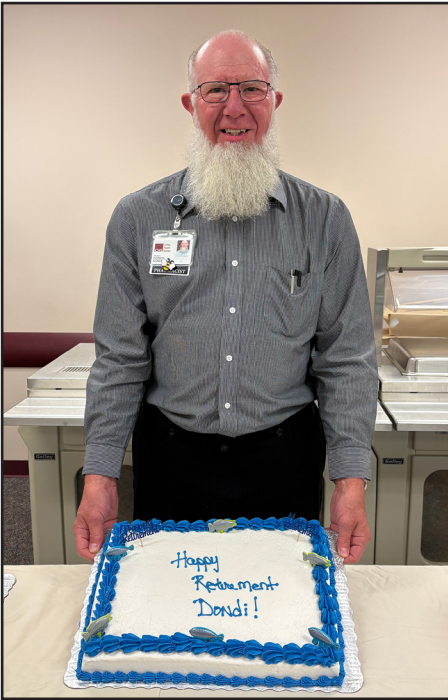
HELP WILLIAM FIND A KIDNEY!!



William is the 2-year-old grandson of **Lucas Zeller** (EMS). William was born with kidney disease. He will be starting dialysis soon and is active on the deceased transplant list. The family is hoping to expedite the process by finding a living donor with blood type O. If you would like to be tested to see if you are a match, please send an email to kidneylivingdonor@kumc.edu requesting to be match tested for Children's Mercy patient William Fritts. Thank you for supporting this CHS family.



Daniel Fletcher (The Meadows) married Jennifer Brayton on March 13. Congratulations, Daniel and Jennifer!



For almost 41 years, Pharmacist **Dondi Eichman** has been a calm and steady presence at CHS, sharing his knowledge and showing true integrity. He has seen us through good times

and challenges—and always managed to make us laugh. We will miss him greatly as he begins his well-earned retirement.

Ashley Beying represented CHS and the nurse practitioner field in the Kansas Hospital Association's recent Virtual Career Day. More than 5,000 high school students and adult learners across the state were introduced to various healthcare careers with brief video clips followed by live Q&A sessions. Our video highlighted the impact nurse practitioners have in rural healthcare, and also featured **Myra Richards**.

A medical student wrote about his rural practice experience at CHS. In part, it read "Observing (**Dr. Jon Sides**) taught me that clinical knowledge alone is not what makes an effective physician; communication and familiarity with patients' lives are equally important. In a town this size, the physician is not just a provider but a central figure in the community, and continuity of care spans years and sometimes generations. These interactions emphasized that effective medicine relies as much on relational continuity as it does on diagnostic accuracy."

The county's tremendously impactful "Mock Accident" was led by **EMS Director/Paramedic Jesse Presley**, along with leaders and representatives from all emergency response agencies, high schools, and eighth grade classes

in Coffey County. A great deal of work went into the event. Kudos to CHS personnel who helped: **Presley, Raquel Geddry, Jordan Hartpence, Ari Robinson, Amber Holland, Tony Traf-fanstendt, Rich Plue, Joe Tuthill, and Lucas Zeller; Amy Osner; Stephanie Bess; and The Meadows nutritional services team.** Special thanks to EMS spouses Angel Zeller, Jen Plue, and Tonya Presley.

Technical issues don't take weekends off. When Dr. Shell encountered an issue over the weekend, IT Director **Paul Broyles** quickly identified and resolved the issue, remaining readily available to staff throughout.

Laurel Louderbaugh took advantage of some downtime at the Gridley clinic to introduce **Paige Meats** to community members. Meats will be the medical provider at the clinic upon Louderbaugh's retirement later this year.

Several members of the **EMS team** were spotted honing their skills in the education room. This wasn't required training—just exceptional professionals at work!

CHS had its most successful post-COVID blood drive on April 3. Thank you to everyone who gave blood, and to the facilities and environmental services team for their help. Special shout-out to **LaDonna True, Dr. Jon Sides,**

Now everyone knows what we've known for years: Jordan is awesome!

The following is excerpted from a post on the Kansas National Guard Facebook page on April 3, 2026.

35th MP Soldier steps up to give assistance following traffic accident.

Enlisting in the Kansas National Guard not only teaches many skills that are useful in both the military and civilian life, but it also instills a sense of duty, the urge to serve and protect your fellow citizens, in uniform and out.

On the morning of Feb. 21, retired Lt. Col. Kim Smith, a 26-year veteran of the Kansas Air National Guard, was on her way to do volunteer work for the Be Filled of South Topeka Food Pantry...

"As I approached Forbes Avenue to turn left a car was going too fast to stop at the stop sign. She proceeded through the intersection and hit my vehicle."

Spc. Jordan Hartpence was on his way to his monthly drill with the Kansas Army National Guard's 35th Military Police Company when he came across the accident.

"I was driving onto SE Gary Ormsby Dr. and getting ready to turn onto SE Forbes Avenue when I saw three vehicles stopped," said Hartpence, who is an EMT with Coffey County Emergency Medical Service...Hartpence's concern and

emergency response training kicked in, and he stopped to see what he could do to help...

"He promptly identified himself as an Emergency Medical Technician in his civilian capacity," said Smith. "Specialist Hartpence demonstrated professionalism and courtesy, ensuring I was not injured. Although I reported only neck pain, he requested permission to examine my neck and found no apparent injury."

In the other car, was a younger woman who was not complaining of any pain, "just a little shaken up from the accident" and declined any medical assistance. Hartpence continued to check on both occupants until the first law enforcement officer arrived.

"I asked him if there was anything he needed from me," said Hartpence. "He said 'No,' so I finished driving to drill, and went on about my day as usual."

"Despite many vehicles passing by that morning, Specialist Hartpence was the only individual who stopped to provide assistance,"

said Smith. "His willingness to address the needs of others was greatly appreciated – he portrayed what a Citizen-Soldier is all about!"



Jordan Hartpence

Kudos to you! Kudos to you! Kudos to you! Kudos to you!

Angie Messerschmidt, and Candi Dale, who allowed their photos to be used in some extra marketing.

A patient recently returned to CHS to thank the EMS crew who responded and cared for them following an accident. A special thank you to **Amber Holland** and the entire team for providing exceptional care during the patient's time of need.

Tamara Schillig, CCMC, identified opportunities to improve processes related to new health maintenance initiatives.

Kudos to **all clinic staff** for their willingness and enthusiasm in implementing new efforts to enhance preventative care for our patients.

Thank you to our **dietary team** for going the extra mile to offer fish options on Fridays during the Lenten season. Your thoughtful accommodation was greatly appreciated!

A big thank you to **Amy Osner, Suzanne Garcia, Linsey Knipp, Julie Schneider, and Angie Messerschmidt** for their help with the recent board retreat. Your work behind the scenes made all the difference in helping the day run smoothly.

A shout-out to **Yvonne Carter** for her hard work keeping our outlying clinics sparkling. They've never looked better!

Thank you to our amazing **billing team**. They've worked incredibly hard over the past year, and their efforts are truly being recognized. We appreciate all they do behind the scenes to support CHS and our patients.

Casey Lyons won the grand prize drawing for the 2025 employee wellness program! She chose a pair of new Brooks running shoes as her prize.



Welcome



Patti Beyer
Nurse
Corrections



Jessica Brown
CNA
Med/Surg



Jessika Chambers
Patient Access
Coordinator
Hospital



Paige Ferrara
EVS Tech
Hospital



LeRoy Fisher
Mechanic
Facilities



Samuel Gilmore
Cook
The Meadows



Brodi Gary
Cook
Hospital



Maci Miller
Ultrasound
Hospital



Tina Nickle
Nurse
Med/Surg



Eric Peterson
Pharmacist
Hospital



Anthony Martinez
EVS Tech
Hospital



Kristen Roney
Radiology
Hospital



Myranda Stoner
EVS Tech
Hospital



Stephanie Trump
Cook
The Meadows



Annsley Williams
Patient Access
Coordinator
Hospital



Julia Van Der Zalm
Nurse
Emergency

Anniversaries

Our employees are our greatest resource. Each month, we include a list of employees who will celebrate their anniversary with Coffey Health System. Here's to each of you, and thank you for your service to our patients!

April

Karen Foster, Gwen Mays 26 years
JaNae Pritchett 22 years
Candus Dale 18 years
Nicole Rasmussen 14 years
Melinda Chiroy 13 years
Andrea Tuthill 11 years
Ashley Beying, Heidi Ferrara,
Emily Smith 10 years
Kristee Strawder 9 years
Richard Messerly 8 years
Heather Bess, Jesse Presley 7 years
Ruth Sloyer 5 years
Hailey Honn, Ray Leadbetter, Cathy Paige
2 years

May

Tammra Schillig 40 years
Rosalind Leapheart 30 years
Hallie Wilson 21 years
April Birk, Lisa Davis 14 years
Katherine Metzger 11 years
Michael DuBuke, DeeDee Myers,
Katherine Metzger 10 years
Lucy Klick 7 years
Makayli Crooks, Becca Houston 3 years
Tiffany McRoberts 2 years
Aubrea Beyer, Melinda Herrick, Ari Robin-
son, Belinda Sidebottom 1 year

Staff Observances

April

Occupational Therapy Month

Lab Week April 19-25

Volunteer Week April 19-25

HIM Week April 20-24

Administrative
Professional Day April 22

May

Speech-Language-Hearing Month

Nurses Week May 6-12

Hospital Week May 10-16

EMS Week May 17-23

When I knew...

OUR STORIES. TOLD BY US.



I can honestly say that I did not know this would be a field I would pursue. I was at a spot in my life 16 years ago where I wasn't sure what was up or down. I had been able to stay home with my two kids until they entered school. One day, my aunt, who works at Newman's, told me about a phlebotomy position in the lab there. I applied and was offered the position. I had always loved science, chemistry, and biology, so this was perfect. In all honesty, I never wanted to pursue a career in healthcare. I just didn't think it was in my cards. I always dreamed of being a mortician.

I was employed by NRH for a year, and I will never forget the text from Pam Ecton begging me to come work in her lab at CHS. It was all working out. I wouldn't have to drive. I was closer to my kids. I was able to really grow and bring what I had learned at NRH to CHS.

I have been a lab assistant/phlebotomist for 16 years this June, and have been at CHS a total of 15 years. I went PRN for a couple of years while our daughter was finishing up high school. I returned right after the COVID outbreak. I felt it was time and knew there was a need for more help.

This may sound a little cliché, but one of my biggest role models is my husband. He has such a passion for caring for patients/people and learning. It simply amazes me. Over the years, I have watched and learned so much from him. (But he will never be a better stick than me! 😊)

I absolutely have a great passion for my patients and have enjoyed getting to know them and their stories. From the happiest of times, like finding out they are expecting after struggling to conceive, to the sadness of those who are dying from cancer. I have a patient right now that comes to mind who went through his first round of chemo. He sat in my draw chair two weeks ago with tears in his eyes and told me he wasn't going another round. I could see in his eyes that he was tired. He looked at me and said, "I'm sure going to miss you." This is why I do what I do.

Holly Peters
Phlebotomist
Coffey County Hospital