

Coffey Health

August 2026

Insider



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If there's one constant in healthcare, it's change. New clinical evidence, advancing technology, evolving reimbursement models, regulatory requirements, and changing community needs continually shape the way we deliver care. While navigating this constant change isn't always easy, it is essential.

Change can sometimes feel like one more thing added to an already full plate; it's a natural reaction to change! But if we shift our mindset from simply managing change to understanding its purpose, it becomes a little easier when we can see the value behind it. I promise, changes are rarely made just for the sake of change! They're made to help us better serve our patients, strengthen our organization, and prepare us for the future. When we understand the "why" behind a change, it helps us all to see that change isn't simply about doing things differently; it's about continually improving.

A recent change for CHS is the implementation of a new reputation management platform called Rater8. In today's world, many rely on online reviews and even AI-powered search tools when researching virtually anything, including healthcare services. It is important that our online presence accurately reflects the exceptional care our teams provide. Rater8 helps ensure the voices shaping our online presence are those of actual patients. Following an outpatient visit, patients may receive a brief five-question text survey with the option to share their experience through a review. These surveys do not replace our inpatient HCAHPS surveys administered through Press Ganey, but instead provide another opportunity to gather meaningful feedback to get an accurate reflection of the care our staff delivers every day.

The results have already been encouraging. Since going live just a few days ago, we've received over 100 responses with an average star rating of 4.8, along with numerous positive comments recognizing the quality care provided by our teams. Sharing those patient experiences helps future patients better understand who we are and the quality, compassion, and commitment they can expect from us at CHS.

Another example of purposeful change is our participation in the Evidence-Based Practice Program through the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). Over the coming months, some of you will be involved in new quality measures being introduced at both the hospital and our clinics. These measures may create changes in workflows and, at times, may feel like additional work. When we look beyond the task itself, however, the purpose becomes clear. These quality measures are built on evidence-based practices that have been proven to improve patient outcomes. The program provides limited financial incentives for participation and performance. These incentives are helpful, but they are not the reason we are committed to this work. The true value lies in consistently delivering care that reflects the latest evidence and best practices, ensuring our patients receive the highest quality care possible.

Looking ahead, we'll also soon begin conducting our next Community Health Needs Assessment. This process allows us to hear from our community, better understand its evolving health needs, and identify where we can have the greatest impact. As our community changes, so must the services and programs we provide to meet those needs.

Healthcare will continue to evolve, and so will we at CHS. By focusing on the purpose and "why" behind change, we can continue to grow, improve, and fulfill our mission together. I know change isn't always easy, but thank you for being willing to learn, adapt, and keep our patients at the center of everything we do. That's what truly makes a difference!

Stacy Augustyn

Stacy Augustyn
Chief Executive Officer

Nominate a colleague for the DAISY or BEE Award

Do you know that all CHS associates are eligible for the DAISY (nurses) or BEE Awards?

The nomination process is quick and easy! Use the QR code below 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.



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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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Board approves ambulance purchase; reviews reputation management, quality measures

Just days after its July meeting, the Coffey Health System Board of Trustees met again in a special meeting to vote on the urgent purchase of an ambulance.

At the August 5 special meeting, hospital staff explained that Med #25—the oldest ambulance in the Coffey County EMS fleet—had incurred catastrophic engine failure after a series of other costly mechanical issues. The loss of Med #25 leaves the service with two Type III or “box” ambulances, which does not adequately meet patient needs.

Coffey County EMS Director Jesse Presley compiled several options for the board’s consideration, including a 2026 Type III demo unit from MacQueen. Available in early September 2026, the demo unit has less than 10,000 miles and costs \$212,133, plus approximately \$3,000 for a refrigerator. Some equipment will be transferred to the new ambulance.

“Looking at the box versus the transit, the transit is great for transfers where we’re not going to be moving around a lot, but the box ambulance is like a mini-ICU for us,” said Coffey County EMS Director Jesse Presley. “We can be on all sides of the patient, working, starting IVs on the left and the right. During a code, we will have four people in the back of the ambulance around the patient. In a transit unit, you could possibly get two.”

The board unanimously approved the immediate purchase of the MacQueen ambulance. Trustees Eric Ervin, Bill Conroy, Robert Fleming, Gailyn Ledom, Marleen Cook, and Dan Redding were present for the meeting, while Perry Chapman and Jodi

Thomas participated and voted via phone. Staff present included Presley, Chief Executive Officer Stacy Augustyn, Chief Nursing Officer Suzanne Garcia, Chief Financial Officer Ray Leadbetter, Chief Medical Officer John Shell, Director of Marketing Tracy Jones, and Executive Assistant Rhonda Beets.

CHS currently has an ambulance on order, but delivery is not expected until August 2027 to August 2028. That unit will remain on order as planned, with payment due on receipt. It will replace the next oldest unit, Med #21. At that point, the EMS fleet will consist of three box-style ambulances and one transfer unit.

July Monthly Meeting

During its July 27 regular meeting, the Coffey Health System Board of Trustees welcomed back Jodi Thomas, Waverly, who was reappointed by the Coffey County Commission to serve the unexpired term of Arden Payer. Thomas previously served nine years on the board.

Director of Marketing Tracy Jones introduced a new program to automate the hospital’s reputation management. Jones described the complex web of online reviews and AI-generated information that now feeds into a hospital’s online reputation.

“84 percent of people research medical care online. For them, our digital front door is no longer our website; it is an AI-generated summary at the top of their search

results—and with AI, the information isn’t always correct or relevant,” she explained.

A new partnership with Rater8 will lead to an exponential increase in online reviews while ensuring they come from verified CHS patients, helping mitigate the effects of irrelevant and erroneous negative reviews.

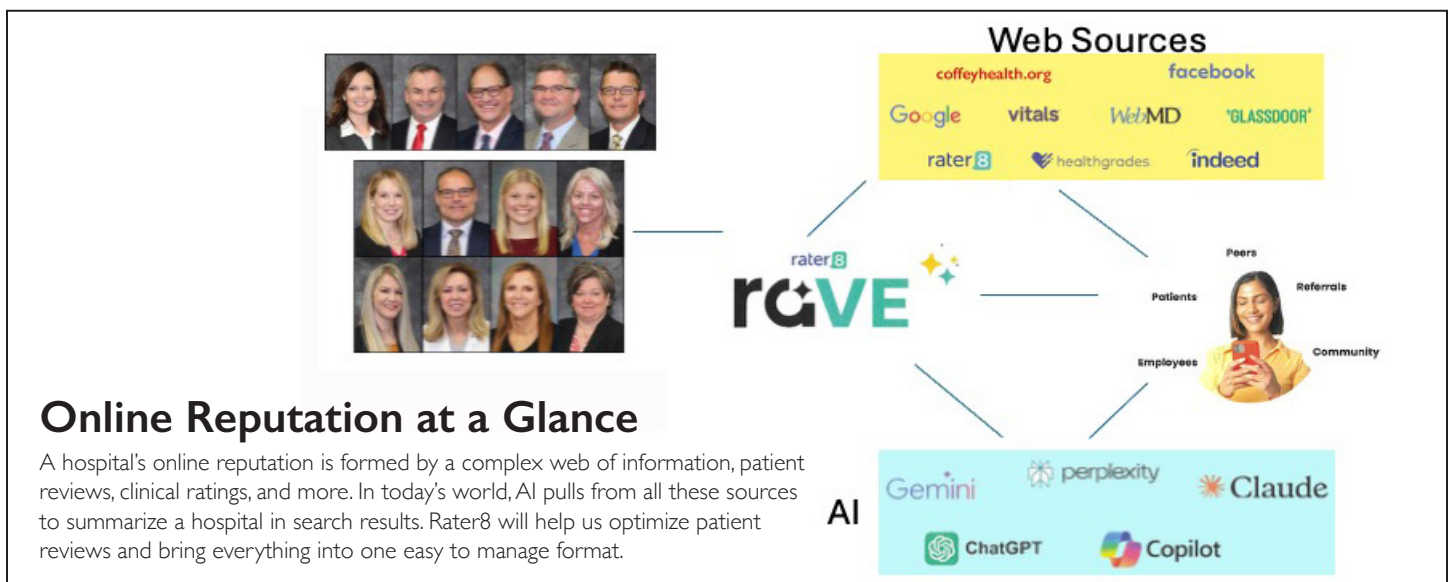
The process is automated across multiple platforms and fully compliant with healthcare privacy laws. In the initial phase, patients will receive brief five-question surveys after clinic appointments and ER visits. The hospital retains the option to revise the process.

Director of Quality & Risk Management Linsey Knipp reviewed data from the color-coded quarterly quality

report and explained an emphasis on sepsis awareness in the last year. She also reviewed measures being tracked as a requirement of participation in the state’s Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Evidence-Based Practice Program.

“Most of the required measures were already being tracked or required only a minor adjustment; however, patients might be surprised that clinic nurses must now measure the circumference of the midsection to determine an accurate height-to-weight ratio,” Knipp said. “This is a more specific number than the traditional body mass index (BMI) and is a more accurate predictor of diabetic and heart health.”

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Mind Matters: Depression is more than feeling sad

Amy Osner
Director of
Social Services &
Mental Health Therapist



We all have days when we feel down, overwhelmed, disappointed, or just off. That's part of being human. But depression is different. It can affect how you think, feel, function, and even how you experience the things you normally enjoy.

losing interest in things that once brought you joy. And sometimes, there doesn't seem to be an obvious reason for any of it.

For those of us who work in health-care, this can be especially easy to overlook. We're used to taking care of everyone else.

We show up when we're tired. We push through long days. We check on everyone else before checking in with ourselves. And sometimes we get really good at saying, "I'm fine," because there's always another patient, another task, another shift, or another person who needs us. But being dependable doesn't mean you're invincible.

One of the hardest parts of depression is that it can convince you to pull away from the very

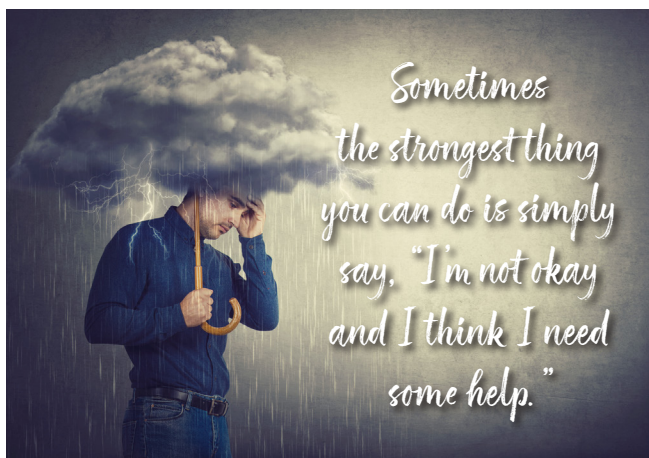
things that might help. You may not feel like getting out of bed, talking to someone, going for a walk, or doing something you usually enjoy. That doesn't mean you're lazy or failing. It means you may be struggling.

Welcome to the second installment of *Mind Matters*, a series where we'll take a closer look at common mental health topics, break down myths, and hopefully make these conversations feel a little less intimidating.

And depression loves to tell us things like, "You should be able to handle this," or "Other people have it worse." But, struggling doesn't require a comparison — your feelings are still worthy of attention and care.

If you're noticing changes in your mood, energy, sleep, appetite, motivation, or ability to enjoy life that are sticking around, talk to someone. A trusted friend, family member, healthcare provider, or mental health professional can be a good place to start. And if you're the person who is always checking on everyone else, maybe this is your reminder to let someone check on you, too. You don't have to wait until things feel unbearable to ask for help.

Until next month, remember you don't have to have a reason to deserve support. Sometimes the strongest thing you can do is simply say, "I'm not okay and I think I need some help."



Sometimes depression looks like sadness and crying. But sometimes it looks like irritability, exhaustion, withdrawing from others, sleeping too much (or not enough), difficulty concentrating, feeling numb, or

Employee Health Scoop

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



EMPLOYEE HEALTH REQUIREMENTS Time to get cleared for takeoff!

To make completing your annual health requirements a little more fun, you'll receive an Employee Health Passport to guide you along your journey! As you complete each required task, you'll earn a stamp in your passport. Once you've completed each step in your journey, turn in your passport for a small reward and a chance to win in a prize drawing!

Your adventure starts with completing your annual flu shot requirement! Stop by the small conference room near HR during one of the times listed here to receive your flu vaccine and pick up your Employee Health Passport.

Sept. 10 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sept. 11 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sept. 23 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sept. 25 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Oct. 5 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Oct. 7 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Oct. 9 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Oct. 23 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Oct. 27 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Oct. 29 - 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Reminder: All employees must complete their annual employee health requirements. This includes: flu vaccination or appropriate waiver, TB Health Assessment, and fit testing (if applicable). Required items must be completed with documentation provided no later than November 1, 2026.

Friends of Coffey Health System



Why I Volunteer

Over the past 21 years, Linda Booth has been active in many capacities with Friends of CHS. In addition to helping in the gift shop, assisting with hospital events and bake sales, and processing time sheets and payroll deductions, she leads two significant projects that benefit our community and military canines worldwide. She spearheads the collection of plastic bags, which are recycled into durable benches (four of which grace our facilities). The annual "Christmas for Canines" generated \$5,035 for active duty and retired canines last year alone.

She recently wrote, "During the time in the fall when we are doing the troop/hero dog project. I will frequently run into someone in the store or out and about, and they will ask me how the project is going. They will tell me just how important they think it is, and then will pull some money out of their billfold or purse to donate. They continually prove to me how generous and kind our community is. We have been doing the project since 2009 and have touched many lives, which makes me very proud of our volunteers."

NOTE: Linda will soon be moving closer to her son, and will be tremendously missed by her CHS family. We wish her every happiness in her new adventures. Thank you, Linda, for the amazing impact you've had in our lives—and the lives of service dogs around the globe!



And, never fear, dog-lovers! The Christmas for Canines will continue in the capable hands of Friends of CHS and the marketing department. Watch for details in the next issue of *The Insider* and on the CHS Facebook page.



Save the Date

CHS Blood Drive

August 21

1-5 p.m.

Allen Woods 2 Conf. Room

Heart of Healthcare Award Celebration for Vic

August 28

2-3 p.m.

Allen Woods 2 Conf. Room

LeRoy Homecoming Parade

August 29

4:30 p.m.

Please contact Stacy if you would like to walk and pass out candy!

Assisted Living Week Cookout

September 9

5-6:30 p.m.

The Meadows

All staff are invited! Please RSVP to Carrie at (620) 364-8861, and bring lawnchairs for you and your family.

Lunch & Learn

Swingbed: What to Know Before You Need It

September 25

Noon-1 p.m.

Allen Woods 2 Conf. Room

Code Orange Practice & Drill

October 13 & 14

Practice in AW2 on the 13th
Drill in ED on the 14th

Women's Health Conference

October 14

Burlington High School

5:30 Social Hour

6-8 Presentations

RSVP to Ext. 4195

**JOIN US IN
CELEBRATING
VIC BLAUFUSS**

Coffey Health System's nominee to the
2026 Kansas Hospital Association
Heart of Health Care Award program.

Vic Blaufuss elected CHS Heart of Health Care Award Recipient

For nearly four decades, Vic Blaufuss has served in the background at Coffey Health System—keeping equipment running smoothly, solving problems before they arise, and maintaining a vigilant eye on safety. Now he is front and center as the CHS nominee for the Kansas Hospital Association Heart of Health Care Award. He will be recognized with a reception at the hospital at 2 p.m. on August 28, and then with fellow nominees from across the state at the KHA Awards Luncheon in Overland Park on September 11.

“Vic demonstrates that exceptional healthcare relies on unseen leaders who keep facilities safe, functional, compliant, and operational every day,” said CHS Chief Executive Officer Stacy Augustyn. “For decades, he has been the steady hand behind Coffey Health System’s operations. His dedication, ingenuity, and reliability make him more than just an exceptional director of facilities; these traits have made him one of the most operationally critical individuals CHS has ever known.”

Vic’s impact is not defined by a single achievement but by decades of quietly “saving the day,” often before anyone else recognizes a problem. With unmatched knowledge of facility infrastructure, equipment, and systems, he meets every challenge with calm determination, creativity, and professionalism. Vic excels at problem-solving under pressure.

“When the emergency department air conditioning failed during a heatwave, patient care was at risk. Instead of allowing interruptions to patient care, Vic quickly set up portable air conditioners, keeping the department safe and operational for patients and staff,” Augustyn said. “Situations like this are not exceptions; they represent a career defined by ‘going beyond the call of duty.’”

A Career with Immeasurable Impact

While the nation’s healthcare organizations faced unprecedented uncertainty during the pandemic, Vic immediately stepped forward to evaluate airflow patterns to reduce exposure risks, secure essential supplies, and construct temporary walls and barriers. But beyond the structural concerns, Vic also recognized the emotional toll of isolation placed on residents in long-term care and assisted living. His team constructed visitation enclosures that kept residents safely connected to family. His work directly improved safety, emotional well-being, and quality of care.

In his 39 years, Vic has seen it all, but in his humble words, “It all comes down to life safety.” He is acutely aware of the role his department plays in patient care. A blown generator is not just an inconvenience; it cancels a patient’s much-needed surgery. A safety hazard that blocks access to a building is not just a danger for staff; it can be life-threatening for a patient who cannot get inside to receive care.

To maintain these standards, Vic leads a small but mighty team built on a culture of trust, accountability, teamwork, and pride in their work. One of his greatest strengths is his genuine desire to teach others. He recognizes each employee’s unique strengths and interests and places them in roles where they can succeed, grow, and take ownership of their work. By identifying what individuals do best, Vic has built a dependable team that exceeds expectations. His leadership style develops confidence, encourages growth, and creates an environment where employees feel valued.

As a licensed electrician, plumber, and HVAC tech, he can perform or oversee nearly any maintenance, construction, or operational task internally, often saving the organization substantial time and expense while maintaining the highest quality standards. His technical capabilities are matched by his character. He is always a call away, willing to help, and

committed to finding solutions no matter the hour or circumstance. He approaches every project with careful consideration, balancing fiscal responsibility without compromising quality and safety.

His contributions have allowed Coffey Health System to significantly expand healthcare access and services for our rural community and continue to positively impact patients today. He played a major role in our organization’s growth and modernization through his oversight of numerous large-scale construction and renovation projects, including supervising our largest hospital additions, building a 26-bed assisted living facility, and transforming a former bowling alley into a successful rehabilitation and wellness center. More recently, he was instrumental in projects such as bringing MRI services in-house and remodeling the Emergency Department and main clinic space. Vic’s ability to oversee complex projects while maintaining day-to-day operations demonstrates both his leadership and technical expertise.

When systems fail, emergencies occur, regulations change, or buildings need to evolve to meet the needs of patients and staff, Vic is the person everyone turns to. His work often happens behind the scenes, but his impact is felt throughout every corner of Coffey Health System every day.

For decades, he has been the steady hand behind Coffey Health System’s operations. His dedication, ingenuity, and reliability make him more than just an exceptional director of facilities; these traits have made him one of the most operationally critical individuals CHS has ever known.

Our
volunteers help us
in so many ways.

Let’s help them!

Our Friends of CHS volunteers are amazing, but they need a few more hands in the hospital gift shop. If you have a family member, friend, neighbor, or relative who has free time and is looking for a meaningful way to help others, please let them know that Friends of CHS is looking for volunteers.

They can pick up an application at the hospital ER desk or download one at <https://www.coffeyhealth.org/friends-of-chs/>.



Friday, August 28
2-3 p.m.



Coffey County Hospital
Allen Woods 2 Conference Room



Cookies and beverages will be served.

New provider at Gridley is a very familiar face



For Paige Meats, starting her new position as the physician assistant at Gridley Medical Clinic isn't new at all. She is coming home.

She did a family medicine rotation here while completing her master's degree at Wichita State University. She worked as a nursing assistant at the former Sunset Manor, and as a medication aide at The Meadows. And she has been part of the CHS family since she was a toddler when her dad, Jeff Sloyer, M.D., began his practice in Burlington.

"Joining the medical staff after growing up here feels incredibly special and, in many ways, like coming full circle," she said. "CHS has always been more than just a hospital to me. It's a place that has been a part of my life, my family, and my community for as long as I can remember. I grew up seeing the people who worked here care for our community, and now, having the opportunity to be one of those people, I don't take it for granted. There's a real sense of pride in coming back and being able to give back to the same community that helped shape me. I know so many of the people here personally, and that makes caring for our patients feel even more meaningful. To me, being part of the CHS family isn't just about joining a medical staff—it's about carrying on a tradition of caring for the people and community that I've always called home."

She remembers fondly sneaking down to the cafeteria to get popcorn—and knowing even then that CHS was home.

Her earliest job experiences also helped her define her priorities.

"I also have fond memories of working as a CNA/CMA during high school and college, first at Sunset

Manor in Waverly and later at The Meadows in Burlington. Those experiences gave me an early appreciation for caring for others and taught me so much about the importance of compassion, patience, and building relationships with patients and residents."

Naturally, her dad had a big impact on her decision to pursue a career in healthcare.

"From a young age, I saw the impact my dad had on his patients and on the community as a whole. I watched how deeply he cared for the people he served—not just as patients, but as individuals and families he genuinely knew and cared about. Seeing the relationships he built and the trust people placed in him sparked my



The passing of the torch. August 7 marked Laurel Louderbaugh's last day at Gridley Medical Clinic.

own passion for medicine. When I was deciding between becoming a physician or a physician associate (PA), I realized that the PA profession was the right fit for me. I loved the idea of providing meaningful, hands-on patient care while also having the flexibility that comes with a PA career. I knew I wanted a career that would allow me to be passionate about medicine while also making room for another role that is incredibly important to me: being a mother."

And the timing couldn't be better. Paige and her husband, recently welcomed their first child, Sadie. They live on the Meats family farm in LeRoy. Parker is also part of the CHS family. His mother, Leanna Meats, is a medical billing specialist at Coffey County Hospital.

As Paige steps into the role of the sole community provider at Gridley Medical Center, she looks forward to building a career that is uniquely her own.

"What I'm most looking forward to at Gridley Medical Clinic is continuing the amazing care that Laurel Lauderbaugh, APRN, has provided to the community. She has built such strong relationships with her patients and has made such a positive impact, and I know I have some big shoes to fill. I'm excited for the opportunity to get to know the patients, families, and community of Gridley and to build on the foundation Laurel has created. My hope is to continue providing the same compassionate, personalized care that patients have come to know and trust, while also bringing my own approach and perspective to the clinic. It's an exciting opportunity, and I'm really looking forward to becoming part of the Gridley community and caring for the people who call it home."

Jeanerosity Update



The generosity of the CHS family is amazing! All of the products and monetary donations received through Jeanerosity in the second quarter were divided among schools throughout our area to help ensure each Care Closet is stocked and ready as students head back to school. Thanks to your Jeanerosity, we collected not only a large supply of hygiene products (shown above) but also \$312.25 in monetary donations!

Third quarter donations will support the volunteers' annual War Dogs project!

Strengthening your family's health

Oh, my goodness, summer break is already over! August is here which means kids are back in school and getting exposed to germs and shortly after that follows cold and flu season. Now is going to be the best time to start to look at what you can do to help prevent spread of infections and stay healthy.

1. If you have kids, now is the time to double-check their vaccine records and get vaccines updated if needed. Vaccines help limit the spread of highly contagious viruses. Measles outbreaks continue to increase and it is one of the viruses that easily spreads.
2. Support your health (or your child's health) with healthy, beneficial foods. If you struggle eating a well balanced diet, you may look into supplements that have your vitamins and minerals to help fuel your body to fight any germs that you are exposed to. Look for supplements that contain Vitamin C, Vitamin D, and zinc. Probiotics also support gut health, which helps overall health!
3. Consistent rest and sleep are important for staying healthy. When you get enough sleep, your body is able to reset and heal or fight germs. When you start to not sleep well or sleep long enough, your body doesn't get a chance to reset as much therefore you could end up getting sicker or catch that pesky cold easier.
4. Hand hygiene and cleaning are going to be your best friends, especially if you have kids going back to school. Teach them how to properly wash their hands throughout the day. Have them wash their hands when they first get home. You should also wash your hands when you are returning home from being out like running errands or going to work. You may not know what kind of germs



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

Join us to celebrate ASSISTED LIVING WEEK

RSVP
by Sept. 9
to Carrie at
(620) 364-8861

**5-6:30 P.M.
SEPT. 16**

CHS staff and families are welcome to join The Meadows team for the annual cookout. Please bring lawn chairs!

The Meadows
1201 Martindale, Burlington

Board of Trustees

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Through this program, the hospital receives a one-time \$100,000 infrastructure payment and a \$50,000 incentive for successful reporting. CHS's three designated Rural Health Clinics (Burlington, Waverly, and Yates Center) each receive a one-time \$50,000 infrastructure payment and a \$25,000 reporting incentive. The Gridley clinic does not meet RHC designation.

Within the quality umbrella, the recent 23-hour local power outage also prompted updates to the Environment of Care plan.

"We have a new policy that includes a phased response approach, based on how long the power is off," Augustyn said. "Whether the power is off for thirty minutes, two hours, or longer than two hours dictates our response and delineates specific actions within departments. It was nice to get that revised and pushed through."

Within the consent agenda, the board approved credentialing recommendations

from the medical staff. Urology Nurse Practitioner Jamie Mehl was granted her initial appointment. Reappointments were granted for Family Practice Provider Beverly Clark, M.D., as well as Tele-radiologists Kevin Bui, M.D., Nathan Dobbs, M.D.; Felicia Hatway, M.D.; Vincent Paul, M.D.; Andrew Topham, M.D.; and Nilufer Yalcin, M.D. Consulting Cardiologist Joseph Vaglio resigned his privileges.

Chief Financial Officer Ray Leadbetter provided the Executive Finance Committee report, summarizing, "For the month of June, we did generate \$155,000 profit. We had budgeted a loss of \$17,000, so we were \$173,000 higher than budget. Year-to-date, we have a loss of \$3,300 before the cost report and ERC funds. We had budgeted a loss of \$85,000. So year-to-date, with everything being said, we're slightly above budget by \$81,000 for the first six months, which is pretty good based on a \$20 million budget for the first six months."

The board approved the quality committee report, medical staff credentialing, and cash expenditures of \$1,064,398.

All trustees except Dan Redding were present for the July 27 meeting. Also present were Augustyn, Leadbetter, Garcia, Jones, and Beets. Shell and Chief Human Resource Officer Theresa Thoele were absent. The sole visitor was Coffey County Commissioner Mark Petterson.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, August 31, 2026, at 6 p.m.

Strengthening your family's health

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you picked up along the way and washing your hands will prevent you from spreading the germs around your house.

5. Finally, if you are not feeling well or have a sick kiddo, make plans to stay home. Keeping germs at home helps prevent them from spreading to others.

I hope you all had a fun summer and here is to a happy and healthy fall and all the fun it brings!



We wish our long-time colleagues and friends **Jana Morray** and **Laurel Louderbaugh** long and happy retirements. You deserve all the best!



"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.

This happy little guy, Scott Thomas Pyle, entered the world on August 2, 2026. He is the son of Megan and Drew Pyle and the grandson of **Karen Foster**, rehabilitation services. Congratulations!



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

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to represent CHS by walking in the recent community parades. We appreciate you taking the time to help us show the pride we have in serving our communities: **Tracy Jones, Laurel Louderbaugh, Gerry Fulton, LaDonna True, Isabella Glover, Nocole Rassmusen, Suzanne Garcia, Amy Osner, Shelley Denny, Heidi Ferrara, Myranda Stoner, Shelly Moss, Dr. Shell, and Dr. Sloyer.** At each of these parades, our awesome **EMS crews** lead the CHS family! We appreciate you taking the time to participate. Your presence is always a crowd favorite for the kids who love seeing the ambulance out and about in the community!

Eric Peterson went all-out and allowed us to borrow "Bruce the Shark" for the week! He definitely made a fin-tastic splash and helped make the week even more fun for everyone! Getting Bruce to Burlington involved a truck, trailer, and a lot of work, but it was truly worth it! Thank you, Eric!

Great job to **Samantha Kuhlmann and Leslie Mahoney** for their work with updating our SDS process and putting it into a user-friendly electronic format. Thank you for making this important resource more accessible for everyone!

Joyce Shively made a great impression on a patient's loved one. She gave compassionate

care and took the time to assure that the patient's husband understood everything that was happening.

Kudos to the staff at **The Meadows** for the care they give the residents. Family members comment that they know their loved ones are treated like family—and that is a gift.

The family of a patient in the **emergency department** reported a very good experience and was pleased with a short wait time. They were able to see a provider within 10 minutes.

During the recent Meditech downtime, **Diane Reyno** in the lab graciously volunteered to come in and assist with additional specimen processing to ensure laboratory tests were sent out in a timely manner.

Kudos to the **dietary staff, Bridget Cox, and Angie Messerschmidt** for stepping up and keeping the kitchen going during the crazy months of June and July with staffing changes, medical emergencies and vacations. The extra help is sincerely appreciated and your work does not go unnoticed!

Thank you, **Stacy Augustyn**, for always creating something fun and exciting for everyone to participate in. When you can look forward to going to work, that's when you know you have the best job.

Thank you to **everyone** who helped with the recent "Shellebration" honoring Dr. Shell's Lifetime Achievement Award. The event was a tremendous success and meant a great deal to Dr. Shell. It was wonderful to see so many staff, community members, family, and long-time friends come together to celebrate his well-deserved award.

It takes a team to put on events, and everyone involved in the recent Lunch & Learn deserves a big round of applause. The event was very well attended, and special thanks were extended to the **dietary, EVS, and facilities teams, as well as Rhonda Beets and volunteers Judy Rhodes and Linda Booth. Paige Meats** gave an excellent presentation and **Dr. Sloyer** joined in the Q&A session. Thank you, all! (If you missed the presentation, a recording is on our Facebook page!)

Thank you to **Toby Paige** for stripping and waxing two areas in the kitchen. The floor looks so shiny and clean now.

Congratulation to **Maci Miller** for successfully passing her ARDMS board exam. We all knew you would rock it!

Shout out to **Kristen Roney** for her willingness to jump back into mammography to help us fill some gaps! We greatly appreciate you.

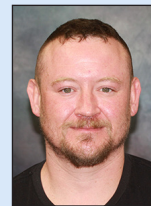
Welcome



Alivia Bangs
EVS Tech
Hospital



Brandi Olsen
EVS Tech
Hospital



Robert Rabon
EVS Tech
Hospital



Kynli Hoch
CNA
The Meadows



Carrington Presley
CNA
Hospital



Xada Spade
CNA
Hospital



Teresa Mischke
Radiology Tech
Hospital



Abby Peeks
Radiology Tech
Hospital

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!

August

Jered Schulte 35 years

John Shell 33 years

Chris Jarvis 27 years

Jon Sides, Jeff Sloyer 22 years

Beverly Clark, Charlene Sowder
14 years

Joe Tuthill 11 years

Suzanne Garcia 8 years

Tony Traffanstedt, Maycee Garbee
7 years

Rachel Adams, Ian Gaddis,

Angie Ireland 4 years

Nakia Stitt, Paul Broyles, Olivia Lyons
3 years

Addison Varvel, Rhea Stuart 2 years

September

Belinda Link 47 years

James Turner 19 years

Melissa Davis 16 years

April Cox 15 years

Kelly Petit 13 years

Laura Tovar-Ornelas 10 years

Ashley Cole, Bridget Cox,

Ryan McAllister 6 years

Gaynel Ventura,

Terrie Blacketer-Griffith 5 years

Nichole Shaver 4 years

Cole Manrose 3 years

Melissa Weiss 2 years

TJ Skaggs, Lisa Metzger,

Daniel Fletcher, Madison Shockley
1 year

Staff Observances

September

Assisted Living Week

Sept. 13-19

Environmental Services Week

Sept. 14-20

IT Professionals Day

Sept. 15

When I knew...

OUR STORIES.TOLD BY US.



I don't have a particularly traditional story. I initially planned to become a veterinary technician and was accepted into Colby Community College's program. While driving out to see the campus, I looked at my mom and said, "Nope, not doing this!" When we got home, she said "Well, you better figure something out!" My dad had wanted to be a radiologist many moons ago, so he suggested that I explore the radiology field. My mom encouraged me to reach out to a family friend who had completed the Washburn radiology program. She encouraged me to apply, and the rest is history. Here I am, 21 years later.

Faye Jean Schmidt was one of my greatest mentors and role models. She took me under her wing when I was shy, naive radiology student here at CHS (2005-2007). I truly cannot begin to list everything she taught me, but patient care and empathy would be at the top of the list. She taught me to be creative and to look for different ways of obtaining diagnostic images. Most importantly, she taught me the importance of patience and compassion. She had one of the kindest, purest hearts I have ever known, and I strive to pass those qualities on to our students. She taught me the importance of making every patient feel comfortable, respected, and at ease. She was always encouraging and reminded me of the impact that genuine compassion can have on a patient's experience.

After 21 years at CHS, I've had the privilege of caring for patients throughout different stages of their lives. Over the years, those relationships naturally develop into meaningful connections. I've celebrated their highs, supported them through their lows, and, unfortunately, experienced the loss of some of those patients as well.

One of the most rewarding parts of my career is knowing that, during some of their most difficult and vulnerable moments, I did my best to make each patient feel cared for, valued, and truly seen. Those relationships and the trust that patients place in me are a large part of what has made CHS feel like the right place for me for 21 years.

Also, when we were starting our family, we experienced some difficult times alongside many wonderful journeys. Throughout it all, the tremendous amount of support, kindness, and grace we received meant more to me than I can adequately express.

Those experiences made me truly appreciate the small-town community atmosphere at CHS and the people who make it such a special place.

Paige Crooks, RT(R)(CT)
Radiology Tech
Coffey County Hospital