

January/February 2023

# THE INSIDER

Employee news for Coffey Health System



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*"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team." Phil Jackson*



## NOTES FROM JOBEN

2023 is off to a great start—and we have even more exciting things to come!

As you see on this page, we have a new general surgeon. Having a surgeon of Dr. Todd Brown's caliber allows us to keep more of our patients here. Along with our upgrades in our CT and MRI capabilities, and the addition of two new nurse anesthetists, we are on our way to establishing Coffey County Hospital as a regional leader in surgical services.

We are also filling a long-standing gap in our patient services by partnering with Meridian to establish pulmonary rehabilitation here at the hospital. Chronic lung disease is the third leading cause of death and the second leading cause of disability in the U.S. and disproportionately impacts residents in rural areas. The partnership means that Meridian will supply all necessary equipment, supplies, and staffing. While the timeline is still being ironed out, this is a very exciting addition to our services.

As I've discussed at our town hall meetings, our patients and community members ask about frequently restoring dermatology services. We're excited to announce that Ricks Advanced Dermatology will have a provider here on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month starting on April 25! We hope to add additional dates as space becomes available.

Like so many things in today's world, delivery of our new MRI has been delayed again until the end of March. We hope to scan our first patients by mid-to-late April. Through capital investments and negotiations with the vendor, Coffey County Hospital will have the most advanced MRI capabilities in the area—on par with anything in Topeka or Kansas City. This new technology allows us to perform prostate and breast exams to help detect and diagnose abnormalities immediately without going out of town. Our team is fully invested in making this a hallmark of our patient experience. I cannot begin to name everyone who has helped us get this far, but please know that your effort is sincerely appreciated.

And, of course, I want to thank everyone for the continued work on the Meditech conversion. This was a massive undertaking in some uncharted waters. I am so proud of how our team came together to make it happen. Were there hiccups along the way? Sure! Are we done yet? No. But are we doing something great for our patients and community? Absolutely, yes!

We are well into what could be an inspiring and prosperous year for Coffey Health System. Let's also make it a year of kindness, quality, and overcoming challenges together.

Joben Rieth  
Chief Executive Officer

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Joben Rieth Tracy Campbell  
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 tcampbell@coffeyhealth.org.

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## General surgeon Todd Brown, M.D. joins CHS team

General Surgeon Todd Brown, M.D. joined the medical staff of Coffey County Hospital on January 17. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

A Kansas native, Brown lives on a ranch near Eureka. He was drawn to Coffey County by the hospital's vision.

"Coffey Health System has looked long and hard to find a surgeon to re-establish in-house surgical services so that more of our patients can stay at Coffey County Hospital," said Chief Executive Officer Joben Rieth.

"We intend to develop a pillar of excellence in surgery for our community. Dr. Brown brings the talents and skills to do just that. The addition of two new certified registered nurse anesthetists, Aric DeYoung and Erica Hadley, brings an additional level of commitment to surgical excellence."

Brown attended Hutchinson Community College and Pittsburg State University before earning his medical degree from the University of Kansas.

He did post-graduate training at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, the Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship Program in Molecular Genetics, and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York.

In his surgical career, Brown has been affiliated with HCA Wesley Medical Center and Via Christi St. Francis, and Galichia Heart Hospitals in Wichita; Cedar Point Memorial Hospital, Missouri; St. Luke Hospital and Living Center in Pratt; and Great Bend Regional Hospital in Great Bend.

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Todd Brown, M.D.  
General Surgeon

## On the Cover

CNO Jessi Workman rocked the space theme while distributing snacks to staff during the transition.

# January board meeting

The January meeting of the Coffey Health System Board of Trustees marked the end of an era. It was the last meeting for Executive Assistant Terri Tweedy. Tweedy retired after 43 years of dedicated service.

"She is the heart and soul of the hospital," said Chairman Judy Reese.

Joben Rieth introduced Bill Little as the system's new chief financial officer.

The hospital's new general surgeon, Todd Brown, M.D., began work the day of the board meeting and was already performing procedures. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. A Kansas native, Brown lives on a ranch near Eureka.

December brought a strong financial finish to the year with total annual revenue ending at \$29 million, total annual expenses at \$28.6 million, producing a new income of \$400,000 for the year.

Chief Operating Officer Stacy Augustyn reported that the MRI delivery date was postponed to the end of March. As a result, the unit will be up and running in mid-April. To help offset the delayed revenue and extra construction costs, CHS is requesting additional technological features and compensation.

In the medical staff report, Chief Medical Officer John Shell, M.D. explained that—with the hiring of General Surgeon Todd Brown, M.D. at Coffey County

Hospital—the surgeons from the University of Kansas St. Francis Hospital who had been sharing interim coverage voluntarily resigned their privileges. The St. Francis providers include Bernita Berntsen, M.D.; Carlyle Dunshee, M.D.; James Hamilton, M.D.; Sidney Hu, M.D.; Jennifer McAlaster, M.D.; Joel VanderVelde, M.D. In addition, the board granted initial appointments to two new Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists: Aric DeYoung and Erica Hadley. Re-appointments were approved for Radiologist Karen Gladden, M.D.; Emergency Room Provider Margaret Myers, A.P.R.N.; Urologist J. Jason Robinson, M.D.; and Radiologist John Stephens, M.D.

Shell also reported that the medical staff elected to change to a new radiology group out of Wichita. This transition will take roughly 90 days.

On behalf of Coffey Health Foundation, Shell reported the purchase of a new ambulance for \$139,000. The new ambulance carries a greater supply of oxygen than the current fleet. With long-distance COVID transfers, a separate vehicle had to follow the ambulance with additional oxygen to be administered mid-trip.

Reese announced the board's committee assignments for 2023. Steve Hopkins, JoAnn Osburn, and Perry Chapman will serve on the executive finance committee. Peter Allegre and Jodi Thomas will

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Perry Chapman  
New Board Member

## Bill Little takes CFO reigns

William (Bill) Little takes the reigns as Coffey Health System's new chief financial officer, effective, Monday, January 23. He brings 20 years of experience overseeing all aspects of healthcare financial services, including accounting, payroll, revenue cycle, Medicaid/Medicare processes, and supply chain.

For three years, he served as a finance manager at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Texas. In nine years at Texas Children's Hospital, Bill rose to director of corporate finance.

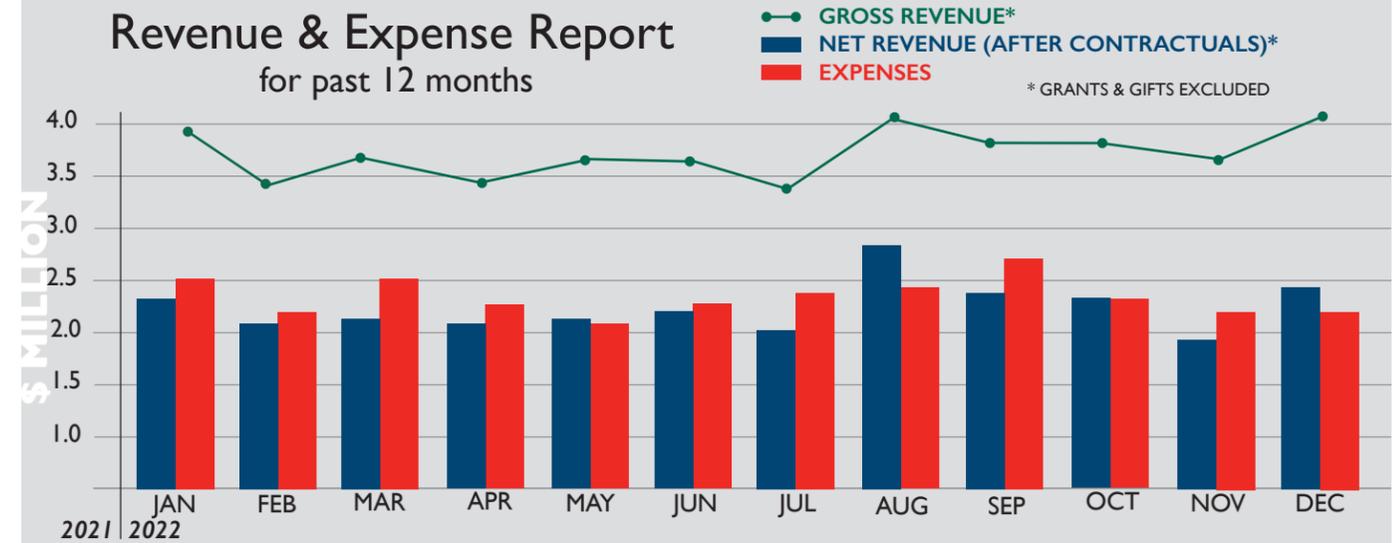
After that, he served four years as vice president of finance at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and two years as chief financial officer at White Rock Medical Center in Dallas.

Bill and his wife, Tammy, are moving to the area and look forward to finding all the great fishing spots.



William "Bill" Little

## Revenue & Expense Report for past 12 months



## Job Openings

### Clinical Positions

Advanced Practice Provider - ER  
CNA - Med-Surg  
Clinic RN/LPN or Medical Assist. -  
(CCMC & Waverly Medical Clinic)  
Medical Technologist  
Paramedic  
Phelebotomist  
Radiology/CT Tech  
Respiratory Therapist  
RN - Med-Surg, OB  
Scrub Tech  
Ultrasound Technologist

### Non-Clinical

Environmental Services Tech  
Maintenance Technician  
Materials Clerk

Visit [coffeyhealth.org/careers](http://coffeyhealth.org/careers) for detailed information and requirements. For more information, call Ext. 4254.

## USD 243 added to CHS daycare agreement

Employees can now benefit from USD 243 as well as USD 244 daycare programs. Contact human resources if you have any questions at Ext. 4179.

### Service & Charge

Weekly care \$150/child  
Extended hours - \$10/hour (1st child)  
+ \$5/hour (each additional child)

### CHS Cost Share

(paid directly to USD 243/244 by CHS)  
\$50/child  
Extended hours - \$20/per child/week

### Cost to CHS Associate

\$100/child  
Extended hours - remaining amount after \$20/per child/week (dependent on hours/number of children)

## Staffing Update

In addition to being our infection preventionist and employee health nurse, Linsey Knipp will also oversee quality and risk management. Chief Operating Officer Stacy Augustyn continue to oversee compliance.

## \$4,430 collected for US War Dogs!

Friends of Coffey Health System appreciates the support of the Christmas for Canines project that focused on sending supplies to US War Dogs.

CHS volunteers again matched the funds made by the "jeanerosity" donations of hospital employees. A check in the amount of \$4,430 was mailed to US Wardogs.

A flat rate box full of cards and letters was also sent that were written by Burlington and Waverly students.

Currently about 2,700 canine teams detect danger and protect military personnel and civilians overseas. 100 percent of the donations go to fulfilling the wish list of the handlers and dogs.

"I am astounded by the generosity of our community," stated Linda Booth, project coordinator. "The support we receive each year is greatly appreciated and we hope to keep the military project going for years to come."



## MRI Safety & You

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival and installation of our new MRI in the very near future! Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a medical imaging technique that uses a magnetic field and computer-generated radio waves to create detailed images of the human body. As we bring this new equipment in-house, it is important that everyone is aware of the unique safety hazards that are present in the MRI environment.

A few important MRI safety facts everyone should know:

- The magnet is ALWAYS on—24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year!
- NEVER bring metal into the MRI room. Ferromagnetic (high susceptibility to magnetization) items being brought into the MRI suite can easily cause injury or death.
- DO NOT enter the MRI room unless you have been trained and have had a metal screening completed by trained radiology personnel.
- DO NOT bring anyone into the MRI room without completing the metal screening processes by trained radiology personnel.
- Codes are NEVER to run in the MRI room. The patient must be removed from the MRI suite.



Access to the MRI room will be restricted for safety, and many associates will be required to complete MRI safety training to ensure safety procedures and precautions are strictly followed. Be on the lookout for training assignments in the near future!

## Employee Health Scoop

### Cardiovascular disease and heart health

February is upon us and it's typically the month we think of all matters of the heart. Valentine's Day reminds us to focus on those we love and awareness to our heart health. With *Go Red for Women and Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week*, I encourage everyone at CHS to look at your own heart health.

Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of women, causing one-in-three deaths each year. It's a third of our mothers, sisters, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and more. That's a third of the women we don't want to live without.

Cardiovascular disease impacts some women at higher rates than others, but the simple truth is that most cardiovascular diseases can still be prevented with education and healthy lifestyle changes.

Many things can put you at risk for these problems—some you can control and others you can't. The key takeaway is that with the right information, education and care, heart disease in women can be treated, prevented, and even ended.

Studies show that healthy choices have resulted in 330 fewer women dying from heart disease per day.

Here are a few examples of lifestyle changes you can make to improve your heart health.

- No smoking
- Manage your blood sugar
- Get your blood pressure under control
- Lower your cholesterol
- Know your family history
- Stay active
- Lose or manage your weight
- Eat healthy



Linsey Knipp, RN  
Infection Preventionist  
Employee Health

## Meditech Informatic Governance

Informatics Governance is the specification of decision rights and an accountability framework to ensure appropriate behavior in the valuation, creation, storage, use archiving, and deletion of information within an electronic medical record (EMR).

Coffey Health System (CHS) has implemented an informatics governance program within the organization with the conversion from Healthland to Meditech. Five separate committees have been created to ensure a compliant and sound program:

- 1) Core System Integration Committee (IS/IT/Newman)
- 2) System Integration Committee (IS/IT/CHS Administration)
- 3) Clinical Sub-Committee (IS/IT/Clinical Department Leaders)
- 4) Financial Sub-Committee (IS/IT/Financial Department Leaders)
- 5) Provider Sub-Committee (IS/IT/Providers)

All sub-committees will report up through the System Integration Committee. The System Integration Committee will report to the CHS Quality, Compliance, and Risk Management committee. All committees meeting once a month at minimum.

A sixth committee will be created in the near future, consisting of front-end users. This committee will generate a positive impact with frontline staff members for efficiency in workflows internal and external to departments while still ensuring all appropriate data is gathered and patient care is at the forefront. Through this governance structure, proactive communication and follow-up on action items and tickets will be at the highest priority.

Next, will be the ability to enhance software tools that allows for a higher level of efficiency in the use of the EMR and supporting software. Last, will be the ability to pull data out of the EMR to provide information that will assist administration with business intelligence decisions such as expansion of services and quality initiatives.

If you experience an issue or error with the EMR, or have an idea for enhancing the use of the EMR, please contact your supervisor. Supervisors will take this information to their sub-committees for further evaluation.

Samantha Kuhlmann  
Director of Informatics

## New surgeon

From page 2

After considering a career as a researcher or a pediatrician, the field of surgery really clicked.

"I enjoy working with my hands. Surgery was fun to me, and I loved being able to fix problems versus internal medicine where you're dealing with chronic conditions, yet nothing is cured. In surgery, you can really make a difference. Even if we only consider colonoscopies, if the colon cancer rate here is 30 percent less than what it would have been, then I've made a difference. That's what drives me."

For the past several years, Coffey County Hospital has had inadequate surgical coverage, so Dr. Brown's presence is a game-changer.

"Since the pandemic, it is still challenging to transfer patients who need even minor surgical procedures," said Chief Medical Officer John Shell, M.D. "A significant percent of our emergency room transfers will now be able to stay here at Coffey County Hospital for their care. Every day, we've had to send clinic patients elsewhere for non-emergent procedures. Having a surgeon of Dr. Brown's caliber is a huge win for our community."

Brown is a Member of the American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons and the Kansas Medical Society.

Dr. Brown looks forward to building relationships with his patients at Coffey County Hospital.

"I try to be very individual with each patient and get to know them—and for them to know me," he said. "I start every visit with 'How can I help you today?' I want every case to go well, and I always keep the patient's best interest in mind."

## Board

From page 3

continue to serve on the strategic planning committee.

Judy Reese and Dennis Young represent the quality improvement oversight committee and risk management.

The board entered a ten-minute executive session with all trustees, Rieth, and Augustyn to discuss risk management, but took no action.

All nine trustees were present: Judy Reese, chairperson; JoAnn Osburn, vice chair; Steve Hopkins, treasurer; Peter Allegre, secretary; Jodi Thomas; Jeff Clark; Jim Dale; Dennis Young; and Perry Chapman.

**Congratulations**



Proud grandmas **Elaine Weston** and **Diana Thom-sen** along with aunts **Amy Osner** and **Stephanie Weston** welcomed a new addition to their families on Dec. 14. Lincoln Duane weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces. Congratulations to everyone!



Congratulations to grandma **Shelley Denney** who welcomed her grandson Grayson Alexander on November 23. Grayson weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces.



**Terri Tweedy** (right) presented **Charlene Sowder** as the winner of the 2022 jeanserosity punch card drawing. Charlene will get to wear jeans for free throughout 2023. Congratulations, Charlene!



**Kristy Reeves** welcomed her second grandchild on January 15. Beatrice Kristina arrived weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces. Congratulations, Kristy!

**Condolences**

Condolences to Phillip Chaney and his family on the loss of his grandmother on Nov. 3.

Thoughts and prayers to Gerald Fulton, for the loss of his mother on Dec. 14.

Condolences to Margy Trammell and Virginia DuBuke who lost their uncle on Dec. 19.

Heartfelt condolences to Jessica Brown and Ashley Cole for the loss of their mother on Dec. 21.

Condolences extend to Tracy Dougherty on the loss of her mother on Jan. 9.

Prayers to Keri Criqui and her family for the loss of her cousin on Jan. 22.

**Thank you note**

Thank you for the donation in honor of our mother and grandmother.

Beth, Kathy, Vance Carter, and Phillip Chaney



"All for one" is a monthly feature in *The Insider* to share information about news in the lives of the CHS family. We will share life's happiest moments and feature ways that we are pulling together to help colleagues in times of need. Please call Virginia at Ext. 4174 or send information to [vdubuke@coffeyhealth.org](mailto:vdubuke@coffeyhealth.org).

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



Ladies' night at Bomgaars in October helped support our local Coffey Health Foundation. Foundation representatives (left to right) Angela Trimble, Joben Rieth, and Brandee Clark (far right) were presented a check from Bomgaars in the amount of \$656.06, five percent of the night's earnings.



Thank you to **Rosemary Rich** for her gracious leadership on the CHS Board of Trustees, especially as chair last year. Rosemary opted not to re-apply to the board. Your kindness and encouragement will be missed.

they were discharged. This was created to help the receiving facility get to know our residents better to help with the transition.

Maintenance, as always, helps in so many ways. Thank you to **Michael DuBuke**, **Joe Michaels**, and **Garold Johnson** for hanging and taking down the Christmas wreaths around the hospital.

**Stephanie Weston** graduated from the RN program at Neosho Community College in Ottawa and passed her NCLEX on January 31. She is also enrolled at Ft. Hays State University to complete her BSN. Way to go, Stephanie!

**Amy Louderbaugh** always has a kind, positive attitude even when her buttons are pushed repeatedly.

USD 244 Superintendent Craig Marshall writes: "We really appreciate the **EMS staff** that you provide for us at our sporting events. I witnessed two times they supported kids at our BHS Invitational Tournament on Saturday, January 7. They were terrific with the kids and provided excellent care. We appreciate you and the EMS staff a lot!"

**Craig Stukey's** vigilance kept an employee's payroll from being hacked. Thank you, Craig!!!

Thank you **Shelly Moss** for helping to manually retrieve information for Press Ganey submission.



**Alex Hinsley**  
Cook  
Hospital Dietary

Denise Hamilton writes: Thank you to **Bridget Cox** for writing up individualized dietary-related information about each Sunset Manor resident before



**Bill Little**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Administration



**Chloe Meehan**  
Patient Access Coordinator  
Hospital Registration



**Jovita "Jhay" Magtibay**  
Medical Technologist  
Lab



**Kirby Mangels**  
RN  
Emergency Room/  
Operating Room



**Meloney Hamilton**  
Environmental Service Tech  
Hospital EVS



**Olivia Young**  
RN  
General Surgery Clinic/OR



**Todd Brown, M.D.**  
General Surgeon

## Jan./Feb. 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!

**Earlyne Crooks** 45 years

**Kelly Davidson** 44 years

**Leslie Mahoney** 34 years

**Toby Paige** 32 years

**Joan Kuhlmann** 25 years

**Jana Morray** 24 years

**Debra Huntsman, Garold Johnson** 18 years

**Diane Werner** 14 years

**David Rector** 9 years

**Elaine Weston, Jessica Rossillon** 6 years

**June Martin-Reno, Myra Richard** 5 years

**Jordan Barr, Michael Collins,**

**Shelbi Sigg, Paige Sloyer** 4 years

**Abigale Waddell** 3 years

**Cooper Braze, Sabrina Graham,**

**Ella Herrman** 2 years

**Phillip Chaney, Samantha Erps, Angela**

**Messerschmidt, Peggy Link, Richard Plue,**

**Joben Rieth, Ashley Skillman** 1 year

## February Clinics

Cardiology	Feb. 2, 6, 13, 15, 24, 27
Ear, Nose & Throat	Feb. 3
Gynecology	Feb. 7
Oncology	Feb. 14
Pain	Feb. 1, 8, 16, 22
Urology	Feb. 3, 8, 17

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

## First quarter town hall meetings

Feb. 23	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	AW2
Feb. 24	10 - 11 a.m.	AW2

Here is what our hospital patients are saying.

# HCAHPS Scores

Domains & Questions	Top box %	Percentile RANK
Rate hospital 0-10	76%	76th
*Would recommend the hospital	74%	69th
Communication with Nurses	80%	65th
Response of Hospital Staff	71%	85th
Communication with doctors	86%	89th
Hospital Environment	71%	77th
Communication about medicines	68%	89th
Discharge information	77%	5th
Care Transitions	58%	81st

\*Survey items in the top 10 priority index

\*Based from rolling twelve month results.

When I knew...



I knew nursing was a field I wanted to go into at a young age. My grandma lived with us when I was around ten years old. I helped take care of her and my aunt told me that, "I think you're going to be a nurse one day."

When I was in high school, I shadowed in the operating room. I enjoyed the hospital environment.

I love giving back to my community where I live. I worked here at Coffey County Hospital in 2014 as a CNA and have loved it ever since. I have been in the nursing field for over six and a half years now and love working in obstetrics.

Aubrea Baker, Registered Nurse  
Coffey County Hospital