

\*\*\*\*\*

Let me tell you what's going on at Teton Valley Health Care from an insider's point of view. It's been an interesting journey for me. I began serving on the Hospital Board of Trustees in September 2008. Now, I'm sitting behind a desk at the hospital working a minimum of 60 hours per week as the Interim CEO. I can say without hesitation that solid, measureable progress is being made.

TVHC has been the focus of attention for several consulting groups: Health Capital Group based in Chicago, nationally-recognized Quorum Health Resources (QHR), Jerry Brantz, CFO from Shoshone Medical Center, and the Bingham Memorial Hospital 8-person executive team (BMH). Throughout the various consultant reports received and studied by Trustees, County Commissioners, hospital staff and involved community members, several common themes can be found. A simple conclusion can be made, similar to the standard weight loss philosophy of eating less and exercising more: TVHC needs to cut costs and increase revenue.

Hospital staff and leaders have acted quickly on both staff suggestions and consultant recommendations. Many key changes have been made in the last 3 months:

- Training for hospital billing personnel by outside experts
- Re-negotiated physician contracts with 2 remaining to complete
- Reduction of labor force
- Ongoing analysis and repair of complete revenue cycle with BMH consultants
- Improved policy & procedures for specialty-care services and independent contractor services
- Re-structure or suspension of unprofitable departments
- Submission for and receipt of \$600,000+ in 2007/2008 Medicare reimbursements
- Updated Hospital Chargemaster for billing accuracy
- Re-structured organizational chart
- Re-implementation of staff performance evaluations
- Recruitment efforts for two additional family practice physicians

As of today, our Key Bank line of credit balance stands at zero. March and April have been profitable months, primarily due to the BMH team's repair of billing glitches and our auditors' successful filing for overdue Medicare reimbursements. It appears that May will be profitable, too, based solely on standard operational income. This is great news! Now, all of our efforts must be focused on continuing to build sound business practices to take us into a healthy future.

In order to become a tightly-managed fiscally-sound community hospital, trustees are now reviewing management proposals from both QHR and BMH. Utilizing a balanced score-card to rate the proposals and factoring input from our staff and community, trustees plan to have gathered enough information to make a decision by the next scheduled meeting 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 15 at the American Legion Hall.

Our plan to “re-start” Teton Valley Health Care will take 2 – 3 years to fully realize. As we move forward day by day and month by month, true progress is being made. Our hospital is a key asset for our Valley in more ways than can be measured in dollars. Walk through the grocery store or hike to Table Mountain and you’re likely to greet people who wouldn’t be alive today except for the care they received at Teton Valley Hospital

We offer excellent health care, dedicated staff and a personalized, skilled approach to patient services that cannot be duplicated at larger facilities. We’ll continue to build on that foundation of compassionate care for our Valley residents and visitors.

For information about QHR and BMH proposals, please visit our website at [www.tvhcare.org](http://www.tvhcare.org). We also archive meeting minutes and hospital financials on the TVHC website. As always, you’re welcome to contact hospital administration with your questions: 354-6317 ext. 153. Let’s stay in touch!

\*\*\*\*\*