



InFlight

Summer 2018

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
FOR FRIENDS OF HEALTHNET
AEROMEDICAL SERVICES, INC.

*Ever-Changing for
Improved Patient Care*



**HealthNet
Aeromedical Services**



On the Cover

On June 26, leaders from HealthNet Aeromedical Services, WVU Medicine and Air Methods Corporation gathered at the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport to celebrate the Base 8 Martinsburg aircraft upgrade to an EC-135. The larger, twin engine aircraft allows the flight crew to fly longer distances, at higher speeds and in more inclement weather.



Customer Profile



Contents

Customer Profile:
Tug Valley ARH Regional Medical Center 2

Welcome from President/CEO Clinton Burley 3

HealthNet Aeromedical Services:
Saving Lives One Unit of Blood at a Time 4

Cabell Huntington Hospital:
Regional Health Summit 5

Charleston Area Medical Center:
Drug Epidemic Leads to Heart Infections..... 6

West Virginia University Medicine:
WVU Hospitals, Summersville Regional Medical Center Enter Into Management Agreement..... 7

For more than 60 years patients and their families have come to trust this acute-care, non-profit hospital as its source for quality healthcare delivery.

Located in South Williamson, Kentucky, Tug Valley ARH Regional Medical Center is a 148-bed hospital and community health services provider that employs highly skilled and decidedly compassionate staff to carry out services that involve advanced technologies in diagnostics and medical and surgical treatments.

At the forefront of service delivery is the assurance of safety, quality-of-service and patient satisfaction.

Just in the last year the hospital has hired a full-time urologist, full-time neurologist and recently expanded Ear, Nose, and Throat access in the community.

Tug Valley ARH collaborates with independent physicians within the UK HealthCare system and Pikeville, Kentucky community which leads to comprehensive cancer care and increased access to specialists and cutting-edge technology.

For over three decades, HealthNet Aeromedical Services has been honored to partner with Tug Valley ARH to provide critical care transport to their patients when they need it most. *

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems will conduct an accreditation site visit of HealthNet Aeromedical Services on August 29-30, 2018.

The purpose of the site visit will be to evaluate the program's compliance with nationally established medical transport standards. The site visit results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which accreditation should be awarded to the program.

CAMTS accreditation standards deal with issues of patient care and safety of the transport environment. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent or valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the CAMTS site surveyors at the time of the site visit. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for public information interviews must be made in writing and sent to CAMTS no later than 10 business days before the site survey begins. The request should also indicate the nature of the information to be provided during the interview. Such request should be addressed to:

Office of the Executive Director
Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems
PO Box 130
Sandy Springs, SC 29677

The Commission will acknowledge such written requests in writing or by telephone and will inform the program of the request for an interview. The Commission will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time and place of the meeting.



Air transportation provided by



HealthNet Aeromedical Services is a not-for-profit shared service of



HealthNet Aeromedical Services is fully accredited by





A Message From Our President/CEO

Regardless of where we are in life or career, education is the bedrock of where each of us happen to be at a given moment. This too is true in business as the education and skill of those on the delivery end of a company's services is differentiated by a well trained workforce.

In healthcare this is even more critical as the clinical team must not only be well trained but also well prepared to make the right decisions, rendering exactly the care required at any given moment.

In the early part of this decade our organization transitioned from three separate hospital entities under the "HealthNet Aeromedical Services umbrella" to a singular, unified team model across our vast service area. In the early days of this effort it was clear that a well-structured education department was crucial. If we were going to perform the same, we had to train the same.

During those days of building out the consolidated structure, a strong leader was selected and with the deep support of our member hospitals. The HealthNet Aeromedical Services education department quickly established itself as an industry leader. As time progressed the department grew in the number of educators employed and the number of programs delivered. Good things were certainly happening!

Even though the leader of our education team has since changed, the growth, quality and delivery of exceptional training programs continues. The entire education team have worked together to improve our clinical services and the care we provide to those patients entrusted to us. We have long recognized their contributions and now so does the West Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (WVOEMS).

I am immensely proud that the HealthNet Aeromedical Services Education Department was recognized as the 2018-2019 West Virginia Training Institute of the Year by WVOEMS. The announcement was made during National Emergency Medical Services Week. This award was well deserved as these members of our team truly deliver every day and build on the strong foundation of their many accomplishments. Simply put, they're clearly leading EMS education in our home state.

Through the delivery of hundreds of hours of instruction per year across our system, these educators are making a difference for patients they never even see. The knowledge they instill within the frontline flight team members make a lifesaving difference. You see this firsthand when you request our services and see these teams at work.

For more than three decades HealthNet Aeromedical Services has delivered exceptional clinical care and we've positioned ourselves as our region's critical care transport leader. Thanks for your continued confidence in us, trusting our teams to deliver when minutes matter. *

Clinton V. Burley
HealthNet Aeromedical Services, Inc.
President/CEO



**HealthNet
Aeromedical Services**

Saving lives **one unit of blood at a time**

Being the premier provider of critical care transport in our region requires the constant evolution of our program to better suit the needs of critically ill and injured patients. In 2014, through a commitment from our three owner hospitals, HealthNet Aeromedical Services began carrying two units of O-blood on its aircraft fleet. Our program has since grown to be the only air medical provider in the region to carry blood and plasma on every flight.

Through our program

💧 In 2017, **348 units of blood** given during transport

Through blood donation

To bring light to the program's addition of blood on every flight, HealthNet Aeromedical Services teamed with the American Red Cross in 2015 to become a regular blood drive host.

In June 2018, the program's Martinsburg, WV base partnered with Virginia Blood Services to host the first HealthNet Aeromedical Services blood drive in the Eastern Panhandle. The blood collected at this drive were designated to serve our WVU Medicine partner hospitals.



An American Red Cross blood drive is conducted at HealthNet Aeromedical Services' Corporate Office in Charleston, WV



Base 1 Flight Nurse Ron Dotson prepares a unit of blood prior to a patient transport.

Blood Drive Impact

1 unit can save up to **3 lives**

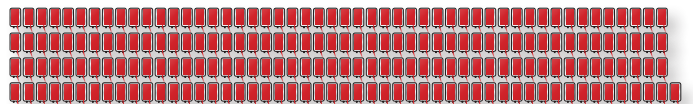


Since 2015...

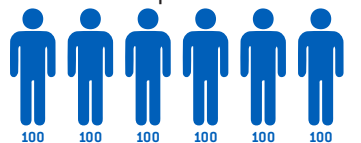
9 blood drives conducted



201 units donated



603 lives impacted





Regional Health Summit

Health Professionals Collaborate to Improve Community Wellness and Patient Care

By Shawn Jordan, MBA, ABC
Production & Media Relations Manager
Cabell Huntington Hospital

Following its most recent Community Health Needs Assessment, Cabell Huntington Hospital (CHH) developed a comprehensive implementation plan for improving the health of the communities it serves. To collectively identify and strategically craft regional solutions to common health challenges, CHH sponsored the inaugural Regional Health Summit, in June 2017. The goal of the Summit is to strengthen the region's health, wellness and prevention efforts by providing opportunities for multi-sector collaboration. The 2017 Summit was so beneficial, CHH continued the program with a second Summit in May 2018.

The Summit focuses on access to care, chronic disease prevention and management, behavioral health and the use of technology to improve population health outcomes. The overarching focus was access to care, as it relates to optimal health, particularly for patients in rural communities.

Both years, nearly 45 health care groups and organizations from West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky participated in the Summit. Attendees



Kevin Fowler, President and CEO of Cabell Huntington Hospital.



Jerome Adams, MD, MPH, the 20th Surgeon General of the United States, addressing Regional Health Summit attendees.

included over 175 health care and public health professionals, nonprofit and academic partners, state government officials and elected officials. The Summit featured local, regional and national speakers from the public health arena, as well as regional workgroups for healthcare and community agencies to collaborate and address the region's public health concerns.

CHH also established a collaborative partnership with Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center's Faith and Health Ministries movement, an initiative focused on uniting faith communities and health care providers to better serve the public health needs of the community.

The inaugural Regional Health Summit sparked conversations for four regional workgroups that took place in the fall, continuing the focus on the four target areas: Chronic Disease, Access to Care, Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse and Data & Technology. The Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse workgroup welcomed Terry Horton, MD, national addiction specialist from Christiana Care Health System, who presented Project Engage, an early intervention and referral to substance use disorder treatment program designed to help hospital patients who may be struggling with drug or alcohol use. Regional workgroups are planned to continue throughout 2018 as well.

The 2018 Summit brought in keynote speakers Jerome Adams, MD, U.S. Surgeon General, and Tony Buettner, senior vice president of business development at Blue Zones, a company dedicated to building healthy communities. Each day of the Summit focused on a different topic — Building Sustainable Community Networks to Improve Health, Working Across the Region to Create Meaningful Change and Good Health is Good Business.

From providing individualized patient care to sponsoring a comprehensive, collaborative effort to combat the region's public health concerns, CHH leads the region in caring for the community. ■



Drug Epidemic Leads To Increase In Heart Infections

Heart valve infections and health care costs on the rise due to impact of intravenous drug use

A new study finds the number of patients hospitalized with endocarditis has increased dramatically over the last decade in a pattern that mirrors the increase in mixed drug use. Endocarditis is an infection of the endocardium, which is the inner lining of the heart chambers and heart valves.

Endocarditis generally occurs when bacteria, fungi or other germs from another part of your body, such as your mouth, spread through your bloodstream and attach to damaged areas in your heart. If it's not treated quickly, endocarditis can damage or destroy your heart valves and can lead to life-threatening complications. Treatments for endocarditis include antibiotics, and in some cases, surgery.

The nearly decade-long retrospective study by researchers at CAMC analyzed West Virginia patients. The study was presented at the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions 2018 Scientific Sessions in April.

"Endocarditis is a serious, hard-to-treat condition that significantly increases one's risk of death," said lead author Mark Bates, MD, and director of Cardiovascular Research Advancement at CAMC. "We are working as a team to help find solutions for communities to combat the spread of pandemics and increase awareness in our cities about the dangers of opioid use and the life-threatening condition of endocarditis."

The rise of opioid abuse is a growing health crisis in the United States, particularly in areas hardest hit by the economic downturn, with an average of 115 Americans dying every day from drug overdose.

"We don't want anybody to get this sick," said Frank Annie, research coordinator, CAMC Health Education and Research Institute. "Preventative-based measures are cheaper than expensive treatments. We need our community, public agencies, politicians and health care providers to be more proactive in developing policy initiatives to help patients."

In addition to drug overdoses, many of secondary conditions and illnesses are caused by needle use including skin infections and sepsis.

The opioid crisis has disproportionately affected Appalachia. The number of patients hospitalized with endocarditis has dramatically increased over the last decade in a pattern that mirrors the increase in mixed drug use. Results of this study show the trend and costs of substance abuse associated hospital admissions in southern West Virginia is a major detriment to the overall health care network. ■

For more information on medical research, visit www.camcinstitute.org/ctc.



WVU Hospitals, Summersville Regional Medical Center Enter Into Management Agreement



Summersville Regional Medical Center serves a critical need in Nicholas County, WV and beyond.

“ We are committed to making sure that Summersville Regional Medical Center remains the vital community resource it has been for five decades. ”

– Albert L. Wright, Jr.,
President and CEO
West Virginia University Health System

Summersville Regional Medical Center has entered into a management agreement with WVU Hospitals.

“As the academic medical center of West Virginia’s land-grant university, we have a responsibility to ensure that the state’s citizens have access to the healthcare they need in their communities, and we are committed to doing just that in Summersville,” Albert L. Wright, Jr., president and CEO of the West Virginia University Health System, said. “We are committed to making sure that Summersville Regional Medical Center remains the vital community resource it has been for five decades.”

Summersville Regional Medical Center has been serving Nicholas County and southern West Virginia since the late 1960s. Its 105 beds include the county’s only nursing home beds. The hospital employs 500 professional staff. WVU Medicine Children’s has provided pediatric specialty outreach clinics at Summersville Regional Medical Center for several years.

Summersville Mayor Robert Shafer and Stephen Boone, Summersville Regional Medical Center Board chairman, said they appreciate the opportunity to work with WVU Hospitals.

“This hospital is critically important to the city, county, and region, and entering into this agreement with WVU Hospitals means that our patients will not have to travel outside of our area for care,” Shafer said. “For that, we are very grateful.”

Karen Bowling, vice president of care delivery transformation for the West Virginia University Health System, has been named the interim CEO of Summersville Regional Medical Center. Prior to joining the System, she served as cabinet secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

“I look forward to working with the dedicated staff at Summersville Regional Medical Center and to making sure the residents of Nicholas County have access to the care they need when they need it,” Bowling said. “We are here to help in any way that we can.”

WVU Hospitals has also agreed to provide the expertise of additional management personnel and additional specialized services on an as-needed or as-requested basis. ■

SOCIAL MEDIA - Follow and Like Us!

 fb.com/healthnetaeromed

 @healthnetaeromedicalservices

 @healthnetCCT

 @healthnetCCT

FAMILY REUNITED with Son's Caregivers

Like most program events, the public was invited to attend the dedication ceremony for the upgraded Martinsburg, WV based aircraft. The Hensley family, who saw the event on Facebook, attended the ceremony with hopes of thanking HealthNet Aeromedical Services for safely transporting their son on two occasions. Their visit turned into an unexpected and very special reunion. Flight Nurse Autumn Davis and Flight Paramedic Craig Barrett were on duty – and were the same crew that treated their son AJ during a transport nearly four years ago. The Hensleys try to personally thank every caregiver who has served their son and were happy to have the chance meeting with the actual crew who helped so save their son's life. Autumn and Craig were happy to see the positive result of their care, an opportunity they don't get with many patients. *



Above: Flight Nurse Autumn Davis preparing one-year-old AJ for transport in 2014.



Left: The Hensley family visits with Autumn and Flight Paramedic Craig Barrett.