



Blessing Health System and Hannibal Clinic announce affiliation

- **Partnership will improve patient access to specialty care**

Blessing Health System and Hannibal Clinic announced on Wednesday, February 22, that they have signed an affiliation agreement which will allow them to work more closely together to enhance clinical programs and services, to improve access to quality healthcare, and to lower healthcare costs.

Leaders of both organizations have identified initial areas of joint effort including: expansion of clinic services, particularly in rural areas; coordinated recruitment of physician specialties; and, attracting and retaining healthcare providers to address the challenging healthcare needs of the region.

“At Blessing Health System, we are committed to providing services that are convenient, accessible, and vital to our mission to improve life,” said



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Bring your water bottle to work! New water fountains installed to meet employee needs during cafeteria remodel

Four new drinking fountains with water bottle fillers have been installed around the 11th Street campus and Blessing Health Center to meet employee needs during cafeteria remodeling.

Running water will not be available in the serving area of the cafeteria from now through the completion of the remodel, sometime in November, due to plumbing limitations.

The water fountains (seen at right) can be found at

- BH Java
- Blessing Cancer Center Atrium Lower level
- Moorman Pavilion Lobby 1st floor
- Blessing Health Center East Building 1st floor



Calling all Easter Bunnies! During the week of 3/6, the Blessing Ten Year Plus Club will ask you to help with the annual Easter Basket drive for area nursing home residents. Watch your email and the BRAIN for more information soon and help brighten the Easter holiday for some special people.



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Affiliation (cont)

Maureen Kahn, President and CEO of Blessing Health System. “As a leading healthcare provider in the region, it is our goal to work cooperatively with physicians and other providers who share our commitment to delivering superior outcomes, innovative care, high levels of service, and greater choice for patients and employers on both sides of the river.”

Hannibal Clinic is a 50+ provider multi-specialty group providing patient care from its main facility in Hannibal and four satellite facilities in northeast Missouri. Together, Blessing and Hannibal Clinic offer more than 150 of the finest, high-quality providers available in the region.

“With this affiliation, Hannibal Clinic’s patients will have regional access to even more advanced specialty care,



Dr. Meidl

while ensuring that high quality care remains local and close to home,” said Erik Meidl, MD, President and CEO of Hannibal Clinic.

Blessing Hospital offers cardiology services, which include cardiac catheterization, open heart surgery and an electrophysiology lab that helps patients address irregular cardiac rhythms. Blessing also offers a newly-created hybrid operating room with advanced imaging and robotic surgery.

Hannibal Clinic recently added a multi-disciplinary sports medicine clinic, the only one of its kind in the region; has seen several of its general surgeons attend Hidden Scar™ training for breast cancer surgery techniques that lead to optimal clinical and aesthetic outcomes; and has successfully recruited a new neurologist to the area, in order to address an otherwise unmet community need.

Blessing and Hannibal Clinic have had a relationship since January 2009 through participation in a durable medical equipment and supply business in Hannibal operated by Denman Services, Inc. Also, Blessing Physician Services, in conjunction with Hannibal Clinic, expanded access in northeast Missouri for cardiology care in 2016.

“This affiliation will provide a platform upon which the Hannibal Clinic and Blessing Health System can continue to build and extend

innovative ways of providing care to the community,” said Dr. Meidl.

“As a progressive, independent health system, Blessing Health System works to create partnerships to strengthen healthcare in the region,” said Kahn. “We currently have affiliations with Scotland County Hospital, Chaddock, and Advance Physical Therapy as well as an association with Fort Madison Community Hospital in Keokuk.” she said.

Blessing Health System is also a participant in the BJC Collaborative, a partnership among health care systems throughout Illinois, Missouri and Eastern Kansas. The Collaborative was founded by BJC HealthCare (St. Louis), Memorial Health System (Springfield, Ill.), Saint Luke’s Health System (Kansas City), and CoxHealth (Springfield, Mo.) to improve the quality and efficiency of health care in the region. While remaining independent, member and participant organizations collaborate to achieve savings, deploy clinical programs and services to improve access to and quality of health care for patients, lower health care costs, and create additional efficiencies that will benefit patients and communities.

About Hannibal Clinic

Hannibal Clinic was founded in Hannibal, Missouri, by four local physicians in 1957. Through an extensive series of moves and expansions, Hannibal Clinic has become a large multi-specialty group practice serving the healthcare needs of the surrounding community for the past 60 years. Hannibal Clinic boasts more than 50 high-quality physicians and nurse practitioners, and employs more than 300 staff members and professionals in the local area. Hannibal Clinic provides services at its main clinic in Hannibal; at the James E. Cary Cancer Center, and the Northeast Missouri Ambulatory Surgery Center, both also in Hannibal; and at satellite facilities in Bowling Green, Center, Monroe City, and Palmyra.



Health system restructures public relations, communications and marketing functions

By Chaka Jordan, Vice President, Marketing, Communications & Community Relations, Blessing Corporate Services

Blessing Foundation selling Cancer Crush tickets

Admission tickets are on sale now in The Blessing Foundation for the Community Cancer Crush. The event takes place Friday, April 14 at the Ambiance. The money raised helps address unmet needs of Blessing Cancer Center patients. Admission tickets are \$30.

Also on sale are raffle tickets for \$50 each. Raffle prizes include a first prize of \$50,000 cash; second prize of a 2017 Buick Cascada; third prize of \$5,000 cash; and fourth prize of \$1,000 cash.

Admission and raffle tickets are on sale for cash or check only (no payroll deduction) Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm at the Blessing Foundation office, 1121 Broadway.

Call ext. 4800 if you have questions. For more information go to cancercrush.org.



Blessing Health System’s marketing, communications and public relations functions have come together into one department to better help The Blessing Health System take advantage of opportunities in the changing healthcare marketplace.

The new department is known as Blessing Health System Marketing, Communications & Community Relations. It brings together the staff from Blessing Hospital and Illini Community Hospital Public Relations & Communications departments and Blessing Physician Services Marketing and Outreach, and an affiliated relationship with the marketing efforts of Denman Services, Inc., and Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences.

The creation of the new department will allow the Health System to strategically identify growth opportunities in the market and aggressively address those opportunities in the following ways:

- Giving staff of the new department the time, tools and skills needed to serve as the Health System’s strategic thought leaders on issues of marketing and communication.
- Marketing specialists will be part of Service Line operations teams, working with Service Line leaders to manage marketing strategy

and tactical implementation of the strategy.

- Implement marketing infrastructure and automation systems to better target customers demographically.
- Enable the Health System to establish and maintain digital marketing strategies, which includes website and social media platforms.
- Enable Health System to establish and maintain brand strategy, implementation and ongoing management.

Following are the staff of the new department and the primary roles they will fulfill:

- Vice President, Marketing, Communications & Community Relations: Chaka Jordan
 - Marketing Specialists: Donna Rupert, Jody Wenzel and Charlie Hull. Each marketing specialist will serve a number of service lines.
 - Employer Sales Field Representative: Jayne Pieper
- Digital Services Manager: Keri Mast
 - Digital Marketing Coordinator (Social Media): Lucy Bordewick
 - Digital Marketing Coordinator (BHS Website Content): Brian Shoemaker

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BPS cardiologist now sees patients in Keokuk, too



Eliot Nissenbaum, DO, FACC, FCCP, board-certified invasive cardiologist, Blessing Physician

Services, has begun seeing patients every Tuesday, between 12 pm and 4 pm, at the Keokuk Medical Center. The clinic is located at 1414 Main Street in Keokuk.

Dr. Nissenbaum is a nationally and regionally recognized cardiologist.

“While in Branson, my colleagues were very kind in naming me as their favorite Cardiologist through a confidential vote taken every two years by physicians for their preference, should they or their family members need a Cardiologist,” said Dr. Nissenbaum.

Board-certified in Cardiology, Dr. Nissenbaum’s practice is dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart conditions. His special interests include identifying the causes of chest pain, shortness of breath, leg swelling, improving cholesterol levels, treatment of heart failure and educating patients on life extension practices.

To make an appointment with Dr. Nissenbaum at the Keokuk Medical Center, call his office at 217-214-3433.

He will also continue providing cardiac care to patients at the Hamilton-Warsaw Clinic.

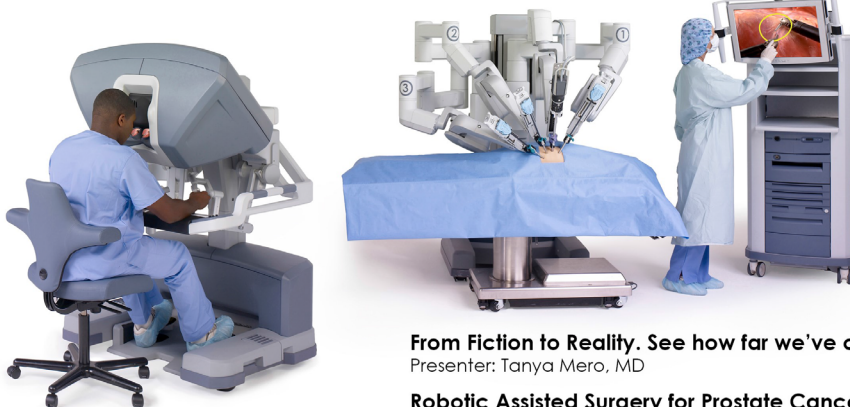
PR/Communications/Marketing (cont)

- Brand Director: Lisa Neisen
 - Maintains relationship with Denman Services (Judy Hays) and Blessing-Rieman (Jenna Crabtree) marketing staff
 - External and Internal Communications: Steve Felde
- Other roles and staff members may be added to the department as growth opportunities dictate.

Some duties previously performed by Public Relations & Communications staff (ex: graphic design, video production) may be outsourced if deemed necessary.

Thank you in advance for your support of this reorganization and of these staff members in their new or expanded duties as we all work together to improve the health of our communities using our talents, skill and knowledge. Please feel free to contact Chaka Jordan with questions, ext. 6805.

ROBOTICS SYMPOSIUM



Thursday
MARCH 9, 2017
 6:00-8:00 PM
 Registration/Dinner 5:30-6:00 PM

Blessing Hospital Auditorium
 11th & Broadway, Quincy, IL

FREE TO ATTEND
 Dinner provided

TO REGISTER
 CLICK TO EMAIL OR
 CALL Educational Services
 (217) 223-8400, x 4830

From Fiction to Reality. See how far we've come
 Presenter: Tanya Mero, MD

Robotic Assisted Surgery for Prostate Cancer
 Presenter: Austin DeRosa, MD

Robotics in Kidney Surgery
 Presenter: Garry Sandhu, MD

Role of Robotics in Colorectal Surgery
 Presenter: Harsha Polavarapu, MD

Purpose: Robotic surgery allows doctors to perform many types of complex procedures with more precision, flexibility and control than is possible with conventional techniques. This program will show how the robotic system is used at Blessing Hospital and what procedures are currently available to do with the robotic system.

The Blessing Hospital Medical Staff CME & Library Committee is accredited by the Illinois State Medical Society to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Blessing Hospital Medical Staff CME & Library Committee designates this live educational activity for a **maximum of 2.00 AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

2 contact hour for RNs & LPNs Blessing Health System is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Midwest Multistate Division, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Criteria for successful completion include attendance of the entire event and submission of a completed evaluation form.

The presenters have agreed to present information fairly and without bias. This program has not received any commercial support.

Application has been made to Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) for **2 Category A credit for Radiology**.

Editor's Note: At the right is a letter written to Maureen Kahn, President/CEO, Blessing Health System, by a former patient. The patient received care in the Emergency Center and the Cardiovascular Unit. She made a financial donation to each department in appreciation for the care she received. Pam Detmer writes a humor column in the Newcastle News newspaper in Issaquah, Washington. One of her recent columns featured her heart attack experience. Following are excerpts from her letter:

My name is Pat Detmer and I was admitted to Blessing Hospital on Friday, November 11, 2016. I had flown from Seattle to St. Louis the day before, had driven to Quincy from there, had dinner with my aunt, went to bed, and then work up at 5:38 a.m., knowing that I was having a heart attack.



Pat Detmer

But a little background first. I was born in Quincy at St. Mary's, as was my mother and her mother before her. My father (also a

native) was promoted often, and we moved a lot, living throughout Illinois and Ohio. His last promotion – which occurred the same year that I graduated from Quincy College – took us to the Seattle area, where we've been ever since. Although we left the area, we still visit family, and given our company letterhead (The Quincy Group, LLC) you can easily see that Quincy is still meaningful to us...I wanted to let you know that my care was excellent from beginning to end. Everyone I interacted with was terrific, all questions were answered, and smiles were plentiful. I was 2,000 miles from home, but was made to feel right at home despite my circumstances.

Heartfelt recognition



Nicole Walton, Nurse Manager, Cardiovascular Unit (CVU) accepts the Great Stride Award at the Management Meeting on February 21 from Elliot Kuida, Chief Operating Officer, Blessing Hospital, recognizing CVU for achieving 5 out of 8 HCAHPS domains.

Results x 6

The Outpatient Voice Experience Awards, recognizing top performing outpatient units based on HCAHPS scores, were presented at the Blessing Hospital Management Meeting on February 21. The Awards were presented to



(left to right) David Loyd, Administrative Director, Ancillary Services, accepting on behalf of Diagnostic Center EEG; Sharon Dieker, Director, Diagnostic Center Radiology; Valerie Greving, Director, Wound Center & Diabetes Center; Lori Wilkey, Administrative Director, Surgical Services, accepting on behalf of the Surgery Center; Ellen Halfpap, Nurse Manager, Pain Clinic; and Ashley Janssen, Nurse Manager, Infusion Center; for their departments achieving 5 out of 5 HCAHPS domains. The Awards were presented by Elliot Kuida, Chief Operating Officer, Blessing Hospital (far right).

Leadership changes

Penny Hyer, RN, BSN, has accepted the role as Nurse Manager of Inpatient Care Coordination, part of the Blessing CareVision transformation. Hyer has 28 years of nursing experience and for the past 11 years has been Director of Care Management. She obtained her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Culver Stockton College & Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing. She is certified in Case Management and is a member of the American Case Management Association and the IL/MO Case Management Gateway Chapter. Hyer is also a board-certified nurse executive.

Sara Sullens, RN, MSN, has accepted the position of Magnet Coordinator. Rose Hudson will transition to the part-time

Research Practice Manager position. Sullens has served as the Nurse Manager for Blessed Beginnings for the past two years. She has been with Blessing for 18 years, serving in the capacities of Charge Nurse, Patient Care Supervisor and Educator of Obstetrics/Neonatal Nursery. Sullens received her Masters of Nursing in May 2016 at Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing.

Jamie Lash, RN, BSN, will fill the role of Interim Nurse Manager for Blessed Beginnings until a permanent Nurse Manager can be hired. Lash brings over seven years of nursing experience to the role. She has served as the Associate Nurse Manager for the past two years.

Julie Schaller will transfer into the Clinic Supervisor position

overseeing Blessing Physician Service Plastics/Dermatology/ Vein departments. She has spent the last 30-plus years as the Clinic Office Supervisor for the BPS Outpatient Behavioral Health Department. Schaller will transition into her new role over the next couple of months as her current role in the Outpatient Behavioral Health Department is filled.

Michael Jenkins has been chosen to replace Tim Thomas as Blessing Food & Nutrition Department's Retail Manager. Jenkins has been with Blessing for five years as Chef Manager. He has been instrumental in developing the retail menus as well as patient menus and all of our catering functions.



SAVE THE DATE
SIGMA THETA TAU-PI PI CHAPTER SPRING PROGRAM

PAIN MANAGEMENT AND THE OPIOID CRISIS

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR NURSES?

Presented by Dr. Peggy Compton

Dr. Compton's areas of clinical expertise are opioids, addiction and pain. She has published extensively in the scientific literature on addiction in chronic pain patients on opioid therapy, and the pain responses of opioid addicts with and without chronic pain. Having worked in several public treatment settings, she is especially expert in the use of methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone in the treatment of addiction.

Thursday, April 6, 2017
John Wood Community College Auditorium
Two Sessions: 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm • 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Please mark your calendar to attend this event. Registration instructions will be sent in a future email.

Blessing introduces new wellness program

March is National Nutrition Month and Blessing begins the celebration by introducing a new wellness program with four, free informational meetings.

The program is called CHIP. It stands for Complete Health Improvement Program. CHIP focuses on whole-person health integrating nutrition, exercise and behavioral principles and tools to help participants reduce common risk factors for chronic disease and achieve a healthier lifestyle.

“CHIP is one of the most scientifically validated lifestyle

medicine programs in the world,” said Anya Rommel, Blessing Wellness Center Coordinator. “It has delivered measureable results in improving blood pressure, cholesterol, triglycerides, fasting blood sugar, body mass index, sleep and depression.”

Blessing’s CHIP informational sessions will be held at the Blessing Wellness Center, 4917 Oak Street, Quincy, on Monday, March 6, from Noon-1 pm; Tuesday, March 7 and Wednesday, March 8, from 5:30-6:30 pm; and Thursday, March 9, from Noon-1 pm.

Registration for the free informational session is required. To register, or for more information, call ext. 4202.



From the Blessing Health System Diversity Advisory Council

Diversity calendar dates of interest for March

Women’s History Month – USA & UK

Began as a single week and a local event. The week of March 8 was selected to include “International Women’s Day”. This day is an occasion to review how far women have come in their struggle for equality, peace and development. In 1981 Congress passed a resolution making the week a national celebration and in 1987 expanded it to the full month of March.

March 1 – Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) Christian

This day marks the beginning of Lent. Ash symbolizes sorrow for wrong doings and foreheads of churchgoers are marked with the shape of the cross with ashes as a sign of penitence.

March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day

Notthern Ireland, Ireland
The death anniversary of Ireland's

patron saint. He used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Christian idea of the Holy Trinity, thus the idea of wearing a shamrock.

March 20 – Eostre Wicca

A fertility festival celebrating the birth of Spring. The word Easter is derived from the Maiden Goddess. Celebrations includes lighting fires at sunrise, ringing bells, and decorating hard-boiled eggs, an ancient Pagan custom associated with the Goddess.

March 21 – Now Ruz (New Year)

Afghanistan – Zoroastrian, Islam, Ismaili
Baha’I Nowruz means “New Day” and is the traditional celebration of the ancient Persian New Year. Iranians celebrate it on March 20th. It is also a holy day for Zoroastrian, Sufi, Ismaili the Baha ‘I faiths. Persians (Iranians, Afghans, and Tajiks) and other

Indo-Iranian groups (Kurds, Armenians, Azarbaijanis and Balochs) start preparing for the Nowruz with a major spring-cleaning of their houses and the purchase of new clothes to wear for the new year. They visit the elders of their family, then the rest of their family and finally their friends. On the thirteenth day families leave their homes and picnic outdoors.

March 21 – International Day of Elimination of Racial Discrimination – UN

On this day in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid pass laws. Proclaiming the day in 1966, the United Nations General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

PRIDE advancement ceremony

Wed., 3/15, 9 am in Auditorium
or
Thurs., 3/23, 2:30 pm in Auditorium

Classifieds

Classified ads are free for employees and volunteers. Ads will be published for two issues, then removed. Ads for employee businesses cannot be published. "Wanted" ads are accepted. Only personal phone numbers (no work extensions) can be listed. Call ext. 4191 or email Steve Felde to place an ad.

House for sale: 806 McKee Drive. 3 min from Blessing Business Center. 3-5 bed, 2 bath ranch. 1-½ acre lot with woods. Above ground pool with multi-level deck, 6 person hot tub. Finished basement and 2 car garage. New price: \$175,500. To schedule a showing call 217-242-3292. (3/16)

For rent: Two bedroom house with garage. 2041 Oak. \$775. 779-0620. (3/2)

For rent: Two bedroom apartment. Hardwood floors, stove, refrigerator. One car detached garage. \$600.00 plus utilities, water included. Call 217-242-7221. (3/16)

For rent: Urban style house minutes from Blessing Hospital. Renovated and re-purposed completely in 2010. This solid brick space previously home to a local bakery, as well as a sheet metal business, currently boasts an IKEA kitchen with stainless steel appliances, large living room with adjacent full bath, extra room with wet bar. Spiral stairs lead to a master bedroom. Master bath with washer/dryer, jacuzzi tub and shower with skylight. Two additional bedrooms and another full bath are down the hall. New roof in 2015. Patio. Alley and street access. Attached single car garage. \$1,200/ month (utilities not included). (217) 440-9062 for more info. (3/16)

'97 Toyota 4 Runner Limited. 4WD, leather interior, sunroof, roof rack, towing package, alloy wheels. 183,000 miles. \$3,500/OBO. 217-224-4523. (3/16)

Wooden shutters. White, 22-1/2" wide x 55" tall, \$25 each. 217-506-2510. (3/2)

Denman diapers sales: *Payment change*

Effective Monday, March 13, Denman stores can no longer accept payroll deduct for the purchase of diapers/wipes.

Denman Services offers an employee discount on diapers and wipes. However, because of the high volume of employees taking advantage of low prices, the cost of processing payroll deduction is growing. Rather than raise prices to cover this administrative cost, only cash/check/credit cards will be accepted as payment for diapers and wipes. **This allows Denman to keep the employee cost for these important products the same.**

Reminder: Special pricing on Pampers diapers/wipes is for Blessing Health System employees only; and for immediate family use, not for resale; at our Denman medical equipment stores.

Order/pick up diapers must be done in person by Blessing Health System employees at Denman Medical. Employees must show their Blessing Health System ID badge



when ordering/picking up products. Only employees can place/pick up orders. No pre-orders accepted by Denman Medical in Quincy.

Pre-orders accepted at Denman's outlying stores in Hannibal, Pittsfield and Macomb to ensure diapers are in stock when the employee wants to pick them up since Denman Medical serves as the main warehouse.

Pricing and product availability at Denman Medical can be found on the BRAIN/Departments/Denman Services/Pampers Information.

Payroll deduct is available on other Denman product lines. Denman Medical store hours in Quincy are:

- 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (highest staffing level 10:00-5:00) Monday – Friday
- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon on Saturday (Closed Sunday)

Blessing Health System Mission Statement To improve the health of our communities.

Blessing Health System Vision Statement We will be the region's health care leader.