**** Tuesday, March 9, 2021

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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Patient Financial Navigators available at MHSC**

ROCK SPRINGS — A personal financial plan in line with healthcare needs is provided to each patient through the Patient Financial Navigation Program at Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County.

The Patient Financial Navigation Program was created to help patients and their families address financial needs and to help reduce barriers and stress related to healthcare costs, visits, and treatment.

“We are so happy to be able to offer this service to our patients,” said CEO Irene Richardson. “The Patient Navigation Program was developed by one of our employees, Patty Stickney. While Patty was working on another project, she identified how much stress medical bills caused patients and started looking for a way to help. She researched, continued looking for ways to help our patients and developed a plan on how we could make a difference. She shared her plan with the hospital administration and she was given the opportunity to put her dream into place. The results were amazing. This is a true benefit for our patients and we are very excited about being able to help.”

The program has grown and MHSC now has two Patient Financial Navigators, Stickney and Megan Benedict.

Sweetwater Memorial understands each patient requires their own personalized plan when receiving healthcare services. The Patient Financial Navigators are a key component and focus their efforts on the hospital’s mission of providing “Compassionate care for every life we touch.”

As Patient Financial Navigators, Stickney and Benedict work directly with each patient to explain and assess obstacles and needs. They support patients in understanding out-of-pocket expenses, health insurance coverage, understanding Medicaid/Medicare, help in applying for patient assistance programs, and offer additional information and other benefits that might be available.

The program aids every patient – insured and uninsured. Patient assistance can include:

* Help with health plans and addressing any areas of concern
* Payment plans
* Patient assistance applications
	+ Cost-saving methods for treatments
	+ Premium assistance
	+ Patient medical assistance
	+ Co-pay assistance
	+ Foundation assistance
	+ Free & replacement drug programs
* Applying for Medicaid
* Applying for Social Security Disability
* Assisting with Medicare and supplement plans

MHSC Director of Patient Financial Services Ron Cheese, with over 30 years of experience, said, “I have never seen a program that truly impacts so many lives in such a life-changing and amazing way. To be able to watch so many lives being helped by one person’s dream that she made a reality is truly one of the most rewarding things I have ever been a part of. I guess I would like to put it like this: One person’s need, one person’s dream, and one opportunity to nurture that dream, has produced many beautiful life-changing moments.”

For details, call Stickney or Benedict at 307-352-8202, or email them at patientnavigation@sweetwatermemorial.com

For more on this program and everything MHSC has to offer, go to sweetwatermemorial.com.

MHSC is a non-profit, 99-bed, regional acute-care facility in southwestern Wyoming. The hospital has more than 500 employees, including more than 30 employed physicians providing care in more than two dozen specialty fields. MHSC offers care in ENT/Otolaryngology, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Neurology, Nephrology, Obstetrics and Women’s Health, Oncology, Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Urology, and Pulmonology. Services include Medical Imaging, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Cardiopulmonary, Diabetes Education, Dialysis, Emergency Care, Intensive Care, Laboratory Services, Medical and Surgical Unit, Nutrition Therapy, Rehabilitation, and Sleep Disorder Lab. Through its affiliation with University of Utah Health, dermatology, cardiology, vascular and maternal-fetal medicine services are offered. Sweetwater Regional Cancer Center is an affiliate partner of the University of Utah’s Huntsman Cancer Institute.

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**Stickney.jpg**

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Patient Financial Navigators Patty Stickney and Megan Benedict.

Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County photo