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DELTA HOSPITAL WEATHERS FINANCIAL RAMIFICATIONS FROM PANDEMIC

Delta, Colorado (May 19, 2020) – As hospitals nationwide respond to the financial ramifications of COVID-19, Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) said they are continuing to move forward while taking the necessary steps to keep the hospital sustainable.

Many regional hospitals have already announced layoffs to help mitigate the large amounts of revenue lost due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“DCMH is doing our best to maintain the staff that we have by avoiding layoffs and finding other areas to remedy the loss in revenue,” said Matt Heyn, CEO for DCMH. “Our human resources are the most important asset that we have. As the largest employer in Delta County, we don’t take lightly the people and lives that depend on us.”

The hospital is taking other multiple measures to help contain and control costs. DCMH is utilizing low census, managing overtime, stopping the use of traveling/contract labor, adjusting the surgical schedule for more efficiency, continuing efforts to qualify for the 340b prescription program and will not be matching the 2019 employee 403b retirement contributions to name a few.

The American Hospital Association estimates that hospitals across the country will lose a collective \$202.6 billion from March 1 to June 30 due to a sharp revenue decline coupled with higher costs of labor, supplies and treatment of COVID-19 patients. DCMH said it has already experienced those losses.

In March net patient revenue was down 20% from the budget, resulting in a 1.8 million dollar loss, and in April it was down 46%, resulting in a 2.8 million dollar loss. The stimulus money that DCMH received in April was 1.5 million and 4.8 million in May could be used to offset those losses. DCMH is also waiting to receive their accelerated payment, a loan by CMS the hospital

would have to pay off in a year and would not have to start paying on for 120 days after receiving.

“Like most other healthcare systems we noticed almost immediately that patients were staying away from doctors’ offices,” said Heyn. “Many people were also forced to postpone or cancel non-urgent surgeries during March and April which resulted in financial losses for the hospital.”

As the recovery process begins, Heyn says he wants to remind patients that DCMH and its clinics still remain safe, reliable places for community members to receive health care.

“We are still facing a lot of unknowns,” said Heyn. “Although we haven’t yet recovered from the pandemic, and it looks like that is still a ways off, we are working hard every day to keep our hospital viable. Our concern remains with the health, safety and well-being of our staff, and we will continue to keep that focus.”

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About Delta County Memorial Hospital - Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) is a non-profit, community hospital whose mission is to be the people's first choice for accessible, high-quality health services and to enhance the well-being of those we serve. Currently, DCMH is the largest employers in Delta County with over 600 employees. DCMH is 49 bed and ten clinic hospital system located in beautiful southwestern Colorado. Established in 1913, DCMH has been serving the region for over 100 years.