

# DCMH NEWS SCAN

*Insight to Monthly Happenings & Highlights at DCMH*

Decatur County Memorial Hospital

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## DCMH CEO Transition Underway

History was made on Thursday at Decatur County Memorial Hospital as both the incoming and retiring CEO were in attendance at the Board of Trustees meeting.

Current CEO Bill Alloy, announced his retirement last summer, scheduled for April 1, of 2011. His announcement resulted in the Board of Trustees embarking on a nationwide search that began last fall and culminated in early February. It was then that the Board announced the hiring of Linda V. Simmons as the new CEO for Decatur County Memorial Hospital and her employment began Thursday.

Alloy has served as CEO at DCMH since October of 2005. During his period of service a number of initiatives have been undertaken, including providing leadership to numerous Hospital projects including strategic and master site planning, focusing on quality, developing new patient services and physician specialties, enhancing employee programs and improving operating efficiencies among other important initiatives.

Simmons has most recently served as the Interim Chief Executive Officer at the Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County (MHSC) in Rock Springs, Wyoming. She had also served as CEO at the Kindred Hospital Walnut Hill in Dallas, Texas, and Chief Operating Officer at the Kindred Hospital-Arlington in Arlington, Texas. Simmons' accomplishments in her career include among others, serving as Director of Critical Care Services, Clinical Manager of the ICU/Dialysis/Telemetry Services and working as an ICU Staff/Charge Nurse. Her educational attainments include a Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Administration from the University of Mary, Bismarck, ND, and a Master of Science in Nursing, with a Healthcare Administration focus, from Baylor University. She also possesses a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Messiah College.

"The Board of Trustees wants to thank Bill for his leadership during these tough economic times, especially surrounding issues relating to human resources, accountability, physician relations, and the conversion of the Hospital to Critical Access status," commented Toni Collins, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "In looking to the future, our Hospital, medical staff, employees, and community are fortunate to have attracted a CEO of Linda's caliber for his replacement. Her unique blend of clinical, organizational and operational experience is certain to serve our facility and its patients well."

## DCMH Impacted by Lincoln Street Construction

The Lincoln Street construction project will ultimately provide major benefits to the community. In the interim, Decatur County Memorial Hospital has issued a word of caution for traveling in the area, as well as made announcements regarding campus access.

Currently Lincoln Street is closed immediately in front of the facility, with the First Street intersection remaining open. However, in the near future, the First Street intersection and DCMH main campus entrance will close. At another evolution in the project, both the First Street and Pleak's entrance to the campus will be closed. At these closings, the public is reminded that there are four total entrances to the DCMH campus, including the newest entrance from Montgomery Road, and an entrance on the South side of the Hospital. Current plans call for two of the four entrances to be open at all times. The latest information and updates are being made available to the public as received on a dedicated web page at [www.dcmh.net/lincoln](http://www.dcmh.net/lincoln).

## Gala Event Two Weeks Away

Reservations are still available for the Hospital Foundation's Spring Gala, "Hollywood & Vine.....Lights, Camera, Auction!" The black-tie optional event is scheduled for Friday, April 8, at the Crystal Ballroom in Columbus. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with dinner being served at 7:00 p.m. An outstanding menu, multitude of entertainment and a fantastic silent auction await attendees. More information regarding reservations and the event may be obtained at [www.dcmh.net/gala](http://www.dcmh.net/gala) or by phoning the Foundation office at (812) 663-1220.

This year's event will feature an auction by cell phone which does not require attendance to participate. Registration of phones can be conducted in advance of the event at [www.dcmh.net/auction](http://www.dcmh.net/auction) and the initial auction items will be available for bidding on April 1. "Reel Money" is another avenue of support that does not require attendance. This fun activity features DVD's available for purchase with cash concealed inside ranging from \$1 to \$500. DVD's are available in advance for \$30 or 2 for \$50. Contact the Foundation office or [www.dcmh.net/gala](http://www.dcmh.net/gala) for more details.



New DCMH CEO, Linda V. Simmons



## Accolades from a DCMH Patient

Recently, DCMH received the following letter from a patient addressed to Toni Collins as Board Chair:

“I have been a patient at your hospital on a few occasions over the years. One thing that is a constant on every visit is the professionalism that is exhibited on every visit. There is in fact one group in particular that comes to mind and the reason for this letter. The professional group I am referring to is the Radiology Department and to be specific, Dr. Taylor, Carol & Molly.

I was there today due to some medical issues and as usual Dr. Taylor and Carol were on their game. They are both compassionate, thorough, kind, professional women in their field of work. You should be very proud and grateful to have them representing your hospital. As for Molly, this is the first time I have met her but she definitely has that natural ability with bedside manner. She held my hand the whole time and spoke calming, reassuring words of comfort.

A woman of your stature and position probably doesn't get much opportunity to spend time in the trenches so I felt it necessary to write this letter to let you know that, at least in the Radiology department, all is well and running smoothly!! Thank you very much for your time and I am not related in any way to the staff members mentioned. ☺”

Patient comments like these are greatly appreciated and speak to the level of care offered in our local facility.

## Walsman Returning to Tree City Medical

DCMH and Tree City Medical Partners (TCMP) have announced that Shelly Walsman, Family Nurse Practitioner, will be returning to practice at TCMP on Monday, May 2.

Patients will recall that Shelly had worked with TCMP several years ago and the practice is pleased to welcome her back. Appointments may now be scheduled with Walsman by phoning TCMP at (812) 663-7277.

## Luers Attains IT Degree

Kyle Luers, Information Systems, recently attained his Associates Degree of Applied Science in Computer Information Technology from Ivy Tech. Congratulations to Kyle!

## McNulty Passes Exam

Emily McNulty has passed her national certification exam with ONCC (Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation) and is now an Oncology Certified Nurse. With her designation, Emily is the second nurse serving DCMH Oncology patients to have the Oncology Nursing Certification.

## Cord Passes National Pharmacy Tech

Beth Cord passed her National Pharmacy Technician Board Certification exam, bringing the number of our technicians that are Nationally Certified to 4 (Beth, Jill Grossman, Sara Leap and Megan Tucker). The National Certification is not required at this time, but is more difficult to attain than certification by the state (which doesn't require the technician to prove competence via a standardized exam). Pharmacy Director, Denise Fields states, “My goal is to have ALL pharmacy technicians Nationally Certified by the end of 2012, as I believe the state will move towards requiring this additional certification in the next 1-2 years. It's great to have staff that go for that next level on their own - it says something about the caliber of our staff.”

## Moeller Memorial Project Progressing

The Hospital Foundation is leading a project in memory of long-time Hospital supporter Del Moeller. The project will see a new flagpole erected with a small 15' x 15' healing garden located at its base. To date the project has raised approximately \$2,000 and contributions are still being accepted.

Moeller was the Immediate Past President of the Foundation and had served on the Foundation Board for six years, as well as the Hospital Board of Trustees for six years in the 1980's. He had also chaired or co-chaired all 5 Hospital Foundation Golf Outings and was serving as this year's co-chair of the gala event.

“Del's passing left a void in the volunteer base of our organization and the community,” stated Hospital Foundation Director, David Fry. “The flagpole and garden is a fitting tribute to Del's passions and his commitment to DCMH. The project is evolving with the same spirit and caring that he exemplified in his life.”

Fry stated that in addition to the cash donations a number of in-kind donations have been offered, including design work, pavers, plant stock, labor and other essential pieces of the project. It is estimated that as much as an additional \$5,000 will be needed to complete the project as currently envisioned.



## News Scan

*News Scan* is a monthly publication highlighting important activity at DCMH and is provided for the news media, board of trustees and the community. The publication may be accessed online at [www.dcmh.net](http://www.dcmh.net). Quotes within the document are available for publication and photos are available in a jpeg format. Questions regarding the information presented here may be directed to Bill Alloy, DCMH CEO, 812-663-1170 or to David J. Fry, Director of Community Relations, [david.fry@dcmh.net](mailto:david.fry@dcmh.net). or 812-663-1220.