

Shortage of workers in the healthcare industry

By: Cindy Braley, Clinics Manager

A common theme the last several years in the news has been about physician shortages nationwide. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) projects a shortage of 65,560 primary care physicians by 2020. Rural locations are no exception. It is estimated only 9% of physicians practice in rural communities.

Rural areas (like Ferry County) have an especially difficult time to recruit and retain physicians and other providers. This difficulty also exists for nurses, nurses' aides, and other qualified support staff. The challenges rural areas face are depressed economies, high cost of living, and weather extremes to name a few. Physicians and providers are trained in larger metro areas and many prefer to practice in a larger population.

FCPHD has had physician and provider recruitment as a top priority for several years. Some of the key topics we focus on are the facts of a quieter and relaxed community, the activities an outdoor enthusiast might enjoy, flexibility in the practice setting to allow for a good work/life balance, and loan repayment options.

In the last 9 months, FCPHD has had 3 providers leave, and 4 providers join. Dr. Garcia will be moving on later this summer and we are hoping to fill that position very soon. Our patients are top priority and our goal is to make this transition as smooth as possible.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 509-775-3153.

Prior Hospital Happenings available at <http://www.fcphd.org/news.html>

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