

## National Nursing Assistants Week June 9-16

By Teresa D'Jerma, RN

This week is National Nursing Assistant Week. I would just like to take this opportunity to tell you why we should celebrate the nursing assistants in our community and share with you how they help us. Currently, Ferry County Public Hospital District #1 employs 21 Nursing assistants.

Just like nurses are the eyes, ears, and hands of doctors, nursing assistants are the eyes, ears, and hands of nurses. Nursing assistants are the base that nurses and providers build upon to improve and maintain the health of patients, residents, and the homebound members of our community. The job of the nursing assistant is to provide patients with the activities of daily living, the tasks that the healthy take for granted: bathing, eating, dressing, brushing teeth, brushing hair, shaving, going to the bathroom, maintaining a neat

appearance, and housekeeping. Nursing assistants also help patients with exercises to maintain or improve mobility and engage their brains by one on one conversations, playing games, reading, TV watching, and providing contact with the world outside the hospital, nursing home, or home.

Ferry County Public Hospital District #1 offers nursing assistant classes periodically throughout the year based on staffing needs and community interest. Community members who are interested in the nursing assistant training contact Human Resources at 509-775-3333 or check out the website: [www.fcphd.org/](http://www.fcphd.org/).

Let us all take the time to thank the nursing assistants in our community!

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

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## HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

### Welcome new physician assistant

*By Cindy Braley, Clinics Manager*

Ferry County Public Hospital District would like to welcome Thomas Hughes, PA-C to our practice. Tom will be practicing in the Republic Medical Clinic as well as some emergency room.

Tom has been practicing for over 20 years in family practice in the "rainy" part of the state. Tom's patient care experience is from kids to adults, individually or as a family. Tom's medical philosophy is to help patients understand their condition/problem and become invested in their health instead of their illness; whatever it may be.

Yes, he is a Seahawk Fan and a Husky. He likes to laugh and listen to a good (or bad) joke.

Tom is retired military (16 years in Navy and 10 years as a Medical Officer in the Coast

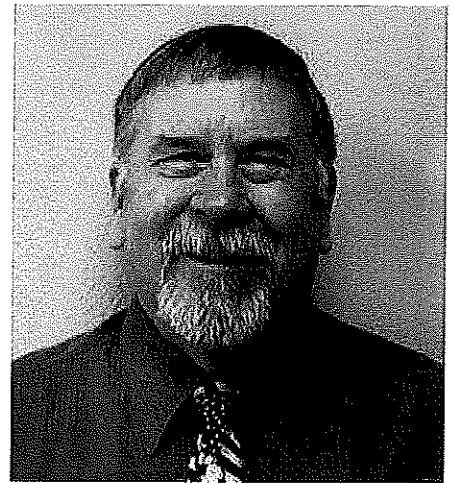
Guard).

Tom is married with 3 kids and 13 grandkids (whew!).

Tom and his wife are looking forward to making Republic their home.

To schedule an appointment with Tom, please call Republic Medical Clinic at 775-3153.

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## Hospital selects new CEO

*6/1/10 View*

REPUBLIC — The Ferry County Public Hospital District Board of Commissioners has selected Aaron C. Edwards as its next superintendent and chief executive officer.

The decision came at the conclusion of a special meeting held Thursday, May 26.

Employment will effectively begin July 1 after an employment agreement is approved and signed by the board and Edwards.

"The board is excited about this new opportunity



Aaron C. Edwards.

for the district and is looking forward to working with

Aaron," the district said in a statement announcing the appointment. "The board thanks the district's employees for their input in helping make this decision."

Board members declined to make additional details about Edwards available until after his contract is finalized.

Edwards will replace Brenda Parnell, whose contract the district terminated without explanation Thursday, Jan. 14.

5/25/16  
View

## HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

### Quality through patient satisfaction

By Terali Stonebocker, Interim CEO

Ferry County Public Hospital District (FCPHD) recognizes the importance of providing quality care to our patients in all our departments. One way of gauging our quality is through feedback from our patients. The District has solicited feedback in several ways since 2012.

In October 2012, FCPHD, started “self-administering” patient satisfaction surveys for hospital patients and outpatient departments. The information gathered from these surveys identified quality improvement opportunities but did not allow us to compare our care with other hospitals. In July 2014 the District contracted with an outside vendor to do our surveys. The Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey is conducted by Healthstream by telephone calls using standard questions. The results of these completed surveys allow FCPHD to

compare our results with other “like” hospitals. This comparison helps identify additional improvement opportunities.

Starting July 1, 2016, the District is incorporating standardizing assessment of quality care by adding Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) surveys for the Republic and Curlew Medical Clinics. A random selection of clinic patients will receive telephone calls from Healthstream asking for their perception of their clinic visits.

Information received from these calls are important to the District; please take time to answer the questions. Ferry County Public Hospital District’s goal is to provide quality care to all our patients and your input is needed to accomplish that goal.

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

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May 2016 View



## Ferry County Public Hospital District

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### Quorum Health Resources

## Nursing

We covered Ferry County Public Hospital District's (FCPHD) constant recruiting efforts in last month's article so this month we'll focus our attention on a vital part of our services - NURSING.

May is nurse's recognition month and May 6th was the official National Nurses Day and is part of the National Nurses Week, May 6 – 12. We had a Nurse Appreciation Potluck on Wednesday, May 11th to thank and acknowledge our appreciation for the FCPHD nurses.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), there are three educational paths to becoming a nurse; a diploma from an accredited nursing program or hospital, an associate degree in nursing (AND – a two-year program), or a bachelor's degree (BSN). Finally, nurses must pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) or for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) before practicing as a nurse. Depending on the facility and/or type practice, additional certification will also be required. The point is that nurses are highly trained and tested individuals, including those serving at FCPHD. Because of our Critical Access

Hospital (CAH) designation, our two clinics, our long-term care (LTC) unit, and our assisted living facility (ALF), FCPHD has additional certification requirements.

Why all this information about nursing? FCPHD, and hospitals and medical facilities across the nation are having difficulty recruiting nurses for employment. According to BLS, the total RN workforce is expected to grow from 2.71 million in 2012 to 3.24 million in 2022, an increase of 526,800 or 19%. The Bureau also projects the need for 525,000 replacements nurses in the workforce bringing the total number of job openings for nurses due to growth and replacements to 1.05 million by 2022.

We truly appreciate our nurses here at FCPHD and are continually endeavoring recruiting nurses to meet our needs in fulfilling our mission "To strengthen the health and well-being of our community through partnership and trust." Interested in pursuing a nursing career? Visit the following website: "[http://healthcareers.about.com/od/healthcareerprofiles/p/Nursing\\_Career.htm](http://healthcareers.about.com/od/healthcareerprofiles/p/Nursing_Career.htm)".

*Dave Iverson, Nancy Betschart, DiAnne Lundgren, Ron Bacon, Nancy Giddings*