

St. Francis director was Goodland hospital nurse

By Karen Krien
karenk@nwkansas.com

The Good Samaritan Home Health Service has a new director. Cheryl Lee, R.N., took over the position on Dec. 10. After several weeks of training in Hays, she has settled into her office on U.S. 36, St. Francis. She fills the position left by Vickie Reuber.

She comes to the home health service with 26 years of nursing skills, having worked at the Goodland Regional Medical Center for 15 years and then went to St. Anthony Central in Denver where she worked in the Cardiac Intensive Care.

"I loved working with these patients and I hadn't planned transfer somewhere else but a series of events changed my thinking, and then this job (home health) fell in my lap. "It was as if God meant me to be here."

Mrs. Lee will be giving half of her time to working with clients and the rest will be spent administratively.

The home health service is presently serving people in Cheyenne and Sherman counties but, in the near future, will expand to Rawlins and Thomas counties.

"When we are stabilized, we will take on more clients in adjacent counties," Mrs. Lee said.



Cheryl Lee is the new administrator of the St. Francis Good Samaritan Home Health Service

"Our goal is to keep our clients at home as long as we can," she said. "Home care changes everything except where the client lives."

"I want the home health service to be able to give quality service to the people

as well as make it an 'awesome' place to work. We value our employees by offering competitive wages as well as good working conditions."

Home health

As many older people experience diminished eyesight, hearing or decreased fine motor coordination, they need help to provide care for themselves. Home health aides can help by meeting the activities of daily living; personal hygiene and safety; house-keeping and laundry; meal preparation; help with simple exercise and ambulation.

The service offers 24-hours a day, seven days a week on a fee-for-service basis. People who can benefit from the service include:

- Those who have just left the hospital after a severe illness or injury and still have difficulty meeting daily living challenges on their own.
- People with chronic health conditions or who are not able to manage their personal care without assistance.
- People who are homebound.

The service provides home health aides, who work under the guidance of the director or a registered nurse; skilled nursing care which provides a wide range of physician-directed treatments; and therapy services.

Skilled nursing

The home health service, at this time, has two registered nurses and plans to have more. When a person needs additional help, they are there for consultation and family support as well as giving nutritional instruction. They can change dressings, give injections and medical assessment.

They are skilled to give health assessments on blood pressures, heart and lungs, as well as other observations. They can draw blood samples, give intravenous therapy and pain management with pumps.

They can care and help teach patients with a colostomy. They will work with patients on feeding pumps and catheters.

With their knowledge, they can also give assistance with admissions and dismissals from hospitals.

Therapy

Their home health service offers physical therapy for patients.

Besides two registered nurses, there are three trained home health aides. Mrs. Lee said there are several nurses and aides waiting to start work when they expand to Thomas and Rawlins counties.

She credits Tammy Howard, office manager, and Judy Sager, nurse, for holding the home health service together during the

transition of directors.

History

Mrs. Lee and her husband Bill, who is the area supervisor for the Kansas Department of Transportation, have a 13-year-old son William. She was born in West Virginia, then raised in Marietta, Ohio.

Her brother had come to visit their aunt, Ruth Dangler, in Wheeler, met and married Bill's sister. They moved back to Ohio and lived with Cheryl. During the holidays, they wanted to come back to Kansas for visit and, of course, Cheryl, had to come with them.

"I met Bill and that was it!! I went back to Ohio, gave my two weeks resignation, packed up and came back to marry him!" she said.

That was 20 years ago. Last fall, their home in Wheeler caught fire. No one was hurt but they were forced to live elsewhere.

"This community has been absolutely wonderful," she said.

People generously came up with housing and other items. The Lees hope to be back home in the near future.

The fire was just one of the things that brought Mrs. Lee back to St. Francis to work and, she said she is glad to be here.

Colby school board hires principal to be superintendent

By Joey Falkoff
jfalckoff@nwkansas.com

The Colby School board searched far and wide for the district's next superintendent, but when it was all set and done, they found what they were looking for right here in Colby.

At Monday's school board meeting, the board announced the selection of Colby Elementary School principal Terrel Harrison to replace Kirk Nielsen as superintendent.

Nielsen served 11 years in the position before announcing his retirement in October 2007. He will conclude his term June 30.

Harrison was one of six candidates to interview for the job and got word of the board's decision Jan. 14 after their last interview with Oberlin Elementary School principal Duane Dorshorst.

"It was a pretty strong consensus," said board president Tracy Rogers.

Harrison will finish her duties at the elementary school in mid-June and begin her superintendent term July 1. She will make \$90,000 a year; a \$624 decrease from Kirk Nielsen's base salary of \$90,624.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to work and be a part of a wonderful district staff that truly cares about its children," said Harrison. "I look forward to working with the staff and employees of Colby's public schools, and I'll be dedicated to making sure each student gets the best possible education."

Harrison's selection is a ground-breaking one for the Colby school district, which has never had a woman superintendent in its six previous office-holders. While progressive, Harrison said the issue is irrelevant in her mind.

"I haven't really thought about being the first woman superintendent in district history," said Harrison. "I feel it doesn't matter whether a superintendent is male or female. What matters and is most important is that I care about the community

and care about doing the best job I can for USD 315."

It's that passion for the district she has shown and promised to continue to show as superintendent that Rogers said the board based their decision on.

"She's done a lot of positive things in the grade school with the curriculum and the way she relates to parents, teachers and kids," said Rogers. "We feel she can carry that over to the whole district instead of one building.

She's just real solid all the way across."

Harrison has been the principal at Colby Elementary since 2001 after serving 13 years as a teacher and administrator in the Wallase County - Sharon Springs school district. One of two internal candidates to apply for the position, Harrison said her familiarity with the district will make the move much easier.

"It is beneficial and I feel it will make for a smooth transition," said Harrison.

Rogers mentioned Harrison's knowledge of Colby and the school system as "A big plus," but felt the board gave the four outside candidates that interviewed a fair shot.

"We all went in with open minds," said Rogers. "We wanted the best candidate. It didn't matter if they were internal or external."

Though her ties to the district are expected to be a positive, Harrison enters the job with no superintendent experience, something she maintains won't be an issue.

"I really don't feel that will be a problem," said Harrison. "I have the training and I've been studying the budget for some time. I feel very confident moving in."

And moving in, she says, won't be awkward for her and Colby athletic director Larry Gabel, who had also interviewed for the job.

"We all knew Larry and I would apply," said Harrison. "He's been very supportive. We both want what's best for the staff and our students."



Harrison

Spring-like weather won't last



The weather was so nice Pam Whitson and her Godson Duncan Kroskey were playing on the teeter-totter at Chambers Park on Sunday afternoon. On Sunday the temperature reached 67 and felt more like spring than January.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

TEXAS RED'S BAR-B-Q

will be at Frontier Ag in Goodland on January 28 to February 1

- Beef brisket • Turkey Breast
- Chicken Halves • Sausages • Pork Ribs

Fountain Drinks, Chips and Snacks available also inside!

Advertisement for Bids

Good Samaritan Society-Sherman County 2008

Good Samaritan Society-Sherman County
208 W 2nd St
Goodland, KS 67735
(785)890-7517

Good Samaritan Society-Sherman County will receive sealed bids for the renovation of a whirlpool room and kitchen project at the office of Dorinda Krueger, 208 W 2nd St, Goodland, KS until 9:00 AM (Mountain Time) on Friday, February 8, 2008. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. Bids will be opened and presented at the County Commissioner meeting. Administrator and Commissioners will make joint decision on acceptance of bids.

Major work items include: Replacement of cabinets and flooring in whirlpool room, replacement of cabinets, counter top, and flooring in kitchen and dining room.

Date: January 23, 2008
Dorinda I Krueger, Administrator



Proudly Display Your Patriotism!

With the help of the Goodland Kiwanis Club, you can help support your country and community by displaying an American flag.

For only \$30, Kiwanis members will provide and do everything for you! We will insert a capped-sleeve in your front yard and will place the flag out at sunrise and retire the flag at sunset at your home on the following five United States holidays:

- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Veterans Day
- Flag Day
- Labor Day

Just stop by The Goodland Star News office at 1205 Main Street, sign the contract and leave your check for \$30 made out to the Kiwanis Club of Goodland. The contract allows Kiwanis members to confirm which Goodland residents would like to participate in the program. Interested Goodland residents that have questions about the United States Flag Project may stop by any of the following businesses:

- Finley Motors/Steve Sitton
- Vignery and Mason Attorneys
- Wilkins Truck & Trailer