



UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
OF EL PASO

December 12, 2014

New CNO: This week a familiar face from UMC officially joined our Senior Leadership team. Joe Garcia, DNP, RN, who has been serving as interim CNO since July, is now UMC's new Chief Nursing Officer. Joe has been with UMC for 22 years and his journey up the ranks is quite a story. I think it can be said that Joe was born to serve at UMC. Here's why.



Joe was born here, back when it was Thomason hospital. He grew up very near here and graduated from Jefferson High School. Joe dreamed of becoming a doctor, but the reality of achieving that was far-fetched for him and his family at the time. That didn't stop Joe from entering the medical field though. He decided to become a nurse instead. After graduating high school, he worked as a truck driver while putting himself thru El Paso Community College. His evenings were filled with books and his weekends with overtime hours at a local rental car dealership. Joe was determined to achieve his goal of becoming a nurse.

Joe's experience ranges from the bedside to management. He began his career at UMC in 1993 as a Nursing Assistant in our Emergency Department and has moved up the ranks as he has furthered his education. In 2011, after earning his masters degree, Joe was promoted to Director of Cardiovascular Services. His work has contributed to the development of some of UMC's newest service lines including Cardiovascular Services, the Hospitalists Program and the improvement of UMC's Acute Dialysis services, all while he was earning his graduate degree as a Doctor of Nursing Practice. Joe's experience in various nursing capacities gives him first-hand knowledge of comprehensive nursing care and a solid foundation from which to propel UMC's Nursing Division to new heights. Please join me in officially welcoming Joe into his new role. I'm honored to work with a hands-on and fully dedicated El Pasoan.

Kudos to the UMC DSRIP Team: UMC and providers under the Region 15 – Regional Healthcare Partnership completed the most intensive metric reporting period thus far during the 1115 Waiver term. Last month staff from UMC, working on Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) projects, submitted 100 documents to HHSC detailing the status of projects under the waiver and received approval for a \$40,000,000 gross payment. That payment distributes a much needed \$24,000,000 net gain back into our operating budget.

With 18 projects under the DSRIP well underway, UMC is already beginning to transform healthcare in unique and innovative ways. This year, with DSRIP projects, UMC alone has impacted over 150,000 patient encounters where 75 percent of patients were underfunded or Medicaid recipients.

In the final two years of the waiver, we expect to push the needle further by reducing unnecessary readmissions to the hospital and improving quality outcomes for our patients while increasing access to care outside of the hospital's campus. Our waiver journey has been a positive one and we are ready for the next chapter in the transformation of healthcare for our region.

Committee Appointment: This week Kyle L. Janek, M.D., HHSC's Executive Commissioner, invited Michael Nuñez, our Chief Financial Officer to serve on HHSC's Hospital Payment Advisory Committee (HPAC) in the New Year. In a letter sent by Janek to Michael, he states that his expertise, experience, and unique perspective are an invaluable asset to the HPAC. He's right. You see, the HPAC advises HHSC on hospital reimbursement methodologies for hospital payments, on adjustments for disproportionate share hospitals and helps to ensure reasonable, adequate, and equitable payments to hospital providers. All things that Michael is well versed at and part of his daily work here at UMC. Michael is the only hospital executive from El Paso to serve on this critical advisory committee. His participation is a great opportunity to represent our city and Medical Center at the state level. I'm sure Michael will make great contributions to the committee. Meetings begin in February. Stay tuned.



Local Firms Selected: Two local firms have been selected for our next Bond Construction project. Mijares-Mora Architects and Powers General Contractor are set to begin the renovations and addition to our Neighborhood Healthcare Center in Ysleta this coming January. This is a much needed expansion of the existing primary care center because it is the busiest of our centers. In fiscal year 2014, the center saw close to 30,000 outpatient visits. That is a lot of patient traffic as you can imagine and our goal is to make the center operate more efficient. The project consists of 2,350 square feet of renovation focused on enhancing through-put at the outpatient laboratory with a separate entrance plus registration and waiting areas. Expansion will feature 2,430 square feet of new construction with the addition of exam rooms and support areas for physicians and medical staff.



Weekend: If you haven't heard, Canutillo High School made history as the first El Paso area football team to reach the semifinals of the UIL state football playoffs. They're looking to make more history by beating the Ennis Lions (12-2) in the Class 5A, Division II semifinal game in Lubbock. It's going to be a fight for the (13-1) Eagles, but I think these kid's hearts and our community's support will help them push through. Catch the action tonight at 6 p.m. on KVIA Channel 7. Go Eagles!

And if you're not in the holiday spirit yet, this event can help get you started. First Baptist Church of El Paso is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Living Christmas Tree. The celebration features five Music Pastors presenting music from the past 50 years. The El Paso Symphony orchestra plus the Quintessential Brass along with 160 singers in and around a 60 foot Christmas tree is sure to summon the Holiday spirit in you.

There will be performances throughout this weekend and tickets are only \$5 at the church, 805 Montana. For more information call, 533-1465 or [click here](#) for their website.

Have a great weekend. - Jim



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