Colquitt Regional Medical Center held a groundbreaking ceremony celebrating the new Rehabilitation Center on June 25. Jim Matney, Chief Executive Officer and President, of Colquitt Regional Medical Center, welcomed guests and introduced members of the rehabilitation staff including Scott Romanowski, director of rehab services, and Renee Crosby, director of speech-language pathology. Mr. Matney stated, “We are excited to break ground on the new 13,000 square foot state of the art rehabilitation facility that will offer the same exceptional physical, occupational, speech and language therapies and wound care in one convenient location.”

The new location will be more easily accessible and will also house a pool for aquatic therapy. “This type of therapy is appropriate for orthopedic conditions such as total knee replacement and back pain, as well as neurological conditions like stroke and head injuries,” Mr. Matney stated. This cutting edge rehab tool will offer digital video movement analysis, computer controlled current and buoyance and a personalized program for one-on-one treatment.

Mr. Matney introduced several individuals who have been a vital source of making the construction possible, including the Hospital Authority of Colquitt County; Greg Johnson, vice president of outpatient services; and Greg Dorminey, director of facility operations. He continued by introducing the program manager, Mike Noli with NoliWhite Group; architect, Rusty McCall with McCall & Associates, Inc.; and contractors with Barber Constructing Company.

The new facility is being financed by Southwest Georgia Bank and the Waldo DeLoache Charitable Trust. “A pledge in the amount of $250,000 by the Waldo DeLoache Charitable Trust was granted and will be given over the next five years to go toward the construction of this new facility and the future expansion of the hospital,” Mr. Matney stated. “We are very grateful to the individuals who were essential in granting this generous contribution, including DeWitt Drew, Steve Johnson, Geraldine Luff and Jeff Hanson.”

Brooks Sheldon, Hospital Authority chairman, spoke on behalf of the board and thanked everyone who made this groundbreaking possible. “We are proud to have a community stand-alone hospital with the financial strength and internal strength of our staff to complete this major project,” Mr. Brooks stated. He continued, “Southwest Georgia Bank provides a strong service and we are proud to have a local bank willing and able to provide financing for this project.”

Mr. Sheldon continued by acknowledging and thanking Rusty McCall, Cecil Barber, Steve Barber and Mike Noli. “We are proud to have local contractors to see us well into our future. We want to do our very best in supporting local businesses and we are thrilled to join forces with these companies,” Mr. Sheldon said.

Reverend Hugh Ward, Hospital Authority board member and Chaplin, provided the invocation. Angela Castellow spoke on behalf of Mayor Bill McIntosh, who was not able to attend.
Benefits 411

- Nick Pappas, Retirement Consultant will here on August 8, 2012 to conduct individual meetings. Please contact Human Resources to schedule an appointment.

- There is a revised Paid Time Off policy under review. There have not been any final decisions made as of yet. If you have not had a chance to review this policy, please see your director or the Human Resources Office for a copy.

- Packer Produce is offering a 10% discount on your total purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables. Please make sure to show your badge!

- Please mark your calendars for the Benefits Fair. It will be held on Thursday, October 18th and Friday, October 19th. Watch your mail for more information closer to time!

- Recently you received a copy of Plan Amendment 12-07 in the mail. If you have not yet received your copy or have questions regarding the change, please contact HR at ext 3533. Below is a copy of the amendment that is effective August 1, 2012.

Laboratory testing services performed in the physician’s office must be sent to the Colquitt Regional Medical Center Lab for processing. Any test submitted to an outside lab will be denied and will be the member’s responsibility. If a test is performed in the physician’s office is one with an immediate response, i.e. strep test, urine pregnancy test, that service will be covered at the appropriate allowable level. All other terms and conditions of this plan not affected by this Amendment remain unchanged. Copies of the plan document and all supporting instruments are maintained on file by the Plan Administrator and by the Claim Benefits Service Manager.

At your service…

The Human Resources Department opens at 7:30 each morning Monday-Friday. If you need assistance outside of our regular office hours, let us know and we will be happy to assist!

Colquitt Regional Medical Center’s Employee of the Month

Mary Baker was recently named as the Employee of the Month for June. Mary works in the Health Information Management Department as a Department Secretary. She has been employed with Colquitt Regional Medical Center since October 2003. In her free time she enjoys reading and spending time with her husband, Al and children Gavin and Chloe.

Congratulations!

Javonna Murphy is the SOP Pay Day Winner. She is the winner of $25.00. Her name was submitted by Brianne Tomlinson for “Thank you for always being such a great help with appeal letters. Your knowledge is great to learn from. You are appreciated.” Javonna displayed the Standard of TEAM RESPECT.

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.
CEO’s Corner…

Greetings to all!

I hope everyone is having a great summer! I appreciate each and every one of you and your hard work is evident from compliments received by the community, our patients and visitors. I am well aware that the increase in patient volume has been challenging and that you have responded accordingly. I have witnessed a great team effort. Keep up the good work!

Excellent customer service is only achieved when it becomes our culture. It’s who we are and what we work.

Jim Matney
Mark Brown, EMT-I, was presented the Colquitt County EMT of the Year Award at an appreciation banquet held at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in honor of Colquitt County EMS workers.

“Mark is a knowledgeable EMT that provides excellent patient care,” said EMS Director Amy Williams, who presented the award. “He is a team player and is highly thought of by his co-workers.”

Brown has worked in the emergency field for five years and has been at Colquitt Regional for the past three. He graduated from Southwest Georgia Technical College with his Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate. He is currently part of the C shift, where he works with various partners.

“I work with a great group of people and for them to choose me for this award is an honor,” said Brown.

He and his wife, Christy, who is also an EMT-I, have one son, Grant.

Nutritional Services News

Nutritional Services celebrated Christmas in July. In honor of this, they collected non-perishable food items to be donated to the Colquitt County Food Bank.

Also, Nutritional Service will be holding a Back to School Supply Drive on August 16, 2012. The theme will be a Hawaiian Day. If you bring in a school supply item such as paper, pens, pencils, crayons, Kleenex, hand sanitizer your name will be entered into a drawing for a door prize.
South Georgia Consortium Cuts Ribbon on Office

With the snip of a pair of scissors, a consortium of hospitals moved forward Friday on a plan that may dramatically improve health care options in Southwest Georgia.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the South Georgia Medical Education and Research Consortium marked the opening of an office for the group, which has been working since the spring of 2010 to establish a physician residency program in this part of the state.

Five hospitals — Colquitt Regional Medical Center, Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Archbold Memorial Hospital in Thomasville, Tift Regional Medical Center in Tifton and South Georgia Medical Center in Valdosta — have contributed resources to make that dream a reality, but they still have a long way to go.

Jim Lowry, chairman of the consortium’s board of directors and former president of Colquitt Regional, said the hospitals hope to start their first class of residents July 1, 2014, and graduate them three years later.

About a hundred people from all five communities gathered at the new office on Sweet Bay Court, about a block from Colquitt Regional Medical Center, for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Each hospital was represented by its president or someone acting in his name, and Moultrie Mayor Bill McIntosh gave each a key to the city.

Moultrie was chosen for the consortium’s headquarters because it’s centrally located among all the partners. The consortium is a response to several problems that add up to a shortage of doctors in Southwest Georgia:

- Georgia overall is 47th in the nation in physician access, based on the number of physicians per 100,000 people.
- As of 2010, 85 percent of the graduates of the Medical College of Georgia did their residency out of state.
- A study by the Georgia Physicians Workforce Board, on which Lowry has served for six years, found that after physicians finish their residencies, 65 percent of them open practices within 65 miles of where they did their residency.

Add to those an expansion of health coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (often called Obamacare) and the number of physicians who are approaching retirement age.

Lowry said Georgia produces enough medical students; the problem is with residencies — which are officially called Graduate Medical Education, or GMEs.

“Once you graduate medical school, you are qualified to be a Walmart greeter,” Lowry said. The GME trains medical graduates to actually practice medicine on people. Representatives of the five hospitals formed a committee in 2010 to discuss starting a GME program in South Georgia, Lowry said. Each put in $100,000 — a total of $500,000, which was matched by the Medical College of Georgia. The committee hired consultants and made a plan. Eventually it applied for grants to help it move forward.

Jessica Rivenbark was hired as executive director in March, and the consortium’s office officially opened Friday.

The next step, Lowry said, is to hire a chief medical officer. A search firm has identified four physicians who want the job, and Lowry said interviews should take place in the latter part of August and negotiations in October with the doctor the consortium chooses. If all proceeds on schedule, the CMO would start in January.

The chief medical officer will be in charge of all five residency programs, each of which will also have a director. The first class will all be internists, and a new program will be added each year: General surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology and emergency room medicine are the other planned specialties.

Medical schools may or may not be at hospitals, Lowry said, but GMEs always are, and residents in the consortium’s GME will be scattered among the member hospitals. Each class is expected to have about three residents in each program at each of the five hospitals. Those numbers could have the program graduating 75 doctors each year once all the programs are in full swing.

“This program allows each hospital to have a residency program none could fund alone,” Rivenbark said.

Phoebe Putney in Albany already has a family medicine residency, and Lowry said it will remain independent for at least five years.

“After five years we’re confident Phoebe will want us to manage their GME and we’ll roll it right in,” he said.

Dr. Doug Patten, senior vice president at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, mentioned Phoebe’s program during an interview after Friday’s ceremony.

“We just see the consortium as an opportunity to grow that,” Patten said.

Although getting the GME started and growing it to five specialties over five years is all the consortium can handle at the moment, members are already looking beyond those challenges to Phase II.

In Phase II — whenever the consortium can implement it — the hospitals will be able to actively recruit South Georgia students to go to medical school, come back here for their residency and have a job waiting for them in the area, Lowry said.

The hospitals have been watching over students in their own communities for years, helping them where they could, but they couldn’t offer a contract until the student finished his or her residency because that’s when the doctor gets trained in a specialty.

“We can’t offer them a contract because we don’t know what they’re going to do,” Lowry said.

When everything’s up and running, though, the consortium will be able to tell a student, “If you go to medical school and do a residency in one of our programs, we know there will be an opening in that specialty in one of our five hospitals when you graduate.”

“I think Phase II will be the life blood of our system,” Lowry said.