

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Pomeroy Hospital Lands New Physician after 2 Year Search

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POMEROY, WA – After over two years of searching for a Medical Director to serve this small rural community, the commissioners of Garfield County Hospital District unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Glenn Houser to the post of Medical Director at their September board meeting. Dr. Houser is a Washington native and graduate of the University of Washington. Houser received his medical degree at Dartmouth Medical School in New Hampshire, and went on to complete his medical residency in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The physician is a welcome addition to this small rural hospital, located in Eastern Washington, after the District searched for over two years to find a replacement for long time physician Dr. Syed Zafar. Dr. Zafar left the hospital in August 2007 to join his family in Atlanta Georgia after serving as the districts' sole medical director for over seven years. The District says they hope Dr. Houser plans to stay even longer. "Everyone who has met Dr. Houser and his family seem to think they are a great fit for our community" said CEO, Andrew Craigie. Houser and his wife Cathy moved from Eureka Montana at the beginning of the month, just in time for daughter Beth to start school at Pomeroy High School with her new classmates. "We are really pleased to be able to welcome them to our community and so thankful to have someone with his talent lead our Medical Staff" added Craigie.

The Hospital District, which operates as Garfield County Memorial Hospital and Long term Care and Pomeroy Medical Clinic expects to see nearly 800 patients in their emergency room this year, provide over 5000 clinic visits and operates a nursing home that is consistently near capacity, all in this very rural community of just over 2,300. The

District has operated without a full-time medical director for the past two years but has utilized the talents of the several physician assistants and nurse practitioners who comprise the districts medical staff to sustain and even expand services to the community over the past few years.

Since the departure of Zafar the District has also had the support of two valley physicians, Dr. Elizabeth Black and Dr. Allen Ernster who, at different times over the past two years, served as interim Medical Directors until the new physician was recruited to the district. “We are so grateful to both, Dr. Black and Dr. Ernster for their leadership and support during this time, we could not have made it without them” said Commissioner Jim Maves, a retired Clinician who also represents the board at Medical Staff meetings. “We are also very thankful to the rest of our medical staff; Suzanne Grove, Lisa Barnes, and Josh Mayfield who are really to be applauded for keeping medical services alive and well in our community. It is really quite remarkable what we have to offer given the small size of our community. The people in our community really seem to value the care they receive here” added Maves.

Dr. Houser became Board Certified by the American Board of Family Practice in 1985; carries numerous advanced life support and trauma certifications and has served extensively as both an emergency physician and in family practice. His prior experience includes practicing at a number of rural hospitals in Washington State over a number of years including, Deer Park, Colville, Chewelah and Monroe. “He knows rural medicine and loves rural living, we are very excited to have him on board” concluded the district CEO.

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Contact: Andrew Craigie 509-843-1591 or 509-254-3248