



Medical Staff Report October 2025

Workforce Wellness

Although the summer season was remarkably busy as usual, our providers were able to have dedicated time off to spend with our families and to recharge our energies before the winter.

We will be challenged over the next year as our physician number decreases to three with Dr. Morgan's upcoming move back to Montana to be closer to his family. We wish him the best as he leaves PMC next month.

We are actively recruiting a physician to fill the upcoming vacancy; we will be bringing in locums providers to cover our needs in the meantime. Dr. Hess is working with the Alaska Family Medicine Residency program to rotate through Petersburg to expose their residents to our staff and community. Unfortunately, due to federal funding cuts, the residency program has been reduced from twelve interns/class to eight/class; this will limit the number of available trained AK area family physicians for the next few years.

Community Engagement

“Walk with a Doc” continues every 1-2 months with our providers sharing health topics with the community and encouraging walking as exercise.

We continue to be a UW Family Medicine Clerkship site and share our community with six students/year. A former MA from the clinic is now a medical student and will be here for the next rotation starting November 3. Dr. Hess just represented PMC at the biannual clerkship site meeting in Seattle.

One provider recently donated soft couches to the counseling room at Mitkof Middle School to help staff create a safe, calming space for students. Dr. Hess continues to serve on the board of Humanity in Progress.

Patient Centered Care

We are planning to bring endoscopy back to Petersburg starting in January; details are being finalized. Dr. Sonkiss continues to see patients with behavioral health needs by televideo and in person; he is a wonderful resource for our providers in helping to educate us and answer our questions.

We appreciate the increased recommendations from our pharmacist and registered dietician; their valuable input allows us to make more informed decisions in managing patient care.

The block call schedule started almost one year ago continues to be popular with providers and allows us to focus better on our assigned roles.

Dr. Burt is working on Sexual Assault Response Team online training and will attend in person training with Traci Vinson, RN in November. Dr. Hulebak has been studying for lifestyle medicine certification and is taking her exam in December.

Dr. Hulebak has also been working with Phil to develop a direct patient care program to help uninsured and underinsured community members receive affordable clinic medical care; details including contracts are still being worked out.

Facility

We are eagerly awaiting the MRI approval from the State!

Financial Wellness

As always, we strive to make appropriate clinical order and coding decisions as part of responsible practice.

Submitted by: Selina Burt, DO
