

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Sage Memorial Hospital is to provide quality healthcare for the Diné people with respect, unity, beauty, harmony in honor of K'é an the sacredness of life.

A publication from Sage Memorial Hospital

SAGE NEWS

VISION STATEMENT

Sage Memorial Hospital's vision is to embrace the Diné philosophy of life while delivering innovative healthcare.

First Quarter (OCT 2023 to DEC 2023)



Bee lá'í 'dli (Together/Unity) | Hodízin (Sacred) | Hózhó (Beauty/Balance) | H'íli (Respect)



Embracing Cultural Diversity in Mental Health Care: An Interview with Dr. Richard Laughter



PHOTO - Richard Laughter, MD

GANADO, Ariz. — Dr. Richard Laughter recently joined the Sage Memorial Hospital behavioral health team. He is the only Native American psychiatrist on the Navajo Nation. With over 15 years

of experience in psychiatry and a passion for embracing cultural diversity, Dr. Laughter talks about how traditional healing practices can help with mental health care. In this interview, he explains why

cultural elements are important in treatment and how they can help patients get better.

Traditional Healing Practices at Sage Memorial Hospital

Dr. Laughter envisions expanding the cultural diversity in mental health care by offering a variety of practices such as sweat lodges, hogans, teepees, and other traditional structures for patients to access. He also hopes to incorporate Christian practices for those who may not identify with traditional Native American beliefs.

“I envision bringing cultural elements into the hospital, like the Hogan and spiritual counselors. They could operate as a separate entity to serve the entire facility,” said Laughter. “This way, we can guide people there and make sure they get the specific prayers or support they need.”

These practices will work alongside other treatments like therapy and medication. The goal is to provide a well-rounded approach to healing, combining both Western and traditional medicine.

Other plans include; incorporating programs such as “Wellbriety” which is a Native American approach to healing addiction, and working with

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SAGE NEWS

The Newsletter of
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First Quarter FY 2024
(September to December)
No. 01

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CORRECTIONS

There was an error in the Q1 newsletter story about "Albert Tsosie and Shirlene Bigwater, who have provided exceptional care at SMH for four decades" (pg.7). In the newsletter, Albert Tsosie's photo was mistakenly labeled as "ALBERT YAZZIE" instead of "ALBERT TSOSIE". The digital copy has been corrected, but the physical copies still have the error. The error will be addressed in the next issue (Q2).

Message from the CEO



Melinda White, RN
CEO, Sage Memorial Hospital

Sage Memorial Hospital has made significant progress in fulfilling its mission of providing quality healthcare to the Diné people during fiscal year 2023.

Our exceptional executive team has been the cornerstone of our success, driving us to achieve these milestones and accomplishments throughout the year. Among our achievements is the successful completion of a Joint Commission CAH survey, which serves as a testament to our unwavering commitment to quality and safety in healthcare.

Additionally, we have expanded our healthcare services, enhancing our outpatient care, improving inpatient services, and expanding our community outreach through a mobile unit. These additional services aim to better serve our community and ensure that our services are readily

available to those in need.

However, none of this would be possible without our most number one asset – our dedicated employees. Each staff member plays an integral role in achieving our mission and vision.

As we look ahead to the future, Sage Memorial Hospital remains devoted to delivering healthcare services guided by our Diné culture and values. We are committed to serving the Diné people with respect, unity, beauty, and harmony in honor of K'é and the sacredness of life.

We anticipate the continued growth and success of Sage Memorial Hospital, ensuring the delivery of quality and innovative healthcare for our community.

Continued from Page. 1

Interview with Dr. Richard Laughter

community members who may be able to offer unique perspectives on treatment.

About Dr. Richard Laughter

Dr. Richard Laughter was raised in Salt Lake City, Utah, but frequently visited the Navajo reservation with his parents. His father hails from Shonto, Arizona, while his mother originates from Vanderwagon, New Mexico. His clans are Bit'an'nii, born for T'od'ich'nii. Maternal grandfather is Dibe'l izhini, and maternal grandfather is T'achil'nii. He is a veteran of the USMC and achieved the rank of Sergeant in the infantry.

He obtained his undergraduate degree in human biology from the University of Utah before completing his psychiatry residency at The University of Nevada in Reno. Subsequently, he pursued a Master's in Business Administration from Grand

Canyon University.

After graduating, Laughter moved to the Navajo Reservation and began working at Gallup Indian Medical Center. He spent four years there, making a big difference in his service-focused career.

"I have chosen to make this reservation area my home," said Laughter. "I have seen firsthand the challenges and disparities that our people face in accessing mental health care and I am committed to being a part of the solution."

AA Program (Wellbriety)

In addition to incorporating traditional healing practices, Sage Memorial Behavioral Health Services is also implementing the Native American 12 Step Program, "Wellbriety." This program was developed by White Bison and focuses on incorporating cultural teachings into the 12 steps.

Leroy Klassen, a Peer Support Specialist, has recently completed training in the Wellbriety 12 Steps and will be leading sessions Monday through Friday. The sessions will incorporate traditional elements such as talking circles, drumming and singing, prayer, and smudging.

Sage Memorial BHS is also in the process of setting up a sweat lodge and ordering materials for two teepees. They are also planning to hire a traditional practitioner to further incorporate cultural practices into treatment.

In addition to the Wellbriety program, Sage Memorial BHS also offers SAMHSA Matrix Substance Abuse groups, which consist of 54 lessons on coping skills. These groups alternate with Wellbriety sessions in both the morning and afternoon.

Sage Memorial Hospital Successfully Administers 1,086 Flu Vaccines During Three-Day Mass Flu Event

GANADO, Ariz. — Officials at Sage Memorial Hospital have reported a highly successful turnout at their annual Mass Flu Event. The event, which took place at the hospital's Wellness Center between October 19th and 21st, 2023, succeeded in administering 1,086 flu vaccines during the three-day event, according to Planning Section Chief, Trevaia Fowler.

The initial two days of the

event were dedicated to students, attracting participants from a range of local schools, including Ganado Unified School District, Greasewood Springs Community Schools and Kindalichii Olta. On the final day, the hospital opened its doors to community members, adding an extra 400+ vaccinations to their count.

CEO Melinda White expressed her gratitude to the community.

"We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming support and participation from the community. It is encouraging to witness the community's commitment to prioritizing their health."

Ganado Community member Marietta Dooline added, "I appreciate the fact that you're (Sage Memorial) is providing this (Flu Vaccine) on annual basis. It helps the community...I Myself

would rather get the vaccination then encounter a sickness by way of the flu - so I appreciate it."

The flu vaccine is highly recommended by healthcare professionals and has been proven to be an effective measure in preventing the spread of influenza. For more details about Sage Memorial Hospital and upcoming flu events, visit www.sagememorial.com/flu.




Sage Memorial Hospital
NAVAJO HEALTH FOUNDATION

Avoid The Flu!

Get your flu shot

REPORTED FLU CASES

On December 18, 2023

23

WALK-INS WELCOME

We are located at the junction of highway 191 & 264 in Ganado, AZ

For more info call : **(928) 755-4500** www.sagememorial.com



PHOTO (TOP-LEFT) - Several schools participated in the flu vaccination event.

PHOTO (BOTTOM-LEFT) - Patients being processed through the flu vaccination event.

PHOTO (RIGHT) - Social media posts illustrating the number of reported flu cases on December 18, 2024.

Sage Memorial Hospital Gains Support from Navajo Nation Council to Start Administering \$2.5 Million P4 Grant for Strengthening Food Security

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. —

The Naa'bik'iyati' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council convened on Nov. 16, giving final approval to a \$2.5 million Produce Prescription Pilot Program (P4) Grant, which will be administered by the Sage Memorial Hospital. With the approval, SMH, can now start utilizing funding resources from the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Services.

The purpose of the program is aimed at reducing food insecurity and improve health care outcomes among American Indian and Alaska Native people by increasing access to produce and other traditional foods within Native communities.

Melinda White, CEO of Sage Memorial Hospital, praised the council's endorsement of the grant, "We thank the Navajo Nation Council for their support in helping us address the issue of food insecurity and promoting healthier lifestyles on the Navajo Nation. This grant will greatly aid our efforts in providing access to fresh produce and nutrition education to our community."

The grant was awarded in the amount of \$500,000 per year for five years, commencing on July



PHOTO - Sage Memorial staff pictured with Navajo Nation Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez.

1, 2023, and concluding on June 30, 2028. The initiative plans to involve 200 community members from Wide Ruins, Klagetoh, Kinlichee, and Greasewood, who experience obstacles to accessing fresh produce. The program aims to collaborate with healthcare and food sector organizations to

establish Produce Prescription Programs. These programs will provide eligible participants with fruit and vegetable vouchers to enhance their access to fresh produce at local markets.

SMH is one of five tribal organizations to receive the grant. Other successful awardees include:

Laguna Healthcare Corporation, Paraje, NM; Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, OK; Sage Memorial Hospital, Ganado, AZ; Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Tucson, AZ; and Rocky Boy Health Center, Box Elder, MT. For more details on the P4 please visit www.sagememorial.com/p4

Happy Veterans Day



PICTURED LEFT-TO-RIGHT
 MARVIN OWENS, U.S. ARMY
 DAN SMITH III, U.U. MARINES
 DAWN BOWENS, U.S. AIR FORCE
 JON-MYKAL TSINAJINNIE, U.S NAVY
 BRENT WAUNKA, U.S. MARINES
 CLIFTON BIA, U.S. MARINES
 MATTHEW MACH, U.S. ARMY
 JOSEPH MILES, U.S. NAVY
 DAVID SALABYE, U.S. ARMY
 CHARLOTTE RIECK, U.S. NAVY
 JEFFERSON JAMES, U.S. MARINES

PHOTO UNAVAILABLE
 ANDREW SIMPSON, U.S. MARINES
 MARTHA HOWERTON, U.S. NAVY
 GABRIEL BIA, U.S. ARMY
 JENNIFER CLY, U.S. ARMY
 MARCO NEZ, U.S. NAVY
 DR. MARK BOLTON, U.S. AIR FORCE
 KEVIN RIDDERHOFF, U.S. ARMY
 RUDOLPH VERDUGO, U.S. ARMY
 DR. JOHN BARBERII, U.S. AIR FORCE

Employees of the Month

ZELLA WILSON

August 2023

Zella Wilson is a fantastic employee who is a tremendous asset to the emergency department. Ms. Wilson is dedicated and hard-working. She is extremely organized and committed to constantly learning. She is efficient and effective in developing best practices for managing routine activities. Ms. Wilson brings a positive attitude and personal touch of care to the patients, making them comfortable, and ensuring their needs are taken care of. Ms. Zella Wilson easily establishes and maintains relationships with the providers, ED staff, and other colleagues, patients, and visitors. She understands the department's implicit needs and initiates ideas to support the department efforts. She has been at Sage for many years, showing her dedication of the values of Sage Memorial Hospital: Bee lá'í dl (Together/Unity), Hodílzín (Sacred), Hózhó (Beauty/Balance), H'í (Respect)

JONATHAN HUBBARD

September 2023



Mr. Jonathan Hubbard is an outstanding employee and makes a positive impact within his department and SMH as a whole.

Mr. Hubbard never hesitates to assist others when needed and is always completing tasks in a timely, efficient manner. His positive attitude and friendly character make it a joy to work with him. Mr. Hubbard greets and addresses patients to the correct areas, explaining locations and other workflow processes and does so in Navajo when needed. His knowledge professionalism, and work ethic show great leadership qualities that is widely recognized. Overall, he practices compassion, leadership, and perseverance through excellent display of character. SMH Mission, Vision, and Values are represented well with Mr. Jonathan Hubbard. SMH is appreciative of your service, ahe'hee!

MELISSA BEGAY

October 2023



Melissa has shown what it means to be a true Sage Employee. She always works with a positive attitude and always has a smile. Melissa is an

employee you can always depend on especially when the department is short staffed. Melissa shows up to work early to check in patients to see them in a timely manner. She has shown good customer service skills, greets patients as they walk in and out of our dental clinic, as well as having over-the phone conversations. She completes an overwhelming, multi-tasking job with ease and with a good attitude and her wonderful work. Melissa is dependable, excellent quality as an employee, a good example of good customer service, very respectful to coworkers and patients. We appreciate the tasks she takes care of every day with grace and kindness.

Success of Art Program's Call for Artists

GANADO, Ariz. — We're excited to announce that our recent call for artists was a huge success! Thanks to the amazing support from the artist community, we received an incredible 1,466 art entries. This response surpassed our expectations and showed us just how passionate and dedicated artists are in supporting our mission.

Every single piece of art submitted was unique, showcasing the incredible creativity and diversity of our participants. We are grateful to everyone who took part in this initiative and appreciate their effort and willingness to share their talents for such a great cause. We are currently in the jurying process of this call for art and expect to have a selection by February. We can't wait to reveal the selected artworks and celebrate the talented individuals behind them. Stay tuned for more updates at www.sagememorial.com/canvasofcare.

Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health Partners with SMH Dental Clinic

GANADO, Ariz. — Sage Memorial Hospital Dental Clinic takes a significant step in shaping the future of dental education in collaboration with the Arizona

School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ATSU-ASDOH). This collaboration aims to provide students with a rich clinical experience while contributing to the SMH's mission

and goals.

Dr. Wayne W. Cottam, Vice Dean of ASDOH recently visited the clinic and praised the work being done by members of the dental team. "I was pleased to see the commitment you have here. The more at home students feel, the more they will want to tell their friends and when it comes to recruitment there will already be people here."

Dr. Cottam emphasized the significance of hands-on experience in the students' learning journey. "We strive to provide our students with opportunities where they can experience first-hand the care provided to the community at Sage Memorial. Importantly, our objective is to send students who will be instrumental in enhancing the clinic's operations," he said.

Under this partnership, four students will be participating in the program and rotate through the Sage Memorial Hospital Dental Clinic for 4-5 weeks, one at a time. For many, this will be the first time they are exposed to a clinic operation of this magnitude, adding further depth to their education with the unique cultural and historical context of Historical site (Ganado Mission), on the Navajo Nation.

Kathleen Poole, DDS, Dental Director stated, "We are excited to introduce the students of ASDOH to the Sage Memorial Hospital Dental Clinic and all of the opportunities this new site brings. We are excited to provide them with a quality experience that will help shape their career path in dentistry."



PHOTO - Kathleen Poole, DDS, SMH Dental Director and Dr. Wayne W. Cottam, Vice Dean of ASDOH



Mobilizing Healthcare: A 2024 Preview



PHOTO - Mobile health unit providing services to the community of Nazlini.

GANADO, Ariz. — We are thrilled to announce that the Mobile Health Unit will be back on the road in 2024 to bring vital healthcare services directly to communities. Our mission is to ensure that everyone, no matter where they are, has access to quality healthcare. We have an action-packed schedule for the first quarter, from January to March, with regular stops at various chapters.

We kick off the year by visiting the Greasewood Chapter on January 2nd. From there, we

will be traveling to Kinlichee, Steamboat, Wide Ruins, Cornfields, Nazlini, Klagetoh, and Ganado Chapters. Finally, we will conclude the month with a visit to Burnside Lowe's. The good news is that we will continue to serve the same locations in February and March, so everyone can receive the care they need.

Our dedicated team of healthcare professionals offers a wide range of services. We provide COVID and Influenza Clinics, DM Screening and Education, Sexual Healthcare, HIV/Syphilis

tests, STI Screening/Treatment, Harm Reduction Services, Walk-in Services, Adult Immunizations, and assistance with School and Employment Physicals. We are here to address your healthcare needs and ensure your well-being.

The Mobile Health Unit plays a crucial role in our community.

Stay tuned for more updates and we look forward to seeing you on the road!

MOBILE UNIT SCHEDULE

- January**
- 01/02- Greasewood Chapter
 - 01/04- Kinlichee Chapter
 - 01/09- Steamboat Chapter
 - 01/11- Wide Ruins Chapter
 - 01/16- Cornfields Chapter
 - 01/18- Nazlini Chapter
 - 01/23- Klagetoh Chapter
 - 01/25- Ganado Chapter
 - 01/30 - Burnside Lowe's

- February**
- 02/02- Kinlichee Chapter
 - 02/06- Greasewood Chapter
 - 02/08- Wide Ruins Chapter
 - 02/13- Steamboat Chapter
 - 02/15- Nazlini Chapter
 - 02/20- Cornfields Chapter
 - 02/22- Ganado Chapter
 - 02/27- Klagetoh Chapter
 - 02/29- Burnside Lowe's

- March**
- 03/05- Greasewood Chapter
 - 03/07- Kinlichee Chapter
 - 03/12- Steamboat Chapter
 - 03/14- Wide Ruins Chapter
 - 03/19- Cornfields Chapter
 - 03/21- Nazlini Chapter
 - 03/26- Klagetoh Chapter
 - 03/28- Ganado Chapter

Sage Memorial Hospital Debuts 2024 Wall Calendars

GANADO, Ariz. — Sage Memorial Hospital is excited to announce the release of its 2024 Wall Calendars. The calendars, are now available for collection at our Patient Experience desk in the Poncel Hall building, located on our campus. They can also be picked up at any of our service area chapter houses (Ganado, Steamboat, Klagetoh, Wide Ruins,

Greasewood Springs, Cornfields, Kinlichee, Nazlini).

This year's calendar highlights a picture of the new hospital which is scheduled to open in the summer of this year.

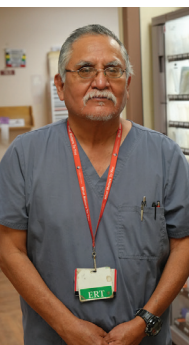
"We invite all community members to grab their copy today and stay organized all year round with SMH," said Director of Public Relations and Marketing Christian Bigwater.

PHOTO (RIGHT) - Chief Nursing Officer, Charlotte Seaton stands with a 2024 Sage Memorial Hospital wall calendar



Albert Tsosie and Shirlene Bigwater: The Individuals Who Have Provided Exceptional Care at SMH for Four Decades

GANADO, Ariz. — Albert Tsosie and Shirlene Bigwater have been dedicated employees of Sage Memorial Hospital for many years, contributing a combined 79 years of service and witnessing the hospital's growth firsthand. Their commitment to their work is evident in their long tenure at the hospital. They have not only delivered outstanding healthcare services to patients but also served as mentors and role models to younger employees. We interviewed them about their journey at Sage Memorial Hospital, their reflections on the changes over the years, and their advice for new and future employees.



INTERVIEW WITH 40 YEAR RECIPIENT ALBERT TSOISIE

Albert Tsosie joined Sage Memorial Hospital in August 1983 and has been a valued member of the team for over 40 years.

Q: What inspired you to stay with Sage Memorial Hospital (SMH) for almost four decades?

It is helping & giving my utmost assistance to our community.

Q: In your perspective, what has been the most significant transformation SMH over the years?

A: I believe that the most transformation is having our new hospital build & our new CEO, Melinda White, coming on board.

Q: Can you share a notable experience or project that you were involved in during your tenure?

A: Since I started in August 1983, I started teaching as an BLS instructor with the American Heart Association which I've started in the summer of 1984. Since then, I've taught hundreds of BLS classes through the years of being here. It's something I had enjoyed doing helping people to learn basic life support.

ALBERT TSOISIE
40 years

Q: How has your role evolved throughout the years?

A: My role here since 1983 has pretty much evolved from being a Arizona Intermediate EMT, Surgical Tech, Patient Care Technician. Presently, I'm certified as a Medical Assistant.

Q: What advice would you give to newcomers joining SMH?

A: Here's a few of my advice to newcomers is: Just be yourself. Make a strong impression. Always make an extra effort to help others. Set boundaries for yourself. Do your job to the best of your ability.

Q: Can you mention a person or event that had an impact on your career within SMH?

A: Ok, I have to say that my former EMS Supervisor, Nathan David, had a significant impact on my career. Secondly, ERT Zella Wilson, of the ER Dept..

Q: What accomplishment are you most proud of in your lengthy career with us?

A: My accomplishments? That has to be our SMH patients that come here for their healthcare management thanking my services I've provided during their visits. It's a great feeling when you hear someone appreciating your assistance.

Q: How have you witnessed the industry evolve over time?

A: A lot has changed since 1983 in the medical industry. For example, we didn't wear PPEs when treating a patient whether it was in the ER dept or out in the field working a motor vehicle accident.

Q: What are your anticipations for the future of SMH?

A: My anticipation is that SMH will grow to being one of the best Rural Hospitals in Northern Arizona. I hope I will continue to be part of that happening for the future of SMH for the next few years!



SHIRLENE BIGWATER
39 years

INTERVIEW WITH 39 YEAR RECIPIENT SHIRLENE BIGWATER

Shirlene Bigwater has been a dedicated employee of Sage Memorial Hospital for 39 years.

Q: What inspired you to stay with Sage Memorial

Hospital (SMH) for almost four decades?

A: At first it was for my kids, they all wanted to graduate from Ganado. Church, nice place to raise children, convenient, enclosed area, 24 hour security, friendly environment, co-workers and lab managers, past and present making it an enjoyable pleasant place to work, thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Q: In your perspective, what has been the most significant transformation SMH over the years?

A: Waiting almost forty years for a new hospital. Thank you, current Admin and Board for making it a reality. Can't wait to see the finished product.

Q: Can you share a notable experience or project that you were involved in during your tenure?

A: I did not go to Baltimore for formal training on the old Meditech LIS system. I was responsible for learning to build tests, interface with TRICORE reference lab. (at that time). I had to learn, because techs were coming and going. Today, we have people who are willing to learn new instrumentations and procedures. I feel confident to retire.

Q: How has your role evolved throughout the years?

A: Started out as a lab generalist bench tech, as the years went by I am now a General Supervisor, more responsibilities, more expectations.

Q: What advice would you give to

newcomers joining SMH?

A: You have to care for the people and love your job.

Q: Can you mention a person or event that had an impact on your career within SMH?

A: Marlene Gleason, and FJ, both encouraged, taught, believed, stood up for the lab and always strived for perfection. Dr. Rizwan was also a caring Supervisor. Only once I was put on a 3 day suspension, but thank God for Administrators that know their employees. The temporary contract Lab Manager packed up and left town by the end of the week.

Q: What accomplishment are you most proud of in your lengthy career with us?

A: Always passing our inspections, and our proficiency testing, we never had to discontinue any testing because of failing. (knock on wood) Before our current Lab manager came, we did have some inspections with high deficiencies, I believe it was because they were only here temporarily and did not care enough. It seems as the years go by, with new testing and procedures, there's more to look out for and review.

Q: How have you witnessed the industry evolve over time?

A: New instrumentations, new procedures, new diseases and different testing techniques, faster walk away testing, even in blood bank, we will be able to just load our specimens and let the analyzer do the procedure, of course we would have to check it then release the results. I'm waiting for the instrumentation, where all you need is one fingerstick and you get your CMP's and CBC in less than a minute. Today, Medical Technologist is known as a Medical Laboratory Scientist.

Q: What are your anticipations for the future of SMH?

A: To be the hospital of choice, less send outs, larger inhouse test menu. Because of new specialized services. No need to transfer patients elsewhere.

Meet the Executives Driving Innovation at Sage Memorial Hospital, including the Newly Appointed Chief Medical Officer

GANADO, Ariz. — Sage Memorial Hospital is proud to introduce its esteemed team of hospital executives. Combining decades of experience in healthcare, government, finance, marketing, and administration, these talented individuals have come together to ensure the health and well-being of our community.



Leading the charge as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is Melinda White, who has more than 15 years' healthcare leadership experience. She holds a Bachelor

of Science in Nursing from Northern Arizona University, a Master of Health Administration, and a Master of Nursing from the University of Phoenix. Melinda also attained a Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law from the University of Tulsa.

Overseeing finances is Cheryl Thompson who serves as the Chief Financial Officer for Sage Memorial Hospital. She is an accomplished finance

professional with over two decades of experience in multiple roles. She began her career at the Navajo Housing Authority, managing grants under the Housing Urban Development program. Cheryl also held roles such as Financial Controller at Diné College, Finance Manager at

CCRC, Inc. and Finance Director at the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority. Cheryl holds a BA in Business from Northern Arizona University, an MS in Higher Education with a specialization in Leadership from Capella University, and an MS in Accounting from Purdue Global University.



Tina James-Tafoya, MHA, is the Chief Operations Officer at Sage Memorial Hospital, bringing over 11 years of healthcare experience to the role. Her previous positions include Patient Relations

Manager, Patient Advocate, Professional Development Director, Public Affairs Director, and Chief Administrative Officer. Tina holds a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism, as well as a Master's degree in Healthcare Administration (MHA) from the University of New Mexico (UNM).



Charlotte Seaton, BSN, RN holds the position of Chief Nursing Officer at Sage Memorial Hospital and possesses over 25 years' worth of experience in the healthcare and nursing fields.

Seaton earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northern Arizona University and began her registered nursing career in the medical/surgical unit at Sage

Memorial Hospital.



Christian Bigwater is the Director of Public Relations/Marketing at Sage Memorial Hospital. With more than two decades of experience on Navajo Nation, he specializes in marketing, communication, and promotion. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Northern Arizona University, emphasizing on communication and promotion.



Jarom Prows is the Director of Facilities at Sage Memorial Hospital. Jarom has been working in healthcare for over 17 years, covering everything from construction to

design to operations. He has an Associates degree in Design and Drafting, a Bachelors of Science degree in Construction Management, and recently earned his Masters of Science in Health Administration from Grand Canyon University.



Rounding off the team is newly appointed Chief Medical Officer Kenneth Anaeme, MD, FACP, FAAP, CWSP, ABPM/UHM, Chief Medical

Officer. Dr Anaeme obtained his medical degree with Honors in Pharmacology from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria in 1988. After an Internship at the University College Hospital in Ibadan, he went on to serve for one year with the Nigerian Air Force Hospital as part of the mandatory National Youth Service Program. Later he went on to complete a dual residency in Internal medicine and Pediatrics at The University of Illinois in Chicago in 1992. After several years of practice in Illinois, Dr. Anaeme relocated to Arizona in 2002 where he currently practices as an Internist and Pediatrician. Since 2005 Dr Anaeme has expanded his clinical practice to include the provision of Advanced Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine services, achieving board certification in the field of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine in 2009.

With the appointment of the CMO, the executive team is now complete and ready to take on the challenge of providing excellent healthcare services. "I am incredibly proud of the executive team we have put together at Sage Memorial Hospital," said SMH CEO Melinda White. "Each leader brings a unique set of skills and experience to our team, which will ensure that all patients receive the highest quality of care in a safe and compassionate environment."

We are excited about our new hospital coming soon. Stay up-to-date at www.sagememorial.com/grandopening