

August 22, 2022

Since our founding in 1888, our ministry has always met the needs of the communities we serve. One of the services that was identified in this year's Community Health Needs Assessment was emotional and behavioral health services. That's why we are currently working through a plan to expand our current behavioral health services in 2023. More details will be coming out very soon on how we plan to achieve this.

Because of the growth we have seen the last several years, one of our challenges as we look to grow is that our hospital is running out of space. This is a good problem to have. However, this makes us look at our existing hospital space to make sure we are using this space as efficiently as possible.

As a first step in being able to offer additional behavioral health services, we need to modify how our hospice program is currently structured. Our hospice program, in partnership with Arkansas Hospice, has been housed on 5W of our hospital as a stand-alone hospice unit. **Effective Sept. 1**, Arkansas Hospice will no longer occupy 5W, but instead they will partner with us to provide the same level of hospice care in the patient's existing hospital room. The majority of the time we will attempt to move these hospice patients to 2 West. This will open up much needed space on 5 West for our future growth needs. Our clinical teams are working with the Arkansas Hospice leadership to make sure this transition is smooth.

Please extend every courtesy to Arkansas Hospice as this transition occurs and let your direct supervisor know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Douglas Ross, MD FACEP
Market Chief Medical Officer & President, Hot Springs