

# OCTOBER 2020 Hot Topics

## Cancer Support

Patients can find relief from the stressful financial burden of a cancer diagnosis through our assistance with gas and groceries, free screenings, and support groups.

## Meet Sue Andersen President & CEO

**Where did you grow up?** Born and raised in the Inland Empire, specifically Ontario California

**What do you like most about working for our hospital?** When I started working as an internal auditor and was assigned to audit hospitals in LA County, I thought that was not a good assignment. However, I quickly learned that it was the best assignment because hospitals are businesses but with a wonderful human component.

We are able to help and change the life of people. Through the pandemic I have really seen what happens when a team of people work together on a common goal. Our team has been amazing.

**What is your favorite thing to watch?** Sports. I love them all but especially like watching the Dodgers. My kids say that I am addicted to sports and would watch curling if it was on.

**What is your favorite patient story?** There are so many. I love the patients that we are discharging after they recover from COVID. Some of them are in the hospital for months and our entire team comes together to cheer them on and wish them well as they discharge.



## Acute Rehabilitation

The **20-bed** Acute Rehabilitation Center is the only one of its kind within a 100-mile radius.

**Stroke Certified since 2015** Received Advanced Primary Stroke Center Certification by the Joint Commission. Offers specialized services for stroke patients.

## Our Hospital

**Mission** Dignity Health and Arroyo Grande Community Hospital are committed to furthering the healing ministry of Jesus. We dedicate our resources to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable health services, serving and advocating for our sisters and brothers who are poor and disenfranchised, and partnering with others in the community to improve the quality of life.

Opened in **1962** by four pioneering, community-focused physicians with the same spirit that guides the hospital strategy today.

**2019 #'s**  
**2,672** admissions  
**23,573** ER visits  
**602** inpatient surgeries  
**808** outpatient surgeries  
**8,724** CT scans  
**1,576** MRI scans

**Beds: 67** (39 General Care, 20 Acute Rehabilitation, 8 Intensive Care) **Overview**

**Employees: 387**

**Medical Services Available:** Acute Rehabilitation; Cancer Care; Emergency Services; Surgery; Imaging; Intensive Care; Laboratory Services; Medical/Surgical Inpatient Care; Neurological Care; Orthopedic Services; Physical, Speech and Respiratory Therapy

**Service Area Cities:** Arroyo Grande, Oceano, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, Nipomo Population: 79,811  
In 2015, the South County service area was declared a

**Medically Underserved Area/Population** by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This means that residents in the area have a shortage of health services and the area includes large groups of people who face economic, cultural, or linguistic barriers to health care. This makes AGCH an important

## Last month we learned:

Sue Andersen provided an update about COVID-19 in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. Both counties currently have widespread cases. The virus is spread mainly at social gatherings. Our local hospitals have been able to continue operations safely.

## Dignity Health's Five Core Values

Compassion • Inclusion • Integrity • Excellence • Collaboration

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## AGCH Foundation

began operating in 2006 to support the mission of the hospital.

## Arroyo Grande Community Hospital Foundation

SupportArroyoGrande.org



Arroyo Grande  
Community Hospital Foundation.  
A Dignity Health Member

## Upcoming Dates

**Next Board Meeting:** November 5th

**CPPF and HTSS Celebration (Zoom):** Sunday, November 15th

**Call-a-thon:** December 8th

**Comedy Night:** March 2021

## Our Current Funding Priorities:

- Emergency Support Fund
- Mission Hope Arroyo Grande:
  - Cancer Care Fund
  - Cancer Rehabilitation Program
  - Transport to Treatment Program
- Acute Rehabilitation Center:
  - Recreational Therapy Program
- Behavioral Health Services
- Parking Solution
- Surgical Services
- Spiritual Care Services

## We are masking for COVID-19, why get a flu shot?

*A message from Dignity Health Central Coast Infection Prevention*

Fall is here, and with it comes the time to consider getting your annual flu shot. You may wonder if it is important to get your flu shot this year, as we are wearing masks in public. This will undoubtedly help prevent many illnesses. However, the flu virus is already circulating. We don't yet have a vaccine for COVID-19, but if we can prevent the flu, shouldn't we? This year is a good match vaccine.

Key Facts:

- Influenza is potentially fatal
- The vaccine is designed to prevent mortality and in 60% of cases prevent influenza altogether
- The oath of healthcare is "to do no harm"

How to Stay Well:

- Get a flu shot
- Wash your hands
- Stay home if sick
- Pandemic masking
- Social distancing

Board members are invited to get their flu shot with our Employee Health department. Contact the Foundation at (805) 994-5421 for assistance to set up an appointment.

### Visitation Guidelines Update

Visitors are now welcome between the hours of 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. under the following guidelines:

- All visitors will have a screening temperature and will be asked 3 screening questions
- All visitors must be 16 years of age or older
- Visitation is not permitted to COVID-19 positive patients who are still on isolation
- Only one designated Care Partner per patient is allowed in the hospital
- Visitors are encouraged to enter through the main hospital entrance
- We are offering patients the convenience of electronic communication options, including video availability, as an alternative to hospital visitation