

# AUGUST 2020 Hot Topics

## Meet **Dr. Karl Sandin,** Medical Director, Acute Rehabilitation Unit

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Chicago and Minneapolis

**What is your position at our hospital?** I am the medical director of the rehabilitation unit at AG

**What do you like most about working for our hospital?** I like the fact that the rehabilitation unit is a big fish in a small-ish campus, so that the theory and practice of medical rehabilitation can be front of mind in care.

**What is your favorite patient story?** When I was medical director of the rehabilitation hospital in Santa Barbara, I admitted a woman with a new spinal cord injury after a fall from a horse in Santa Ynez. She was grieving what she perceived she wouldn't be able to do and I almost off handedly said "we'll get you back up on that horse." I didn't know what an equestrienne she was and how important riding was to her, so those simple words gave her all the fuel she needed to power through her rehab program. She indeed ended up riding again, being on our hospital board, and being a strong advocate for women with SCI. Lesson: simple words can be powerful.

**How has your work changed or been impacted by COVID-19?** Covid-19 causes all sorts of disabilities so we have had quite a few different types of Covid surviving patients. Each one presents with very different findings and clinical course.



## Dignity Health's Five Core Values

Dignity • Collaboration • Justice • Stewardship • Excellence

**Last month we learned:** Mark Allen, Chief Operations Office provided an update on Arroyo Grande Community Hospital operations as COVID-19 restrictions are adjusted within the community. Elective surgeries have started again, focusing on medically necessary cases first. Surgeons meet weekly and use a scoring system to determine which cases should be a priority. If COVID-19 cases increase again the hospital wants to avoid shutting off surgeries again, but turn the volume of cases down. All pre-op patients are getting COVID-19 tested. Emergency Department visits are also increasing, currently 80% of normal volume.

A modification of the Acute Rehabilitation Center license has been extended to Marian Regional Medical Center to treat COVID-19 patients that require longer care and need to stay on ventilators, while still receiving rehabilitative therapies. Without this program flex, patients would have to travel more than 100 miles out of the area for treatment.

## Our Hospital

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

**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.

**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

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## AGCH Foundation

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

## Arroyo Grande Community Hospital Foundation

[SupportArroyoGrande.org](http://SupportArroyoGrande.org)



Arroyo Grande  
Community Hospital Foundation.  
A Dignity Health Member

## Upcoming Dates

**Next Board Meeting:** September 3rd

**Moving for Hope:** August 15th

**Carrol Pruett Philanthropic Fraternity Meeting:** August 23rd

**Hoelle Tompkins Sisterhood Society Meeting:** September 13th

## Our Current Funding Priorities:

- Emergency Support Fund
- Mission Hope Arroyo Grande:
  - Cancer Care Fund
  - Cancer Rehabilitation Program
  - Lung GPS Patient Management Platform
  - Transport to Treatment Program
- Acute Rehabilitation Center:
  - Recreational Therapy Program
  - Recreational Therapy Garden
- Behavioral Health Services
- Parking Solution
- Surgical Services:
  - Mini C-Arm & Positioning Equipment
- Spiritual Care Services

## Fund Spotlight

### Emergency Support Fund

The Emergency Support Fund was established in March of 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund is intended to support the health and well-being of our frontline caregivers, as well as, help with the extraordinary costs the hospital may incur during this and future challenging times. To date, The Arroyo Grande Hospital Foundation has received a total of \$90, 574.74 in donated funds and gifts-in-kind.

