

SEPTEMBER 2021 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 Casey Carlson

Where did you grow up? Springville, Utah. Arroyo Grande reminds me of my hometown, a nice small downtown with an agricultural base and a strong sense of community. **What is your position at our hospital?** Senior Director of Imaging for MRMC & AGCH **What do you like most about working for our hospital?** Providing high level imaging care to the community. I previously worked for Dignity Health in Bakersfield and Santa Cruz as a director, this experience allowed for an understanding of the Mission and Values that I personally share and support. My passion is advancing imaging services. I have been fortunate to see many advancements in my 30 years in imaging and I am proud to say imaging has saved and changed lives. **What is your favorite thing to watch?** Anything that has to do with nature, technology and science. **What is your favorite patient story?** I joined Lucille Packard Children's Hospital Stanford in 2016 to be a part of a major expansion of services, including molecular imaging and nuclear medicine to treat advanced pediatric cancer. This proved to be lifesaving for an 8 year girl with a neuroendocrine cancer who had exhausted all other treatments, and whose parents were told she would have 3-6 months to live. She was the first to be treated with this advancement. Within two weeks she received her first of three therapies that required a one week stay in the hospital. She responded well with the initial treatment, which provided the family hope and the care team confidence. With the second treatment she was feeling better and it resulted in a nearly 90% reduction in her cancer. The third treatment cured her with no signs of the cancer on the PET/MRI! I still tear up to this day thinking of her and the miracle of modern day medicine, especially medical imaging. This is my favorite patient story because my team and I spent hundreds of hours in planning and finally enabling treatment that is lifesaving. **How has your work changed or been impacted by COVID-19?** Imaging services have a significant role in the diagnosis, treatment and ongoing care of COVID-19 patients. Every day the professionals in imaging services are directly supporting care that is inspiring for me to be a part of.



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

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 resource for our community, and we need to grow to meet the need.

Last month we learned:

The OR modernization project is underway, and in the Emergency Department, behavioral health support has been implemented and a new ultrasound machine has been purchased. The new hospitalist group provides round-the-clock care on site. Future plans include doubling the **capacity of the ARU** and a new MRI.

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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

Golf n' Grub: November 12

Next Board Meeting: October 7

Comedy Night: March 12, 2022

Golf n' Grub 2021 **POSTPONED**

New Date:
November 12,
2021

Mission Hope Cancer Center - Arroyo Grande Program Update

The Cancer Rehabilitation Center opened in January 2021 and has since provided over 500 classes, with exercise classes contingent on COVID-19 restrictions. Our own former Foundation Board Chair Julie Coleman and her fellow instructors at Pure Pilates teach a Pilates class for the program! Julie said, "It's wonderful to see the resilience of these clients. Every one of them has such an amazing attitude, even while going through what I imagine is the hardest challenge of their lives. We all have been humbled and so impressed by it. They are willing and excited to maintain their health and fitness. It's so great to have the Cancer Rehabilitation Program to help them achieve their goals."

Meanwhile, the Cancer Care Fund and Transport to Treatment Program served patients in the following ways from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021:

- 75 Gas Cards
- 46 Grocery Cards
- 24 in Financial Assistance
- - Cancer Support Groups (on hold during pandemic)
- 18 Psychosocial Counseling Sessions
- 21 Genetic Counseling Sessions
- 15 Colonoscopy Screenings
- 76 Nutritional Counseling Sessions
- 455 Transports to Treatment

