

April 20 2009

## Superintendent's Message: Behavioral Health Integration Project Update

By now, all of you are familiar with BHIP and how important it is to our plans for the future and, eventually the entire mental health services delivery system for the State of Oregon. I want you to also know that I recently agreed, along with AMH Deputy Administrator Madeline Olson, to be executive co-sponsor of BHIP.

Taking on this challenge was important to me because I'm convinced this hospital has the potential and the people to become a top-tier facility. The new electronic health record (EHR) system that we plan to implement will provide us with tools to improve our already excellent service, keep records that will make our jobs easier in the long run, and better document the important work done here every day.

In these challenging times, we all have our hands full with day-to-day issues. It's tempting to focus only on those issues confronting us right now. But it's more important than ever that we take steps today to improve our situation for tomorrow. By creating a modern system for treatment and recovery, we are empowering our patients and staff with powerful outcomes. Our treatment teams are doing amazing work, and the treatment malls now provide a wider

range of programs within a day for many of our patients....a range of programs we could scarcely have imagined a year or two ago. The success of recent service enhancements are even more impressive given that they've been accomplished using limited and outdated technology.

The EHR system will allow easier scheduling and more efficient charting. Duplications in reporting will be reduced or eliminated. Learning this system will make the results of your daily efforts more visible by clearly showing the quality and quantity of the great work being done here. Ben Kahn, Madeline and I will continue to provide you with progress updates and will do everything we can to ensure this initiative is successful.

Thank you for your contribution to the important work we do at OSH every day.