

The Need for Community Support

The Rural Hospital Crisis

"Long live fewer hospitals." This is what Obamacare architect Ezekiel Emanuel writes. Since 2010, rural health facilities have closed at a rate of about one per month. Unfunded Obamacare mandates, such as the Electronic Medical Records, take up 1/3 of our operating budget. Private insurance is becoming prohibitively expensive, forcing patients onto payors like Medicaid, which does not pay enough to cover costs. Rangely Hospital District receives 65% of its funding through Medicare and Medicaid, and is thus forced to comply with these regulations.

Another important source of funding is the mil levy, but these revenues have been cut by more than half since 2010. Considering how many services are in one levy, like the Clinic, Ambulance, and Extended Care services, the impact on the hospital is large. Other communities have separate levies for the same services or they are privately owned.

The support of the community is absolutely essential to Rangely Hospital District's survival. We have already responded to the challenges presented. Expenses have been cut wherever possible. For example, fiber optics has saved us half a million dollars per year in EMR costs.

Employee vacancies - including nursing, ancillary services, and one physician position - have not been filled. Cost-of-living raises have been withheld for four years. Employee retirement matching has been reduced, and employees' contributions for health insurance have increased significantly.

Unless our fortunes turn around rapidly, Rangely Hospital District is now left with two options: increase tax revenue or begin cutting services. Healthcare staffing requirements are strict, and losing people will mean losing the services provided.

The Solution

Our community cannot rely on the government to help us. In fact, the federal government is the primary antagonist of Rural Health. We are already expecting another \$1.4 million dollar loss in income as the government is planning to cut the 340(b) and Provider Fee programs. However, a small mil levy increase will allow our community to move forward without a dramatic loss.

By voting to increase the mil levy, the monthly tax would only raise to \$23.83 per \$100,000 home. That's just under \$10 more than what it currently is. However, this increase would ONLY last through 2025 when the new facility is completely paid for.

At that point, the levy for the building would drop off, and the effective tax rate will end up being slightly lower than it is right now. Not only is the increased cost minimal to keep our community strong, it is only temporary. The alternative would be trying to imagine which service you or your loved ones can live without.

This vote is about protecting Rangely from suffering decline. Rural towns that lose their hospitals lose residents and businesses. This community will sacrifice vital health services, businesses will suffer or close down, and the town will shrink. In order for RDH to stay viable, services like the clinic and pharmacy need funding. Wages must stay competitive to recruit and retain employees. The benefit of our employee salaries to the Rangely economy, what those employees spend on local goods and services, can range from \$12-60 million a year!

We've spent only what was required by government regulation and cut expenses as much as possible. The last step is the community coming together to support each other. We have a choice: a positive vote to keep the hospital and all of the services or lose most of what we currently have.



Visiting Specialist:

- **General Surgery:** Dr. Morse treats over 100 patients in the specialty clinic annually. We don't perform surgery but he does consults and specialty procedures like colonoscopies.
- **Audiology:** Hearing aid Specialist (Jim Carlson) is here every other week treating patients in the clinic.
- **Cardiology:** Dr. Laws, schedule variable

EMS Service with Critical Care:

- 239 calls to 911 responded to last year.
- 59 Ambulance transfers from our ER to higher level care last year.
- 24 calls to be on standby and ready to respond at community events such as home football games, college rodeos, community events and activities.
- Approximately 30 classes annually put on for businesses and interested community members for Heart Saver and CPR

Cardiopulmonary Services:

Over 1,300 EKG, stress test, pulmonary function tests, comany drug screens, sleep studies amongst others performed for the community annually.

College Clinic:

We established a clinic up at the college on Wednesdays during the school year

Meals on Wheels:

Approximately 3,300 meals delivered to community members annually.

Physical Therapy:

More than 2,200 patient visits annually

Rangely Pharmacy:

Over 26,000 community prescriptions filled annually

Inpatient/Skilled Nursing Days:

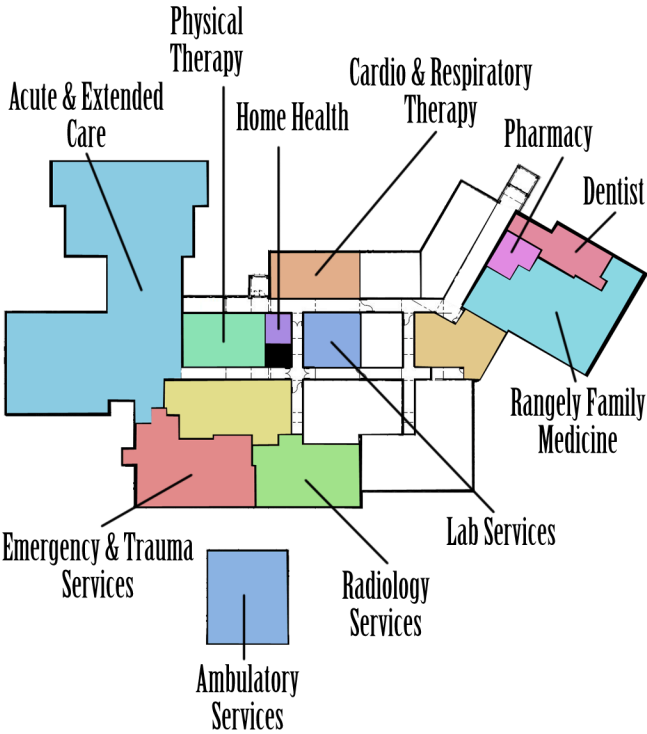
Over 300 days of inpatient and skilled nursing hospital stays annually. A day equals one patient in one bed per day.

SERVICE AREA

The service area of Rangely Community Medical Health & Wellness Center extends beyond the town of Rangely to include the following geographical terrain:

North to South: Dinosaur National Monument to the peaks of Douglas and Baxter Passes

East to West: The Utah Border to the halfway mark between Rangely and Meeker



Rangely Community Medical Health & Wellness Center

225 Eagle Crest Drive
Rangely, CO 81648
(970) 675-5011

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Keeping Our Community Healthy and Strong



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Rangely Family Medicine:

- Over 6,000 clinic visits in the last year treating 2,380 different people.
- Serving you Monday through Friday with after-hours, staying until the last patient is seen.
- Two full-time Physicians, One full-time Nurse Practitioner, all living in the Rangely Community
- VA choice program for veterans.

Annual Health Fair:

- 300-350 people have their labs drawn annually, below cost, as a community benefit.
- Every year, a handful of serious abnormalities are identified at the health fair as part of routine screenings offered by this event. These likely wouldn't otherwise have been caught. If they were caught, it likely would have been much later, limiting the possibility of a successful outcome.

Laboratory Services:

Approximately 12,000 lab tests performed annually.

Radiology Services:

Almost 2,000 visits annually for tests including mammography, CT, X-ray, MRI, and bone density.

Eagle Crest Assisted Living:

14 residents currently live in our assisted living facility.

Extended Care Unit for Elderly:

14 residents currently live in our extend care unit receiving, essentially, nursing home care.

Home Health:

Over 800 home health visits annually.

Emergency Room and Trauma Services:

Over 1,200 people treated annually in our emergency room.