

Upper Allegheny Health System

Creating the path to regional care.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the formal approval of the Upper Allegheny Health System (UAHS) only a few months away, there is significant work and activity underway to prepare for the integration of Olean General Hospital and Bradford Regional Medical Center. While newsletters and other forums have provided ongoing integration activity news and updates, it is a good time to communicate directly with you regarding current and near term activities. I understand that while there is a sense of excitement that surrounds our integration with Bradford there is also a sense of anxiety that accompanies this work. Accordingly, it is our intent to be as open and transparent as possible with respect to this work.



Timothy J. Finan
President/CEO
Upper Allegheny Health System
and Olean General Hospital

Significant initial effort is being spent on the potential consolidation of the following functional areas: Finance, Human Resources, Materials Management, Information Technology, and Marketing/Public Relations. We are also investigating opportunities for the two laboratories to work more closely together. These departments were selected as initial areas of focus because we believe there are significant opportunities to realize administrative savings by standardizing equipment, procedures, and work processes and achieving economies of scale. Currently, the senior management staffs of both hospitals are meeting weekly to share work plans and thoughts regarding the consolidation of each of these areas. Over the next few weeks, we will begin to explore opportunities for collaboration that may exist among other hospital departments and functions. As noted, staff will be provided regular updates and information as this work progresses.

Please recall that the integration Bradford Regional Medical Center and Olean General Hospital is being undertaken so that for years to come this region will be able to benefit from the presence of a strong regional hospital system.

OUR HOSPITAL HISTORIES

How much do you know about our regional partners?



The New York Board of Charities incorporated Olean General Hospital on July 13, 1898. Through a gift of \$65,000 from Mrs. Clara A. H. Smith in memory of her brother, Governor Frank W. Higgins in 1912, the first building at the current Hospital site was made possible.



It was the Bradford Hospital Association in 1885 that issued a public appeal for the support of establishing an institution in the city to care for the sick and injured. A month later, McKean County President Judge A.G. Olmstead issued the original Bradford Hospital charter, paving the way for the opening of Bradford Hospital in 1887. The first building was a remodeled farmhouse on the current site of the Medical Arts Building on Pleasant Street.

UPDATE ON LAB INTEGRATION

A number of functional areas at OGH and BRMC are being reviewed as part of the ongoing system integration effort. Included in this review are the clinical laboratories at each hospital. The goal of integrating the two laboratories is to standardize systems, supplies, equipment, technology, and processes to the greatest extent possible to improve patient outcomes, safety, and efficiency of resource use.

While much of the integration work is being done without the assistance of outside help, the decision was made to engage an outside consulting firm with specific experience and expertise in laboratory integrations. This was due to a number of factors, including:

- **Impact on patient safety/quality**
- **Instrumentation complexity**
- **Capital and human resource costs**
- **Cross state regulations (NY/PA)**

We have retained the consulting firm Health Care Development Services (HCDS) to assist OGH and BRMC in a comprehensive review of our laboratories. The goal of the engagement is to develop an integrated laboratory strategy that will help us achieve the aforementioned integration objectives. HCDS has considerable experience and expertise with lab integrations, has worked with many hospitals of similar size to OGH and BRMC, and has extensive experience in NY and PA.

A project team has been developed to facilitate the assessment. Project team members include: Dr. Syed Ally, Dr. Richard Scott, David Kobis, Timothy Brown, Ron Truax, Robert Piechota, Stephanie Frederick, Jennifer Faulkner, Bill Bizzarro, Dan Honerbrink, Tina Hannahs, Carol Frigo, and Jason Yaworski.

VIEW FROM THE INSIDE

Tim Brown, Bradford Regional's Administrative Director of Imaging Cardio-Vascular Service, says the experience he's had over the past few months as part of the integration team has been "impressive. I've been impressed with Tim's (Tim Finan, UAHS CEO) ambition and his vision to ensure that both counties in our region will have strong hospitals for our patients," he says. At BRMC, Tim Brown oversees Imaging Services, home of the hospital's new \$1.5 million High-Field Open MRI, along with Cardiac Services, Lab and Pathology. "Now that I've been part of this process, I can see that the intent of integration is not to diminish services at both locations, but to maintain and grow services for the whole region, and assuring that both facilities will be strong going out into the future. That's been the crystal clear objective right from the beginning," the BRMC director adds. It's expected that regulatory and legal requirements for the integration of Olean General Hospital and Bradford Regional will be completed by Oct. 1.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Olean General Hospital's Sleep Disorder Center is located in the Hampton Inn in Olean? BRMC's hospital-based Sleep Clinic has reported recently doubling its volume.
- Olean General Hospital's budget year runs from January to December, while Bradford Regional's runs from July 1 to June 30.
- Olean General runs a health and wellness website for teens at healthyu.ogh.org. For more information about our integration plans, check out www.uaahs.org.
- BRMC's Emergency Department's scope of services will be expanded shortly with the start of ER Plus, providing additional staff from 5 to 9 daily to offer expedited care to those with minor injuries and illnesses.
- Olean General Hospital was recently named a 100 Top Hospitals Performance Improvement Leader by Thompson Reuters.
- BRMC's Food & Nutrition Services just launched "Personal Choice Dining," bringing bedside ordering to patients. Olean General Hospital's food service program is run by Aramark Corporation, one of the top food vendors in the nation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Call Bradford Hospital Foundation at 814-362-3200 for details.

July 18: Eleventh annual Kids and Cancer Motorcycle Dice Run, with a portion of the funds benefitting programs at BRMC.

Aug. 21& 22: BHF 15th annual Golf & Sporting Clays Charity Classic, Pennhills Club and Bradford Gun Club.