

Join the Conversation...the next leg of the journey.

We've come so far....

Since 1951, health care in Sublette County has been an ever-changing process. Many of you remember, and have shared your stories with us, about the private physician practices that were home to local doctors such as Dr. Close, Doc Johnston, Dr. Burnett and Dr. Boyle. We've heard funny stories, sad stories, incredible stories; all types of stories that give us pride for how far we've come. Many of you remember a board member or were a board member that helped establish the bylaws and the mission of the Health District. There is also the great story and history of the Sublette Center. Local ranchers coming together and committing their personal resources to develop a senior living facility that has provided healthcare services since 1978. It was the strategic efforts of these community individuals that have played a role in how far we've come. We don't want the stories to end. The Health District is now embarking on the next leg of the journey. That journey would include merging with the Sublette Center and changing the current designation of our two free standing physician clinics to that of Critical Access Hospital (CAH) designation with Provider-based Rural Health Clinics.

Over the past several weeks, we have been asked the following questions... What does this mean for me? What will happen if I just need to use the clinic? Will my bill increase? Are my taxes going to increase? What will happen if I need services provided by the Sublette Center? In staying consistent with our commitment of providing information regarding the proposed changes, the following table illustrates what this change of designation could mean to the people of Sublette County. This presentation presumes that the Sublette Center has merged with the Rural Health Care District to be one entity providing both independent living, transitional care, long-term care, out-patient clinics for routine and urgent care and the Critical Access Hospital. The merging of the Health District and the Sublette Center is an essential step in developing a stable healthcare organization that will provide care to all ages.

<i>CONCERN</i>	<i>CURRENT SITUATION</i>	<i>PLANNED CAH SITUATION</i>
Structure	Two free-standing clinics located in Pinedale and Marbleton; the Sublette Center with its facilities.	One free-standing clinic in Marbleton with minor enhancements to serve as a Rural Health Clinic; A partly remodeled building in Pinedale to meet state regulation to be licensed as a hospital. This will include an expansion to add hospital rooms and support services. The clinic part would remain as is. The Sublette Center with no immediate changes but a new facility adding assisted living and memory care will be built as soon as possible after the CAH designation is accomplished.

Patient Charges	<p>Patients and/or their insurance carrier (BC/BS, Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare, etc) are charged an office visit rate for services provided in the clinics, emergency department, lab and radiology. Residents and/or their insurance carrier (BC/BS, Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare, etc) are charged for services provided by the Sublette Center</p>	<p>Patients and/or their insurance carrier will continue to be charged the same amount for an office visit rate for services provided in the clinic. Services provided in the emergency department, hospital rooms, lab and radiology will be charged at a hospital rate similar to what you would pay for those same hospital services in Teton, Sweetwater County or Idaho. Residents and/or their insurance carrier (BC/BS, Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare, etc) are charged for services provided by the Sublette Center</p>
Access to Emergency Services	<p>Emergency Services are available by walk in at the clinics during the day and by calling 911 after hours.</p>	<p>Emergency Services will continue to be available by walk in or by calling 911 after hours at the Marbleton Clinic. Emergency Services will be open 24/7 at the new Critical Access Hospital without calling 911.</p>
Clinic Visits	<p>Both clinics are open 8-5 M-F and 8-12 on Saturday for routine, urgent and emergent care needs.</p>	<p>Both clinics will be open 8-5 M-F and 8-12 on Saturday for routine, urgent and emergent care needs.</p>
Critical Access Hospital	<p>None</p>	<p>A 5 room hospital that provides overnight observation care (less than 24 hours), in-patient care (generally not to exceed 96 hours), swing bed/transitional care, 24/7 emergency care, expanded radiology services to include enhanced CT scanning and digital mammography, expanded out-patient procedures to include endoscopy and infusion services as well as expanded laboratory services to include microbiology and blood products.</p>
Sublette Center	<p>The Sublette Center currently provides independent living, long</p>	<p>The Sublette Center would continue to provide independent</p>

	term skilled nursing care and short term rehabilitation services.	living and long term skilled nursing care, with plans to add assisted living and memory care services.
Tax District Designation	Rural Health Care District	Rural Health Care District
Boards of Trustees	Five publically elected board members for the RHCD; A privately selected board for the Sublette Center.	Five publically elected board members; with an as yet undecided oversight organization for the Sublette Center.
Property Tax Revenue	2 mil	TBD
Staffing	Employees of two clinics and the Sublette Center including medical providers, front desk staff, billing specialists, medical record clerks, nurses and nursing assistants, lab and radiology techs, dietary staff, activities staff, housekeeping and maintenance staff.	Continuation of same employees for the two clinics and the Sublette Center plus additional employees to provide 24/7 hospital services; services provided by the Sublette Center to the CAH including Activities, Laundry, Meals, Social Work and Dietary Manager to meet hospital regulations to avoid expensive and unnecessary duplication of services.
Ambulance Services	Ambulance service to the clinic is a non-covered service for most patients, including Medicare recipients, if the end point of that service is the clinic. If the patient goes on to a hospital setting, the entire ambulance service is generally covered.	Ambulance service to the CAH and the Marbleton Clinic ER would be a covered service for patients; including Medicare recipients.
Blood Products	Not available	Available on site per hospital regulation.
Medicare Part A (also called swing bed care, transitional care or post-acute rehab)	Service provided at the Sublette Center generating approximately \$ 450 per day from Medicare.	Service will be transitioned to the CAH generating \$1500 per day from Medicare. Overflow will be covered by the Sublette Center.

Both the Health District and the Sublette Center have been here for the people of Sublette County for over 60 years and we are committed to you for the next 60. Our journey will continue to change and evolve but our promise to you will always be the same- to provide you with accessible, progressive and truly patient-focused healthcare.

“Join the Conversation” by:

- 1) attending a scheduled informational event (dates/times found on the website)
- 2) emailing your questions, support and/or concern to CAHdesignation@Sublettehealthcare.com
- 3) inviting the Health District to speak at your club, church or other community event

Respectfully Submitted,

Malenda Hoelscher, *Health Care Administrator*
Sublette County Rural Health Care District

Dawn Walker, *Administrator*
Sublette Center