

Collaboration Between Columbiana County Health District and East Liverpool City Hospital in Response to the East Palestine Train Derailment

GRETCHEN NICKELL, DO
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, CCHD
CMO AND INTERNAL MEDICINE PHYSICIAN, ELCH





East Liverpool City Hospital



130 bed not for profit rural designated community hospital.

Opened in 1905 and remained independent until 2016. Joined Prime Healthcare based in Ontario, California.

Started an internal medicine residency (15 residents) in 2012 and a family medicine residency (12 residents) in 2013.



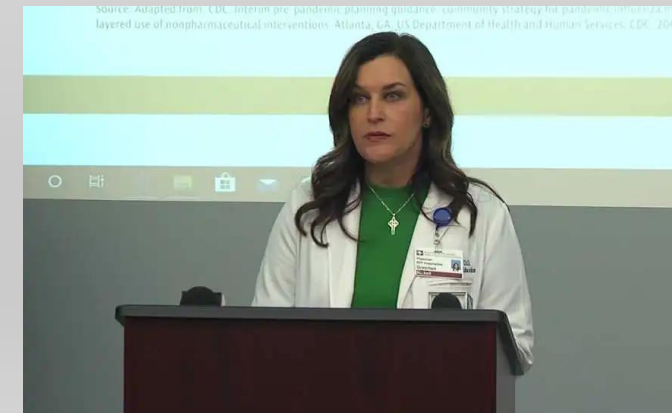
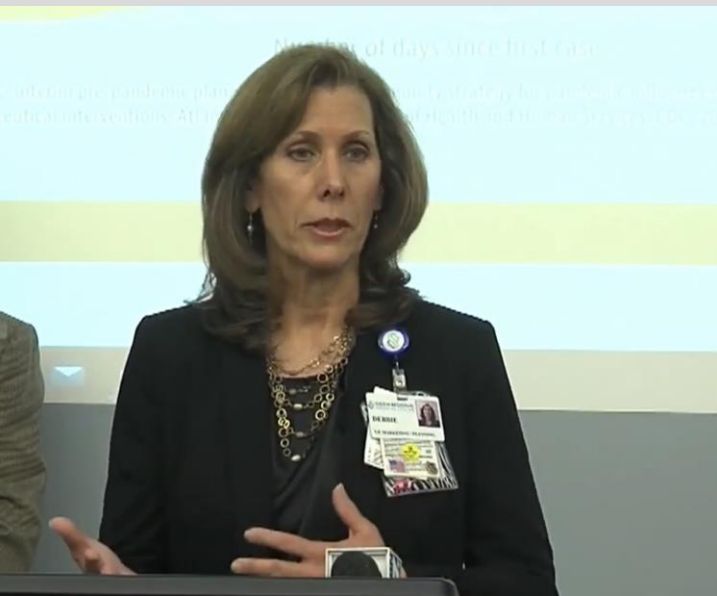
Previous Collaboration Between ELCH and CCHD- March 2020



“Columbiana County hospitals prepare for potential COVID-19 patients.”

Both hospitals in Columbiana County worked together with the health department to inform the public on preparation efforts before the first case of covid.

Followed by close interaction with daily meetings through the initial surge of covid.





Previous Collaboration Experience Between ELCH Physicians/Residents and CCHD- April 2020



“GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO PRISON CRISIS”

Covid outbreak at Elkton FCI overwhelmed both hospitals in Columbiana County.

Both ELCH and Salem Regional Medical Center worked closely with CCHD and state agencies to reduce the burden on these two hospitals.



Previous Collaboration Experience Between ELCH Physicians/Residents and CCHD- December 2020



“POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES PUT COLUMBIANA COUNTY JAIL ON LOCKDOWN”





Previous Collaboration Experience Between ELCH Physicians/Residents and CCHD- January 2021





Temporary EP Health Assessment Clinic



The temporary clinic opened in the basement of the First Church of Christ on 02/21/23.

Initially, there was no physician performing an evaluation.

- RN evaluation and completion of the ACE survey.

Based on response by patients, it was determined a physician should be present to perform an examination, answer questions and help guide treatment if needed.



Physician Involvement in Temporary EP Health Assessment Clinic



ELCH informed of the need for physician coverage on 02/21/23.

Discussed with Krista McFadden, CEO, and the rest of the executive suite.

Able to start providing this service on 02/23/23.

Agreement between ODH and ELCH.





Our Physician Team at ELCH



Internal Medicine

8 IM physicians

- Working in the hospital, emergency room, nursing homes, outpatient clinic, and precepting resident training clinics.

Primary Care Residents

- 27 primary care residents from FM and IM.
- Included 8 seniors who were due to graduate in June 2023.



Temporary EP Health Assessment Clinic



Five rooms in the church basement.
Three rooms for patient evaluation.
One command room.
One room for documenting.
Mobile van with additional exam room.





Temporary EP Health Assessment Clinic



Enough staff and rooms, including a mobile van, to see 4 patients at a time.

Created a schedule for 1 attending physician and 1 to 3 resident physicians, depending on the need.

Patients were seen by appointments, but no patients who walked in were turned away.





Patient Experience



RN intake with completion of the ACE survey.

ACE survey:

- Location
- Possible duration of exposure.
- Symptoms

Physician evaluation, including obtaining a history of any symptoms, a physical examination and documentation.

Calls to PCP, toxicologist, and referrals to specialists made when needed.



Expedited Care



Pulmonology

Dermatology

ENT

Primary Care

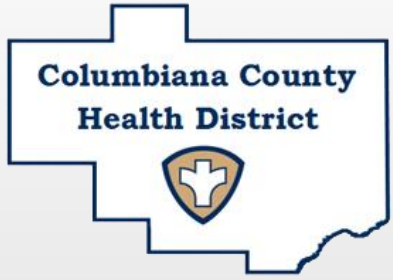


Patient Experience



Mental health services

- On site to offer services when needed.
- Information provided for follow up care.
- Service used by the overwhelming majority of patients.



Temporary EP Health Assessment Clinic



02/21/2023 through 04/04/2023.

338 patients completed the ACE at the clinic.

Additional residents presented to ask questions or get information.

Residents and first responders were asking about ongoing testing.





Transition to Permanent EP Clinic



One primary care office in town.

Many residents who presented to the temporary clinic did not have a PCP.

There was a need for a permanent clinic to function as a PCP office and to provide ongoing surveillance.

Surveillance also needed for the first responders.

Set a goal for April 10, 2023.





Permanent Clinic- Goal was April 10, 2023.



Approximately 1.5 miles from temporary clinic.

Previously was a PCP office.

Minor renovation needed.



Permanent Clinic



ADA accessible entrance and bathroom added.
Removed carpet and added flooring.
Painted the walls in main rooms.



Permanent Clinic Opened on April 10, 2023.



Combined effort of ODH and ELCH.
4 exam rooms.
Lab for phlebotomy.





Permanent Clinic



ODH provided RN staffing through Prolink, with the same nurses present at the temporary clinic.

Provided plum cases for internet access.





Initial Screening



RESIDENTS

Examination

Labs: CBC, CMP, Urinalysis.

Now and repeat in 6 months and yearly thereafter.

Free of charge.

No designated deadline for first screening tests at this time.

FIRST RESPONDERS

Examination

Labs: CBC, CMP, Urinalysis.

Now and repeat in 6 months and yearly thereafter.

Free of charge.

Deadline for first screening test 06/30/23.



Additional Services



Toxicology consultation through ODH

Available to patients concerned about additional testing.

- Vinyl Chloride
- TDGA



Clinic Encounters: 04/10/23 through 07/31/23



Temporary EP Health Assessment Clinic: 338 patients

Permanent EP Clinic:

- First Responder Surveillance- 71
- Resident Surveillance- 86

Total encounters at permanent clinic- 824



Future Plans: Bring More Services



Mental health professionals

ENT

General Surgery

Orthopedic Surgery

Dermatology





Questions?