

# Columbia Memorial Health Spotlight Continued

## Hear directly from CMH about their Strategic Plan:

*"We recognize the critical service the hospital holds as an access point to care. Our strategic plan is to transform CMH through becoming a more cost effective and nimble to ensure local access to high quality inpatient medical care. Further investment in emergency services will ensure access to immediate, critical care in an area where CMH's emergency department is the only one. Included in the transformation, and outlined further in the plan, is strengthening connectivity to Albany Medical Center for patients whose needs are more complex, tertiary care. We will maintain access to the safe, high-quality care our community relies on CMH to deliver. This will also allow us to make necessary improvements to infrastructure and increase our likelihood of success in targeted recruitment and retention efforts.*

*Maximizing outpatient care centers to treat same-day cases close to home. Greene Medical Arts, a small, former independent hospital located in Catskill, is the only facility of its kind in Greene County. It became a CMH outpatient facility in 1991. CMH has a strong presence with its primary care centers, and it has grown outpatient revenue. Restructuring the delivery of outpatient surgical care in this community would provide high demand services locally, in a more convenient, lower cost, efficient, and provider and patient-friendly setting. With the growing demand for outpatient services and ambulatory surgery centers, this facility would serve as an outpatient hub. We are building an ambulatory surgical center with 4 operating rooms and 2 procedure rooms- enabling orthopedic, women's health, general surgery, and ophthalmology to be done. We are also committed to heart care with cardiac services—meeting a growing need in this community with high level specialty care in an outpatient setting. This also allows for more targeted clinical resources between the Hudson and Catskill facilities and provides an opportunity to reach new patients in nearby Dutchess and Ulster counties, whose patients are near CMH and its existing network of primary care offices.*

*We continue to expand our commitment to primary care. Primary care is the main health access point for most patients. Columbia Memorial Health has spent many years growing and investing in its primary care centers, many of which serve as the only health care presence in rural and underserved communities. We are proud of this because we represent the Mid-Hudson Valley in more ways than one. We provide care to the same people we call our neighbors and friends. Our staff works and lives in the communities we serve. We are a lifeline to seniors, children, and every one of every age in between. When it matters most, patients are spared the dangerous trip down the Catskills because CMH is there. When the weather isn't severe, primary care points people to the most appropriate entry point to our System. To us, "access" means much more than getting an appointment.*

*We are also addressing critical needs in behavioral health. Behavioral health is making news across the country for serious reason. Demand has burgeoned beyond the number of facilities and providers available. Considering behavioral health accounts for the second highest number of inpatient days at CMH, we proposed dedicating a significant focus of the Hudson facility to behavioral health. We were awarded through a grant of 5 million dollars from The New York State Department of Health and working now with the Office of Mental health. This will allow for dedicated funding to construct 12 new Geropsychiatry Patients and expanding our current 5th floor -- to expand by a total of 20 net new beds added to our current 22 beds. We are excited to reinforce our community mental health connections.*

*This new strategic plan and model of care for CMH optimizes the goals of quality patient care and access for the right care at the right time the right place — and care is kept locally in Columbia and Greene Counties."*