

More black numbers for the hospital

QVMC still owes \$1 million to county

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With only three months to go, it's shaping up to be the first year in recent memory that the Quincy Valley Medical Center will end with a black number at the bottom of its ledger.

That's the news given to the medical center board during its meeting on Monday, Oct. 27.

Financial director Ken Kiehn reported that the center realized a net income of \$78,410 for September and is on the positive side of \$103,507 for the year, with three months to go.

It's nice to have an operating profit, Kiehn said, but after years of operating losses, as well as reimbursement paybacks that will be required by the government for Medicare patients, the medical center has a long way to go before it will truly be in the black.

"The money we bring in pays off old stuff," Kiehn said.

The medical center also owes about \$1 million on a line of credit extended by Grant County. The medical center administration and

board are hoping that this year's operating revenues, as well as a preliminary projection of \$310,582 in operating revenues for 2009, will help make a dent in that balance.

"At some point in time, if we keep this up, it's got to turn around," said board chairman Don Condit. "If we have a \$300,000 profit this year and then a \$300,000 profit next year, that's a \$600,000 profit that we didn't have a year ago, a year ago, a year ago and on."

Board member Anthony Gonzalez said he is encouraged by the numbers.

"My feeling is we've got this train heading in the right direction," he said.

Hospital administrator Mehdi Merred said the atmosphere at the center has improved, which is being demonstrated in the lower percentages of turnover by the staff this year.

"This year the turnover is down to about 12 percent," Merred said, "when we have averaged 30 to 35 percent over the last few years. I'm proud of our staff."

Please see Hospital page A8

Hospital:

Continued from front page

He also commended the department heads for keeping the center's expenses close to budget.

The center's expenses are within 3 percent of its 2008

budget.

"The department heads are conscious about meeting the bottom line," Merred said.

In other business, the Quincy Valley Hospital Foundation has stated that it wants to raise about \$52,000 for a bone-

density scanning machine. The machine will help scan patients for osteoporosis and other diseases.

QVPR 10-30-08