

Hospital working to pass fire inspection

Report found center in violation of 21 regulations in April

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The Quincy Valley Medical Center is working to ensure it passes a state fire safety inspection that earlier in the year tagged the hospital with a series of infractions.

At Monday's Grant County Hospital District No. 2 commissioners meeting, Mehdi Merred, the medical center's chief

executive officer, said the hospital has nothing to hide in regard to its inspection results, and vowed to keep working until the hospital is under full compliance.

"In no way are we covering up any information regarding this matter," he said. "This is something we're taking very seriously. I have no issue sharing anything. The taxpayers should know what's happened so far."

On April 21, the Office of the State

Fire Marshal conducted an inspection at the medical center. That inspection found the hospital in violation of 21 regulations, and as a result decided to withhold approval status at that time.

A re-inspection of the medical center was conducted July 14. Twelve of the 21 deficiencies were not corrected at that time, Merred said.

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Hospital: Lost money in September

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"On July 23, we started to develop a plan that would make sure we're in compliance and ensure these processes are in place," Merred said.

"We want to have a pro-active approach to this instead of reactive. We're taking steps to fix these deficiencies. We know mistakes have been made. We admit that, and are taking steps to correct them."

Merred said the hospital passed a second re-inspection Tuesday. According to a hospital document given to the *Post-Register* by Merred on Monday, all of the 21 original deficiencies are now corrected.

"I don't think we'll be rep-

rimanded for any of the initial concerns," Merred said.

•The hospital lost money in September, but is optimistic that it can close the year strong and turn a profit for the second consecutive year.

The hospital took in \$956,178 in the month and had \$973,762 in total operating expenses for a net income loss of \$17,584.

However, the medical center is still \$117,420 in the black for the year.

"The revenue for September was quite satisfactory," said financial officer Ken Kiehn. "The professional fees and purchased services exceeded the budget by quite a bit, though. We still have high expectations and hopes to finish out the year on a high note."

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