

Pioneers signs expeditious management agreement with Rady

By WILLIAM ROLLER, Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 1:30 am

BRAWLEY — A management agreement has been signed between Pioneer’s Memorial Healthcare District and Rady Children’s Hospital, San Diego which will provide management services to the pediatric and neonatal intensive care units (NICU).

Since PMHD opened its doors in 1954 it has already maintained a vital working relationship with Rady, noted Larry Lewis, PMHD chief executive officer. It is the only pediatric hospital in the region, operating 551 beds in San Diego and Riverside counties.

“With Rady Children’s long standing commitment to the Valley and its well-deserved reputation for providing the highest quality care, we are confident our pediatric patients are in the best hands,” said Lewis.

For the last several years PMHD explored how better to improve children’s care with its other affiliate, Scripps Health. Rady has got great resources, leadership and facilities where PMHD nurses can learn and get a broader idea how other organizations work, noted Lewis.

Under the new agreement Rady Children’s will provide a medical director and a nursing leader to deliver clinical administrative services. Tammie Miyagawa RN, NNP offers leadership to the unit in day-to-day operations.

Also the agreement stipulates all hospital beds remain under PMHD license and Rady Children’s is responsible for medical management. And as part of medical oversight an initiative aims to have the NICU at PMHD attain California Children’s Services certification.

Dr. Ameen Alshareef, medical director of the Pediatric Unit will now also be the new head of PMHD and Rady NICU. Alshareef remarked he was always impressed by PMHD staff’s relationship with families.

“This is a great opportunity to share proven clinical pathways and develop process and procedures that allow us to provide the very best quality care to children.” he said.

Dr. Gail Knight, senior vice president and chief medical officer at Rady Children’s, noted the NICU practitioners will support education process for nurses at PHMD, so they can then take care of more children and babies.



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Jeff Klicka (second from left), president of Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District board of directors and Gail Knight (third from left), senior vice president and chief medical officer at Rady Children’s Hospital sign an affiliation agreement to augment care in Brawley on Tuesday. WILLIAM ROLLER PHOTO

“It’s about having the 24/7 care of all pediatric specialties,” she said. “The most important thing, we have clinical leadership working with leadership at PMHD and that includes clinical administration services.”

Jeff Klicka, PMHD board of directors president, remarked it was a proud day for PMHD affiliates.

“I’m extremely proud of our hard working staff, employees and the whole team,” he said. “Rady Children’s brings better care and service, because in the end, we are all one.”

Meg Norton, executive vice president and chief administrative officer, remarked the affiliation improves communications and clinical guidelines between the facilities and allow more children to remain in the Valley which was one of the goals.

“We really enjoy working with pediatrics and NCIU at PMHD and have known each other for a long time” said Norton.