

Hurley on Hand

Since signing an affiliation with Deaconess Illinois in early May, Lawrence County Memorial Hospital leadership has from time to time found itself seeking answers to questions.

Starting this week, that's where **Amy Hurley** comes in. Wednesday was her first day as an official liaison between the local hospital and Deaconess Illinois, and she will likely be at LCMH two to three days a week.

"She's simply someone to come in and help us if we need help," said Don Robbins, Chief Executive Officer at Lawrence County Memorial Hospital. "(Deaconess) recognized early on that in small hospitals like ours, the folks in administration have so many irons in the fire and they're doing so many different things, that it would be nice to have somebody there to help them out."

A native of Mackey, Indiana, and a current resident of Elberfeld, Hurley comes with plenty of experience. She's a 1995 graduate of Wood Memorial High School in Oakland City, Indiana, and earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree at the University of Southern Indiana, from where she expects to receive her Master's by the end of the year.

"I've worked in the health care field for about 25 years," said Hurley. "Most of my focus has been on revenue cycles. I've been at Deaconess for a little more than three years, working in the business development role, but focusing on our regional affiliates."

Aside from her duties at LCMH, Hurley works in the same role at Gibson General Hospital in Princeton, Indiana. She says at LCMH; she'll focus on whatever projects are assigned to her.

"But really, I'll be helping the hospital align with its strategy, as well as offer other support services from Deaconess and our other affiliates, some of them with the same critical access hospital status."

Hurley was immediately impressed with the facilities at LCMH, especially the operating suite. She added that she'd already met a lot of "great people." "I'm excited about the energy around the affiliation," she said. "Even though I've not been here, it's been fun to see the changes, and to see Lawrence County Memorial embrace the future and how we will work together."

Hurley admits that her position will offer challenges. Specifically, she says, she needs to learn to "understand the landscape and the market of Lawrence County."

"I think all critical access hospitals face different challenges," she said. "My goal is to get to a place where we understand how we can offer the most support and be a good partner to Lawrence County (Memorial Hospital). That will be the biggest challenge."

Aside from work, Hurley enjoys spending time with her husband, Chance, a coal mine employee, and their 12-year-old son, Cameron.

Robbins says he's already got plenty of work to keep Hurley busy. "She already has some homework on her docket," he said. "We're happy to have her, and we're going to keep her busy."