

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

A new administrator has been hired to oversee a portion of the facilities at Perkins County Health Services (PCHS).

Peggy Rogers began on March 18 as the administrator of Golden Ours Convalescent Home, Park Ridge Assisted Living, and Hugs-n-Teddybears Daycare Center.

An administrator will be hired in the future for the hospital.



Rogers said she was seeking a position where she could utilize her skills as an administrator—the offer from PCHS appealed to her because it was a setting that was progressive, community-oriented, and financially sound.

Rogers said bringing and maintaining harmony among all departments at all times is the goal. “I believe in providing and meeting the residents’ needs on their schedule,” she said. “It is our job to provide a safe, warm, inviting, caring atmosphere with the residents at our forefront at all times.”

Rogers said she likens her role as an administrator to one of a conductor of an orchestra—“It is to ensure that each department is fulfilling its obligations to ensure the highest quality of care that we can deliver to the residents.”

Important to Rogers as well as to the employees of Golden Ours is building relationships with not only the residents, but the families.

“Open lines of communication and being able to bring concerns forth is vital to the well being of everyone involved,” she said. “I recognize that staff is our most valuable asset – without them, we would not be able to provide quality care for our loved ones. The employees care about whom they serve and what they do.”

Rogers said she believes in establishing an environment that makes the home a good place for residents to live and a good place for employees to work.

“It is a balance between them —both are important,” she said.

Employees need continuing education, empowerment, and the tools to get their job done, said Rogers. She said her job is to provide responsiveness, clear direction, and leadership to them, while still being on ‘their team.’

Goals to be met at Golden Ours, Park Ridge and the daycare include the continual cultural changes as preparations are being made for the baby boomers and the amenities that this group will demand, said Rogers.

The transition to electronic health records is approaching also, she said, and she is meeting this week with the architect to begin the planning of upgrading rooms at Golden Ours.

“I want to thank the Board of Directors at Perkins County Health Services for the opportunity to serve the members of the community of Grant and Perkins County,” said Rogers. “It is an

honor to take care of those who took care of us in their younger years. I am compassionate about providing quality care for our elderly and look forward to serving in this role for many years.”

Background

In 1998, Rogers completed her Health Care Administration degree at Central Community College in Hastings. She passed the state and national licensing board exams and began as administrator at Hillcrest Nursing Home in McCook in 1998.

She has served in many capacities including district president, governmental entities member, and treasurer of the executive board of Nebraska Health Care Association, the nursing home trade association.

She was appointed by Governor Heineman to serve as a board member for the Rural Health Association, and also served on the Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administration—one year as chair.

She and her husband, Dick Rogers, have two sons, Shos of Grand Island, and Nick of McCook.

Her husband has a business, Western Window & Door, and specializes in overhead doors, new windows and doors.

Son Shos is carpenter and remodeler, while Nick is the executive chef at the Coppermill in McCook.

Their recently adopted Irish Setter, Blaze, from the Humane Society, keeps them busy along with their pastimes of camping, being on their pontoon boat, gardening, and refurbishing older homes.

Growing up in a large Irish Catholic family, Rogers was the third child and the oldest daughter. “Helping my mother with my siblings was a second nature to me,” she said. “I have always enjoyed helping others.”

When she was 12 years old, she ran her own babysitting business, working full time during the summer months babysitting for two children and any night of the week for others. Her grandmother lived one block up the street and was an important part of her childhood.

She worked as a nursing assistant at the hospital and her mother worked as one at the nursing home.

“Being around people of all ages and respecting and providing for their needs was ingrained at a young age,” said Rogers.

“During these formative years, I also learned the “art of listening to others” and “learning as much as I could on a job” from my father. I attribute these abilities to my father.”