Wyoming Health System in services pact with Erie County Medical Center
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The long arm of health care continues to connect urban and rural hospitals as the Wyoming County Community Health System is entering into an administrative services agreement with Erie County Medical Center Corporation.

The contract was approved Tuesday and announced by the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors.

Officials said by linking with ECMC in Buffalo, it will strengthen and reposition the Wyoming hospital for the future.

“Like most community hospitals, the path to survival in an ever-evolving health care market will be enhanced by relationships with larger facilities that are able to support the community hospital with administrative and provider resources they are not able to obtain independently,” said Donald Eichenauer, WCCHS CEO, in a statement. “It is WCCHS’s objective to take advantage of the opportunities provided by ECMCC and its affiliation with Kaleida Health and the University at Buffalo through their mutual partnership in Great Lakes Health System, which will provide better access to a wide range of health care services at WCCHS; we will now look at the necessary steps towards a future management agreement with ECMCC.”

Wyoming County Community Hospital is a 62-bed acute-care hospital accredited by The Joint Commission. It is the sole inpatient provider for Wyoming County, which has a population of approximately 44,000.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed though it was noted that in recent years, as WCCHS has expanded its services, it has developed relationships with other providers from the Buffalo area, many of which have relationships with ECMCC and/or Kaleida Health. These include Dr. Lindsey Clark, who provides orthopaedic services at WCCHS through UBMD; Dr. John Karpie and Dr. Paul Mason with the Buffalo Orthopaedic Group who also provide orthopaedic services at WCCHS; and Western New York Urology Associates, which is a Kaleida Health entity. In addition, new agreements are currently being finalized, provided through existing agreements with ECMCC or Kaleida Health-related providers, which will result in enhanced Ear, Nose and Throat, Allergy and Nephrology Services at WCCHS.

Thomas Quatroche Jr., ECMCC president and CEO, said, the agreement will permit ECMCC to work closely with WCCHS and share best practices and scale that will create cost reductions and efficiencies.

“Importantly, through this agreement, we will integrate our health care service teams to identify opportunities to share practices that will enhance and strengthen the delivery of quality health care services to patients across the entire organization,” said Quatroche.
As part of the new relationship, ECMC will also be working with WCCHS to provide upgraded administrative and financial management resources and support.

Both parties had been working on partnering for the past several months.

WCCHS had a previous collaboration agreement with UR Medicine of Rochester since October 2012, which has been very beneficial to WCCHS and anticipates having a continued positive relationship with UR Medicine and the services and providers it supplies to the hospital.

In addition to the hospital, Wyoming has an attached 138 bed nursing home, an adult day health care, and inpatient behavioral health unit. The hospital has approximately 3,000 inpatient admissions per year and 14,000 emergency department visits per year.