

Being Prepared Takes Preparation



How is it that hospital teams are always ready to handle natural, man-made or other disasters either in their own facilities or the communities they serve? “It doesn’t happen by accident,” says Jack Brobst Jr., Director of Public Safety and Security at LVH–Schuylkill. “Planning, preparation and practice are the keys.”

This week, colleagues simulated a major power outage and loss of an air-chiller on the LVH–Schuylkill S. Jackson Street campus following a major storm. That scenario forced the use of back-up generators during weather conditions similar to what we experienced this week – severe storms followed by high heat and humidity. “It’s a situation that could have been an actual incident,” Brobst says. He and his team put colleagues through a series of events, facilities challenges and developing scenarios that would eventually require the evacuation and transfer of 10 patients on the 3C medical/surgical unit to LVH–Schuylkill E. Norwegian Street.

As part of the drill, incident commanders also had to consider a full-scale, full-facility evacuation.

“It’s so important that we practice and prepare,” says Susan Curry, MSN, Vice President of Patient Care Services. “These drills help mimic the things that can and do happen. We see how quickly circumstances can change. The more we drill, the better prepared we are when situations arise. Patient care, and safety for patients and colleagues are our top priorities.”

In the evacuation scenario, colleagues simulated transferring patient mannequins, diverting the emergency room, canceling outpatient services, holding mock media, patient and family briefings, and engaged the use of local EMS personnel.

The drill lasted more than three hours and ended with a full team review where colleagues discussed what went well and where there was opportunity for improvement. “Everyone worked well

together,” says Security Supervisor Gary Major, who served as an exercise facilitator. “There was no hysteria. Everything was well executed because everyone worked as a team and people were relying on one another.”

“Every time we do this, we learn more and more and seem to be more comfortable,” says Facilities Management Director Richard Blakeslee. “When actual events do occur, we are that much more prepared to handle what comes our way.” Drills can be and are conducted at any time of the day or night.

Members of Schuylkill EMS who participated in the drill were most impressed with the use of an Iso-Pod patient isolation system which was used for one of the simulated patients who required isolation during transport. It’s just one more tool we use to “plan, prepare and practice.”



Lobby Improvements

Music once again welcomes visitors entering the main lobby at LVH–Schuylkill S. Jackson Street. A local piano technician recently made adjustments to our baby grand player piano enabling the melodic greeting. The piano was a gift to the hospital more than a decade ago.

The lobby is also undergoing a general “refresh” to spruce it up and make it more appealing to our patients and visitors. “We have been methodically working our way through both hospitals and other facilities to give areas a fresh coat of paint, a little extra attention and other improvements that our maintenance crews

can do,” says Facilities Management Director Richard Blakeslee. The first, second and third floors at LVH–Schuylkill E. Norwegian Street and the LVH–Schuylkill S. Jackson Street lobby are already complete. Work is now underway in the School of Nursing building.

Maintaining our facilities is no simple task. Each hospital has about 260,000 square feet and requires regular and preventative maintenance and upkeep. LVH–Schuylkill also has more than a dozen other facilities including LVPG locations. Our goal is to represent the LVHN brand with pride and provide the best experience possible for patients and visitors.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Free Yoga in the Park

Thursday, June 29, 7 p.m.
Schuylkill County's Vision
Healthy Communities
Bubeck Park – Pavilion #1
Schuylkill Haven

Recreational Accessibility in and Around Schuylkill County

Free Community Lecture
LVHN Rehabilitation Center
Tuesday, July 18, 1 p.m.
300 Schuylkill Medical Plaza

EMT Training in Schuylkill County

FREE Information Session
Lehigh Carbon
Community College
Tuesday, Aug. 8 and Aug. 15
Joseph F. McCloskey
School of Nursing
450 Washington St.,
Pottsville, Pa.

LVH–Schuylkill Golf League

9-hole league
Thursdays at Hidden Valley
Golf Course
Details: **570-739-4455**



Paving the Way for a Smooth Entrance

All that's left is a small section of paving and lines to be painted at the LVHN Rehabilitation Center. As part of LVH–Schuylkill's facilities maintenance and enhancement projects, the parking area at the center was targeted for needing a major improvement. Work is nearly complete at the facility, which is located at 300 Schuylkill Medical Plaza.

Constructed in 2001, the LVHN Rehabilitation Center received a facility award by “Healthcare Design,” a trade publication that explores architecture and interior designs for health-related facilities and clinics. It has been recognized throughout the region as a center of excellence for outpatient rehabilitation services.

“It's a tremendous facility, and we have an equally superb team providing a comprehensive range of outpatient services,” says Kristina Guers, Vice President of Post Acute Services. “We have always prided ourselves in keeping this facility in top condition. The re-surfacing project reinforces that and keeps patient and visitor safety as the focus.”

The LVHN Rehabilitation Center is the only outpatient facility in our community accredited by the International Commission on Accreditation of Rehab Facilities. It provides a comprehensive range of services including physical, occupational, speech and hand therapies, sports medicine, cancer rehabilitation, Workinetics, lymphedema management, aquatic therapy and prosthetics/orthotics. A series of support groups also are available for people with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, stroke and brain injuries, fibromyalgia and chronic pain, and an amputation.

To learn more about the LVHN Rehabilitation Center, call **570-621-9500** or visit LVHN.org/rehabschuylkill.



Arrival of the Family Health Pavilion

Like a family awaiting word of a new arrival, a large crowd of colleagues, government officials, donors and other special guests held a collective breath Monday, June 19, as Bethlehem Mayor Robert Donchez struggled to cut the cord – er, ribbon – for the new Family Health Pavilion at LVH–Muhlenberg.

The mayor finally sliced through the teal blue ribbon imprinted with the theme “Celebrate the Future.” Excitement was high in the capacity-room crowd during remarks from LVHN President and Chief Executive Officer Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP, and other leaders.

“Today we celebrate the future of our community with the opening of the Family Health Pavilion,” Nester said. “That future includes the future babies who will be born here – as many as 2,000 annually. It also means celebrating the future state of independence for patients in our new Inpatient Rehabilitation Center–Muhlenberg.”

The 161,000 square-foot building arrived early and under budget. Doors opened to patients on Wednesday, June 21, rather than in July as originally projected.

PERSONALIZED BIRTH EXPERIENCE

Floors two and three are home to Bethlehem’s only labor and delivery unit, as well as a level II neonatal intensive care unit for babies born at 32 weeks gestation or later. Yet the blueprint for our obstetrical services involves more than bricks and mortar. We also intend to give families a personalized birth experience that includes shared decision making with physicians and more choice for moms and their families.

INTENSIVE THERAPY

Floor one features our Inpatient Rehabilitation Center–Muhlenberg, which provides intensive physical, occupational and speech therapy, as well as leading-edge technology for patients recovering from stroke, neurological disorders, orthopedic injuries, amputations and post-surgical conditions.



The celebration included tours and rehab demonstrations of the Bioness Vector Gait System – technology that holds patients upright in a harness as they learn to walk again after an illness, injury or procedure.

OTHER FEATURES INCLUDE:

- ▶ A multi-purpose room that can be used for meetings, events and family education classes
- ▶ The Pavilion Café featuring meals, snacks and a Starbucks drinks menu
- ▶ Lehigh Valley Children’s Hospital Play Center – a colorful and supervised play space for children
- ▶ An outdoor courtyard where families can share a meal or a quiet moment and rehab patients can practice walking on different surfaces
- ▶ The Grace Shop, our newest Auxiliary-run gift shop, where visitors can purchase balloons, cards, jewelry, home décor and clothing



Celebrating the New Inpatient Rehabilitation Center–Pocono

Independence Day was celebrated at Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH)–Pocono on June 20 – sort of – as the new Inpatient Rehabilitation Center–Pocono was formally dedicated in a ribbon-cutting celebration on the hospital's third floor.

"I know we're actually several weeks away from the July 4th holiday," said LVH–Pocono President Elizabeth Wise. "I'm talking about a different kind of independence. This is the independence our patients will feel once they've completed their rehabilitation inside this new facility."

The new center, which will serve adults 18 years and older, will provide a full continuum of services for patients. LVHN's multidisciplinary approach to rehabilitation care includes specialized rehabilitation physicians, rehabilitation nurses, and physical, occupational and speech therapists.

"We didn't think Independence Day fireworks would work too well in here, but what we're celebrating today is certainly worthy of some serious fanfare," said LVHN Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Terry Capuano. "This new inpatient rehabilitation center will allow adults to receive short-term rehab without having to leave LVH–Pocono."

THE INPATIENT REHABILITATION CENTER–POCONO INCLUDES:

- ▶ 12 private patient rooms
- ▶ A therapy gym, featuring cardio equipment, resistance bands and weights
- ▶ A kitchen where patients can work on activities of daily living, such as cooking on the stove
- ▶ State-of-the-art rehabilitation technology that people who are learning to stand or walk again can use to move around the gym and kitchen

Patients with conditions that would necessitate care at the Inpatient Rehabilitation Center–Pocono can expect a minimum of three hours of intensive, specialized rehabilitation therapy almost every day for an average of two weeks. People recovering from conditions such as stroke, neurological disorders, orthopedic injuries, amputations, post-surgical conditions or other debilities are most likely to use the center.

LVH–Pocono is home to the health network's fifth inpatient rehabilitation center, now making LVHN the largest provider for inpatient rehabilitation in the region with 108 beds. LVHN's other inpatient rehabilitation centers are located at LVH–Cedar Crest, LVH–Muhlenberg, LVH–Hazleton and LVH–Schuylkill.