In reviewing statewide opioid prescribing trends and data, Ste. Genevieve County is in the epicenter of opioid saturated counties. To be a catalyst for change, Laura took lead in the development of and has led an Opioid Stewardship Committee within our organization. The primary goal of the committee is to reduce the quantity of prescriptions, quantity of tablets per prescription by our providers, and promote awareness and education of opioids within our community- patients and providers. The objectives specifically address the Triple Aim approach to quality healthcare- better health, better care, and lower costs. The committee has developed numerous actionable items to decrease opioid misuse and abuse by patients who are prescribed opioids in our Emergency Department, Same Day Surgery, and Physician Clinics.

• Ste. Genevieve County was one of the 1st rural counties in the area to participate in the state PDMP (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program)
• Successful implementation of an e-prescribing program to foster accountability and reduce patient risk with opioid prescribing.
• The EMR has been tailored to alert physicians of what MME (Morphine Milligram Equivalent) that patient is being prescribed before the prescription is issued.
• By education, the committee has successfully decreased ED prescriptions for >3 days supply of opioids by 52% and prescriptions for >15 tablets have decreased by 41% over the past 12 months.
• While being conscientious of the acute nature of pain following surgery, prescriptions in this area for >30 tablets have decreased by 30% and >5 day quantity prescriptions have decreased by 13%.
• The committee has teamed up with the local health department to promote education on the opioid epidemic in our community about opioids
• With collaboration with the health department and our pharmacy, Narcan education is now readily available to community members.
• Development of Pain Management Contracts in our physician clinics to promote patient accountability

Where: Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

When: January 2017- current

How: The above outcomes demonstrate the resilience, professionalism, and ability of Laura to lead a team to meet an identified need within our community and organization. Laura has fantastic rapport and respect from our physicians.

Why: Opioids is a need of epidemic proportions across the state of Missouri. Laura’s efforts with the Opioid Stewardship Committee are aligned with goals of our hospital, but as well of the population of patients that we serve. Laura demonstrates her desire to promote safety and positive outcomes within our community. All of the interventions, including utilization of the PDMP, monitoring prescriptions practices, and community education are all innovative to our community. Her efforts are having a measurable, positive impact to our patient population. Therefore, Laura is the best person to be a recipient of the Rural Health Champion Award.
Christina (Tina) Gillespie, Chief Executive Officer
Harrison County Community Hospital – Bethany, Missouri

Tina originally was Harrison County Community Hospital District’s CFO for 10 years before leaving the organization to pursue other endeavors in 2013. She returned to Harrison County Community Hospital as its Chief Operating Officer in January 2016 which she had stated as it feels like she’s came home. In January 2017, she was asked to serve in the capacity of its Interim Chief Executive Officer until she was offered the permanent position in June 2017. She oversees the operations of a 19 bed Critical Access Hospital plus its Home Health program and three Rural Health Clinics. Harrison County Community Hospital District employs 221 employees which includes 3 physicians and 4 mid-level practitioners. Harrison County Community Hospital District is located in Bethany, MO and is the only hospital in Harrison County.

Tina is dedicated to the growth and health of our communities. She is a part of the Baldrige Community of Excellence, a partnership between our town and a neighboring town to increase awareness of our area and work to increase growth in not just our town but all surrounding towns.

Tina quickly recognized that the Swing Bed and Home Health program was quickly deteriorating due to the new Joint Module and it’s affect to Critical Access Hospital. Admissions for both the Swing Bed and Home Health program was drastically down from previous years. Instead of sitting back and letting someone else address the issue, Tina was on the phone with CMS, MHA and State of Missouri to discuss the ramifications of the new program for Critical Access Hospitals. Tina didn’t take the attitude of my voice won’t make a difference, she took a stand for what is right for her hospital, PATIENTS, as well as all Critical Access Hospitals.

Tina is working on being a steward for our communities by working with area businesses to ensure they are able to provide wellness needs without disrupting productivity by offering flu and pneumonia vaccines at local businesses.

Under Tina’s direction, Harrison County Community Hospital is in the process of developing new vision, mission and values statements. Tina has also started the initiative of creating a Strategic Plan for our organization which focuses on 5 main pillars: People, Finance & Growth, Patient Experience, Quality & Safety, and Community & Service.

Although Tina has only been in the role of Chief Executive Officer for a very short period of time, you won’t find a more dedicated individual in our organization.
Dr. Armin Kamyab, General Surgeon, Chief of Surgery, Cox Monett Hospital – Monett, Missouri

Dr. Armin Kamyab, a Mayo-Clinic trained surgeon, moved to Monett (population 9,000) in August 2014 and began to develop his practice into what it is today. From August 2014 – December 2014 there were 372 endoscopy and general surgery cases that equated to $2.21 million dollars in gross revenue. This compared to his current August 2017- December 2017 numbers of 642 cases with a gross revenue of $4.27 million. This is a 58 percent growth in his practice in three years, and a 52 percent increase in gross revenue. This was no easy task as area primary care providers were accustomed to sending all surgery cases to CoxHealth in Springfield. Dr. Kamyab had to make a name for himself and developed the relationships with the area primary care providers. Dr. Kamyab’s hard work and dedication has transformed the hospital and the respect that the community has for the facility. In fact, Cox Monett was named to the 2018 list of Best Places to Work in by Modern Health Care and was voted “Best Hospital” by the readers’ of the Monett Times two years in a row.

Where: Monett, Missouri, located in Barry County

How: Dr. Kamyab has an innate desire to provide the highest quality of care to the community. He grew up in large cities and felt isolated; this encouraged him to want to provide for the rural community that he now calls home. He does not limit his schedule, oftentimes he can be found providing care to patients well outside of his office hours.

Why: Dr. Kaymab has embraced the mission, vision and values of our organization. Dr. Kamyab’s main priority always lies with the well-being of our patients, their families and our community. This is evident in his hard work and many hours of service that he dedicates to the organization for the community. Dr. Kamyab feels a sense of pride from being the only specialist provider in the area, “it allows me the ability to understand the needs of the community”, he says. Dr. Kamyab’s dedication to the rural community can also be demonstrated through the many rural locations that he serves. He provides care in Monett, Cassville, Branson, and Lamar. Despite the opportunities to live and work in an urban setting, Dr. Kamyab continues to show his support dedication to people living in this wonderful rural community.
William Mahoney, CEO & President, Cox Medical Center Branson & Senior Vice President Community Hospital Group
Cox Medical Center - Branson, Missouri

William Mahoney moved to Branson in January 2010 and began his tenure as President and Chief Executive Officer at Skaggs Regional Medical Center, which is now Cox Medical Center Branson, a subsidiary of CoxHealth. In 2012, he served as the Missouri Hospital Association’s (MHA) Southwest District Chairman and was named an American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion by MHA. At the same time, he worked with the Skaggs Board of Directors to bring to fruition a strategic partnership with CoxHealth, an endeavor that would advance southwest Missouri’s healthcare to a new level. In 2013, the employee satisfaction rate at Cox Medical Center Branson reached the 90th percentile among 376 other healthcare organizations nationwide. Since then, Cox Branson, along with the rest of our company, have succeeded in maintaining our status of employer of choice for several consecutive years. William Mahoney continues serving on MHA’s board of directors and finance committee, and served as Chair of the Branson Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce during 2016. This year, he is chair of MHA’s Hospital Industry Data Institute (HIDI). HIDI provides timely access to data and information services to help all Missouri hospitals, as well as hospitals in other states, supports strategic planning, advocacy and health policy initiatives and plays an important role in maintaining healthcare transparency. In addition, he is an integral part of the CoxHealth Management team working to maintain our position in the Ozarks with excellent patient care and remain the employer of choice. William was recently named Senior Vice President of the CoxHealth Community Hospital Group (CHG), which represents CoxHealth facilities outside of Springfield and include Cox Medical Center Branson, Cox Barton County Hospital, and Cox Monett Hospital.

Where: Branson, Missouri, located in Taney County

How: With a leadership style of selflessness and open-mindedness, Mr. Mahoney inspires all around him in his quest to deliver the best patient care possible. From personally rounding on patients and their families, to his community involvement, going above and beyond to ensure positive outcomes is a daily occurrence for William.

Why: William has not only embraced the mission, vision and values of our organization, but taken what it means to be a compassionate, servant leader, to a completely new level. Mr. Mahoney’s main priority always lies with the wellbeing of our patients, their families and our community, never putting himself above anyone else, ensuring that their needs are met before all else. William’s true passion lies in the leadership and governance of rural healthcare facilities, where he feels we have an overwhelming need for quality healthcare and access. Despite several opportunities to assume leadership roles in larger hospitals, his unmatched dedication and service to rural healthcare continues.
Daljeet Singh, MD – Higginsville Medical Clinic & Lafayette Regional Health Center  
Higginsville & Lexington, Missouri

Dr. Singh is a pillar of Lafayette County providing rural medical care to patients at Higginsville Medical Clinic & Lafayette Regional Health Center (LRHC) for 40 years. He participates in multiple Hospital Committees to provide the Community with excellent healthcare, along with multiple charity work in the community. He served as Lafayette County Coroner for many years.

Where/When: Since arriving as a medical resident in 1977 he has been giving of his time, talent and self to the people of Higginsville and surrounding communities. Dr. Singh has been in rural practice since 1988. How did a young man from Aurangabad India end up in rural Missouri? To complete his medical training and do what would now be considered a residency.

During that time Dr. Singh has been Chief of Staff at Lafayette Regional Health Center, Lafayette County Coroner, Medical Director for Higginsville Habilitation Center, President of the Lafayette-Ray County Medical Society and a caring doctor to thousands. There is no place you go in the county that somebody doesn’t walk up and ask “doc” how he is doing. Doctor Singh is part of the Lafayette county Cancer Coalition and has provided hundreds of hours of charity care doing screenings. He has been a strong advocate for pediatric mental health in the county helping to get a mental health tax passed and serving on the board to oversee the funds.

From direct patient care in the clinic or bedside in the hospital to serving on hospital committees or community boards Dr. Singh has devoted his life to the people of Lafayette county trying to assure that he leaves things better than he found them and for that I believe he qualifies as a healthcare hero.

How: Dr. Singh is compassionate & caring – he is always available to his patients. He mentors younger physicians & nurses in the practice of rural medicine. He strives to keep LRHC on the forefront of medical practice & assists with recruitment efforts to continue his legacy into the future.

Why: Dr. Singh is very deserving & respected in the community of Lafayette County. He exemplifies the mission & vision of LRHC “Above all else, we are committed to the care & improvement of human life.” “Together, we will be the premier healthcare destination for all we serve”. Dr. Singh is loved by all & is an advocate for rural medicine.