Surveyors like what they see at hospital

BY BRETT MCLAUGHLIN
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SENECA — If onsite indicators are to be believed, Oconee Medical Center expects to get a glowing accreditation report in the weeks ahead.

The facility recently underwent an accreditation survey that is conducted every three years to determine compliance with state and federal guidelines, review practices and scrutinize staff.

"We had a great survey," Reba Cartee, vice president of quality and medical collaboration, told board members this week. "The surveyors were very complimentary, identified many of our 'best practices' and called our 'code purple' very innovative."

Cartee said the "code purple" refers to an intervention program aimed at the early detection of heart attacks among hospital inpatients.

She said accreditation officials were also impressed by the collaboration between the medical staff and patient services staff.

She said a preliminary report identified some opportunities for improvement but predicted that accreditation will be renewed pending the filing of some additional materials online.



"You never get a recommendation of accreditation from the survey team. It always has to come from the home office," President and CEO Jeanne Ward told board members.

OMC Foundation Director Debbie Dubose reported that 500 volunteers will be involved in this week's annual Hospice of the Foothills Christmas Tree Festival at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church on Bountyland Road. She said a luncheon on Tuesday was to be the first of nine events held through Friday. A new activity targeting younger patrons will be "Pass the Purse," scheduled for this evening. It will feature an auction for designer clothing, purses and golf bags.

The 2010 Christmas Tree Festival was the most successful ever with net proceeds topping $128,000. All proceeds from the Festival will help build the third and final phase of The Cottingham House.

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