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Memorial Medical Center

Neillsville, Loyal, Greenwood

Care...at its best

Memorial Medical Center Doctor Appointed to Statewide Advisory Council

Dr. Timothy Meyer of Memorial Medical Center, Neillsville was recently appointed to the state Rural Health Development Council (RHDC). Dr. Meyer was nominated to fill the "rural physician" slot on the Council, and he went through a lengthy application and review process. He was recently officially appointed to the Council by Governor Jim Doyle.

"It is an honor to represent MMC, the medical staff, community members, and the city of Neillsville on a state level," said Dr. Meyer. "This is also a chance for MMC to have a representative at the table. There are many discussions about the challenges healthcare facilities will face in the future. Serving on the RHDC will hopefully help prevent these problems and help us be part of the solution."



"Dr. Meyer is certainly deserving of this honor and opportunity to be an advocate for rural health care. With health care reform in the news every day, it is imperative to have the voices of rural health care and MMC be heard. Dr. Meyer will represent us well," said Scott Polenz, CEO of Memorial Medical Center.

The RHDC advises the Wisconsin Department of Commerce on issues such as the Wisconsin Loan Assistance Program, ways to improve health indicators in rural communities, and other healthcare matters.

When asked what topic he will urge the Council to focus on, Dr. Meyer replied, "The biggest issue for me is promoting access to healthcare and especially healthcare providers." He would like to help underserved areas and rural healthcare facilities recruit and retain quality providers. As he explained, new healthcare legislation signed into law by President Obama may give some people better access to healthcare through expanded insurance options, but there is still a shortage of rural providers that he feels needs consideration.

The RHDC is made up of 15 members, including several rural healthcare providers, private lenders who make loans in rural areas, and a few representatives from Wisconsin medical schools and educational facilities. Thirteen of the members are appointed by the governor, and they each serve a five-year term. The Council meets in Madison every other month to discuss current rural healthcare topics such as legislation, technology and the workforce.

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