

Hospital to close Long Term

Written by Gothenburg Times
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Nursing home services to end in September.

Gothenburg Memorial Hospital's Long Term Care facility will close Sept. 30.

A news release by the hospital board announced the closing Tuesday morning, noting that the decision is the result of revenue loss over the past several years.

In fact over the last five years, financial losses at long-term care have exceeded \$1.6 million, the release noted.

"We are not alone in this situation," the board said. "Occupancy has steadily declined in almost all nursing homes across the state."

While expenses continue to rise, according to the release, state and federal reimbursements are being reduced with every budget cut.

"Sadly, this trend does not appear to likely be reversed in the coming years," the release said.

The GMH board noted that members must be good stewards of public tax dollars and use them responsibly.

"To do this, we feel closing this part of our facility is the most fiscally responsible thing we can do while still providing quality and availability of care to the residents of our hospital district," the board said.

Another consideration in the decision is because of the availability of other quality nursing

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facilities close to or within Gothenburg.

Hilltop Estates Care Center is the only other facility in Gothenburg that offers skilled nursing-home services like what is offered at Long Term Care.

The news release described the local and area facilities as available, highly rated and providers of quality care within spacious and inviting environments.

“We feel that it is important for our Long Term Care residents to remain in the community provided they wish to continue living in Gothenburg,” the board said.

GMH board members indicated that they continue to plan ahead for the health of the community and the surrounding area.

“We must maintain fiscal stability of the hospital overall in order to continue to move forward,” the board said, noting that the board, administration and staff are committed to making the transition as seamless as possible.

Questions or concerns can be directed to: Monty Bowman, chair, 537-2359; Mike Bacon, vice president, 537-7461; Larry Gill, 537-3063; Brent Block, 537-7262 or Carol Shackleton-Skinner, 537-7131.