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WMH welcomes Sommers to Kinross clinic



War Memorial Hospital's clinic in Kinross welcomed a new family-practice provider last week, when Nurse Practitioner Jonathan Sommers, DNP, NP-C joined the staff.

Sommers, a native of northeast Ohio, will see patients four days per week, with a provider from another WMH facility seeing patients on the remaining day. The clinic sees patients Monday through Friday from 9am-7pm.

A registered nurse for eight years, Sommers recently received his Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and became nationally certified as a Nurse Practitioner. He relocated to the Eastern Upper Peninsula from Johnson City, TN, where he worked in a level one trauma center. Level one is the highest level of emergency care in the country and handles the most severe cases.

"I've worked in rural clinics before and Kinross reminds me of that. It's a clinic in a place that doesn't have a lot of other services in the community so we try to meet the needs where people live, rather than making them travel for everything," he commented.

Sommers said his goals for the Kinross clinic revolve mostly around his relationships with patients.

"I want to develop a good rapport with patients so they see someone is listening to them and hearing not just their symptoms and the scientific side of their condition, but also how it affects their lives and their whole health," he explained.

Years as a registered nurse have shaped his philosophy and his skills as a provider. "My background in nursing has helped me learn how to communicate with people who are in distress or ill health and are fearful. I want them to feel looked after and cared for and I want them to be comfortable putting their trust in me," he said.

CEO David Jahn said the hospital is pleased to have Sommers on staff.

"We welcome Jon Sommers to the WMH family and look forward to him establishing a primary care practice in Kinross. By providing additional access to primary care services in the community, we believe his practice will be very beneficial for everyone," the CEO said.

Sommers earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Goshen College in Goshen, IN; a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA; and his DNP from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN.

He has also performed considerable mission work, teaching English as a member of the US Peace Corps in Uzbekistan in 2002-2003 and as a clinic nurse with Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh in Honduras. Shoulder to Shoulder provides primary care to a mountain village of 1,500 people.

Sommers is relocating to the area with his wife, a native of Marshall, MI, and his three children. A lesser-known talent he possesses is that of a baker, having worked his way through college at a bakery in Pittsburgh. With three young kids, his current specialty is sandwich bread, but after settling in, he expects to expand his menu.

“I’ve been pretty busy for the last five years, but I would love to make sourdough from starter,” he said with a laugh.

WMH Community Care – Kinross is located at 16523 S. Water Tower Drive. For an appointment to see Sommers, call (906) 495-1344.

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