



PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

# News

February 2025

## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Pulaski County Medical Society

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- Leticia Jones, MD – *Vice President*
- Kelly Burks, MD – *Immediate Past President*
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- Jordan Marsh – *UAMS Student Representative*

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### Pulaski County Medical Society

- Kelly Burks, MD
- Nominating & Credentialing Chair*

## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Pulaski County Medical Exchange

- Marvin Ashford, MD
- Inge Carter, MD
- Jeffery Hartsell, MHSA
- Will Henson
- Renee Ross, MD
- Naveen Yarlagadda, MD

### Pulaski County Medical Society

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When you think professional, ethical, quality healthcare,  
 think physicians of Pulaski County Medical Society.

## We Need your Updated Address for National Doctors Day

The Society would like to send you something in appreciation for your service, so we need your help. Please reach out to us and update your home mailing address.

If you received the invitation to our annual meeting back in October at your home address, you do not have to contact us unless it has changed since then.

If you did not receive that invitation, please email your current home mailing address to [derek@pulaskicms.org](mailto:derek@pulaskicms.org). This address will only be used for this promotion and the mailing of invitations to our annual meeting and dinner in November.

**PLEASE SEND ANY UPDATED INFORMATION  
 BEFORE MARCH 1, 2025**

## Field at Dickey Stephens Park to be Renamed for CHI St. Vincent

### Change goes into effect for the 2025 season

The Arkansas Travelers are proud to announce the first-ever field naming rights agreement with CHI St. Vincent at Dickey-Stephens Park. All Travs home games will now take place at CHI St. Vincent Field at Dickey-Stephens Park. The name change goes into effect for the upcoming season and will run for five years.

“We are thrilled to expand our tremendous partnership with CHI St. Vincent over the next few seasons,” said Travelers Team President Rusty Meeks. “This agreement is a testament to their commitment to the community and our organization. It will make a big impact at the ballpark for many seasons to come.”

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# Amendments to the HIPAA Privacy Rule: Key Changes for Reproductive Health Care

Justin Joy, JD, CIPP, Attorney, Lewis Thomason, PC

Adapted from the SVMIC Sentinel: Read the full article at [svmic.com/sentinel](https://svmic.com/sentinel)

For the first time in over a decade, substantive changes have been made to the HIPAA Privacy Rule. The HIPAA Privacy Rule To Support Reproductive Health Care Privacy took effect on June 25, 2024. Several of the changes will significantly impact medical practices that provide reproductive health care services or that offer substance use disorder treatment, and a smaller number of changes will affect all HIPAA covered entities.

## CHANGES IMPACTING ALL PROVIDERS

For all practices, the notice of privacy practices (NPP) form will need to be revised to include a statement like the one required on protected health information (PHI) disclosure authorization forms, adequate to put patients on notice of the potential that any PHI disclosed according to the Privacy Rule is subject to redisclosure by the recipient and no longer protected by HIPAA. Additionally, as discussed in more detail below, providers must also modify their NPP to address prohibitions on uses and disclosures of reproductive health care records and when valid attestations are now required.

## CHANGES IMPACTING PROVIDERS CREATING OR MAINTAINING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE RECORDS

The Privacy Rule now includes new provisions regarding reproductive health care records. According to the new rule, reproductive health care is "health care that affects the health of an individual in all matters related to the reproductive system and its functions and processes." Importantly, this definition is not expressly limited to gynecology or

obstetrics, and could encompass various health care settings, such as urology and primary care. Furthermore, for Privacy Rule applicability, the scope of reproductive health care information is effectively expanded further to include activities like expressing interest in, using, performing, furnishing, paying for, disseminating information about, arranging, insuring, administering, authorizing, providing coverage for, approving, counseling about, assisting, or taking any action to engage in reproductive health care. For instance, this could potentially include a patient seeking advice on contraception, a doctor performing a hysterectomy, or a clinic providing information on fertility treatments. This means that any health care provider or organization with records related to these types of activities must be aware of these new obligations. The new rule specifies that a HIPAA covered entity cannot use or disclose protected health information for many specific activities. *See the full SVMIC Sentinel article for a listing.* A new mechanism is introduced with these new rules. For the first time, the HIPAA Privacy Rule requires an attestation for specific uses and disclosures of PHI to individuals or organizations outside of covered entities or business associates. There are many specific requirements for an attestation to be valid, but in summary, an attestation must accompany any request to disclose reproductive health care PHI for health oversight activities, judicial and administrative proceedings such as in response to subpoenas, law enforcement purposes, or to coroners and medical examiners. The attestation must be free of any errors, written in plain language, and include

specific information such as a description of the requested information, the name of the person or organization requested to make the use or disclosure, the name of the person or organization to whom the covered entity is to make the requested use or disclosure, and a clear statement that the request is not being made for a purpose prohibited under the amended Privacy Rule. The attestation must also include a warning about potential criminal penalties for unauthorized disclosure of health information. The attestation must be signed and dated by the person requesting the information, and if signed by a representative, the representative's authority must be provided. For example, unless accompanied by a valid attestation, no PHI potentially related to reproductive health care may be disclosed in response to a medical records subpoena, which are commonly issued in lawsuits involving personal injuries. Conversely, reproductive health care records requested by another provider for treatment purposes are not required to have an attestation. All HIPAA covered entities are impacted to some degree by the recent amendments to the Privacy Rule. The degree of policy and operational modifications required, as well as the deadline for complying with the regulatory changes, depend on the nature of services your medical practice provides to patients, as well as the type of records maintained by your medical practice. SVMIC members with questions about HIPAA, cybersecurity, or access to these resources, call 800-342-2239 or email [ContactSVMIC@svmic.com](mailto:ContactSVMIC@svmic.com).

## Field at Dickey Stephens Park to be Renamed for CHI St. Vincent

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As part of the agreement, CHI St. Vincent will have their logo painted on the field in foul territory on both the first base and third base sides of the infield. They will also have increased signage around the ballpark including on gates visible outside the ballpark, the indoor batting cages behind right field and on light poles within the stadium.



## Crystal Bohannon Named President of CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs

[CHI St. Vincent](#), a leading regional health network serving Central and Southwest Arkansas, announces the appointment of Crystal Bohannon to President of CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs. Bohannon moves into the role after serving as vice president of operations at CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs since 2018. In her new role, she will oversee day-to-day operations and delivery of the highest quality patient care.

“Crystal brings a wealth of leadership and a deep commitment to compassionate, high-quality care that aligns perfectly with our mission,” CHI St. Vincent Market President Chad Aduddell said. “Her experience will be instrumental as we continue to grow and enhance the services we provide to our community. Under her guidance, we look forward to reaching new heights in delivering exceptional healthcare for years to come.”

Bohannon is a proven healthcare leader with nearly two decades of experience in healthcare administration. Before her role as vice president of operations, Bohannon spent more than 10 years as executive director of operational finance for St. Vincent. Before that, she was an administrator at Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff, where she worked for nearly a decade.

Bohannon’s vast experience includes a focus on leadership development, improving processes that drive efficiency, and producing measurable results in quality, safety and patient experience. She has also been a champion for coworker and provider engagement, helping to build partnerships with communities across Southwest Arkansas.

“CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs has a long-standing tradition of excellence, and I am thrilled to work alongside our dedicated team to provide the utmost in quality and compassionate care to Arkansans,” Bohannon said. “Together, we will build on our strong foundation and continue to serve our community with innovative solutions and a deep commitment to health and well-being.”



*Crystal Bohannon*

Bohannon holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia and a Master of Business Administration from Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi. She is also a CPA.

Bohannon moves into the president’s role after CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs’ previous president, Dr. Doug Ross, was named president of Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center, a CommonSpirit hospital in Arizona.

For more information on CHI St. Vincent, visit [chistvincent.com](http://chistvincent.com).



## UAMS Intervention Sees Significant Decrease in HbA1c, BMI Levels Among Marshallese Communities

Participants in a University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) study to determine the effectiveness of culturally-adapted, family-based diabetes education and management programs for Marshallese families saw significant reductions in HbA1c and BMI (Body Mass Index) levels, according to researchers at the UAMS Institute for Community Health Innovation.

The study examined 185 individuals, including 99 diabetics and 86 family members. Building on research conducted with Marshallese community members in Arkansas, the study was implemented in church settings in Hawaii and Washington state, using trained, bilingual community health workers (CHWs) to administer the family-based Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES) program. The program was implemented in partnership with Washington State University and the Hawaii Island Community Health Center.

According to previous studies, more than 90% of Marshallese adults reported regular church attendance.

"Our communities gather regularly at church, and we enjoy surrounding ourselves with other community members," said Sheldon Riklon, M.D., one of two U.S.-trained Marshallese doctors in the country and an assistant professor at the institute. "We feel comfortable in that setting and are willing to participate as a group or a family there."

Participants received 10 hours of family-based DSMES education conducted in eight sessions over an eight-to-10-week period. The curriculum covered topics such as healthy eating, physical activity, glucose monitoring, medications, problem-solving, reducing risks, healthy

coping and goal setting. The curriculum was also adapted to incorporate cultural norms for Marshallese families, such as adapted recipes and the use of "talk story" — the sharing of stories and experiences — as a way of sharing knowledge and engaging participants.

"Our culture is unique and valuable," Riklon said. "It's our identity. If we want to make a significant health impact among Marshallese communities, then cultural norms that are familiar to us are vital and should be incorporated."

Estimates show that between 20-40% of Marshallese individuals have Type 2 diabetes, compared with 11.6% in the United States and 10.5% worldwide. The institute has also provided outreach and diabetes management programs to Marshallese communities in Arkansas and will work with pharmacies over the next several years to implement DSMES in rural communities across the state.

By the end of the study, diabetic participants saw a 0.69% decrease in their HbA1c levels. According to the study, a reduction of HbA1c greater than 0.5% is considered "clinically significant."

"This study really shows us the value of CHW-delivered health education," said Pearl McElfish, Ph.D., division director at the institute. "It also shows us the importance of meeting communities where they are, such as church settings, with medical interventions that connect to their cultures."

For more information about the UAMS Institute for Community Health Innovation, visit [communityhealth.uams.edu](https://communityhealth.uams.edu).



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# Baptist Health Comprehensive Women’s Clinic-North Little Rock Holds Ribbon Cutting, Open House

Baptist Health Comprehensive Women’s Clinic-North Little Rock on Tuesday, Jan. 28, held a ribbon cutting with tours to celebrate the clinic’s opening.

Ijanae Holman-Allgood, MD, MPH, and Sarah Holcomb, MD, will see patients at the clinic. They specialize in primary care, pediatrics, pregnancy and childbirth.

A native of Niceville, Florida, Dr. Holman-Allgood received her Master of Public Health from St. George’s University, where she also earned a Doctor of Medicine from the St. George’s University School of Medicine.



Dr. Holman-Allgood completed residency training in Family Medicine via the UAMS Northwest Family Medicine Residency program in Fayetteville and a Obstetrics Maternal Child and Reproductive Health Fellowship in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Dr. Holcomb is a Jonesboro native and attended the University of Arkansas as an undergraduate majoring in Microbiology. She obtained her Doctor of Medicine from Ross University School of Medicine and went on to complete her residency training in Family Medicine at UAMS West Regional Programs.

Dr. Holcomb joined the faculty at UAMS Northeast Regional Programs in 2013, where she provided inpatient

and outpatient care, as well as full-spectrum obstetrical care within the residency along with her duties as faculty.

Each new phase of a woman’s life can bring different health concerns. Baptist Health Comprehensive Women’s Clinic-North Little Rock, at 4625 JFK Boulevard, Suite 210, in North Little Rock, provides quality primary care for women of all ages and their children. From annual wellness exams to childbirth, chronic medical conditions to breast health, the clinic delivers the leading care and advanced services patients need to pursue a lifetime of wellness.

To learn more about Baptist Health Comprehensive Women’s Clinic-North Little Rock, visit [Baptist-Health.com](http://Baptist-Health.com) or call (501) 435-3455.



*Ijanae Holman-Allgood, MD, MPH*



*Sarah Holcomb, MD*

## UAMS Cardiac Noninvasive Lab Earns Echocardiography Accreditation

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) recently earned echocardiography accreditation for its cardiac noninvasive laboratory from the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC).

Echocardiography is a noninvasive procedure that uses ultrasound to create images of the heart for use in examining its structure and diagnosing heart conditions. UAMS was awarded accreditation in the areas of adult transesophageal, stress and transthoracic echocardiography — procedures that diagnose various conditions of the heart including infections, blood clots and heart artery blockages. UAMS is the only adult-care hospital in central Arkansas to earn accreditation in the areas of adult transesophageal and stress echocardiography.

"This prestigious recognition is a testament to the hard work, dedication and excellence of our entire faculty and staff," said Paul Mounsey, M.D., professor and chair of the Division of Cardiology in the UAMS Department of Internal Medicine. "Achieving IAC accreditation underscores our commitment to providing high-quality education and continuous improvement in all aspects of our program."

"IAC accreditation is a 'seal of approval' that patients can rely on as an indicator of consistent quality care and a commitment to continuous improvement," according to the commission, which was founded in 1991 by medical professionals to evaluate and accredit facilities that provide diagnostic imaging and interventional-based procedures, to advance standardization and quality.

"We are extremely excited for this accomplishment and for the ongoing quality care for our patients," said Randi Booker, MHA, manager and technical director of the lab. The accreditation process includes a detailed self-evaluation, followed by a thorough review by a panel of medical experts that enables both the critical operational and technical components of the applicant facility to be

assessed, including representative case studies and their corresponding final reports.



"IAC accreditation attests to the high-quality care that patients referred to our lab receive," said cardiologist Srikanth Vallurupalli, M.D., medical director of the cardiac noninvasive lab and an associate professor in the Division of Cardiology. "In addition to being performed to the highest quality standards, both inpatient and outpatient studies are interpreted in a timely manner, and final reports made available to referring providers within 24 hours. The accreditation also paves the path towards offering advanced training in echocardiography for our trainees."

The IAC accreditation lasts for three years.

UAMS echocardiography services are available at the main Little Rock campus and at four other UAMS cardiology clinics, located in Batesville, El Dorado, Maumelle and Midtown Little Rock inside the Women's Center.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), heart disease is the leading cause of death for people of most racial and ethnic groups in the United States. On average, one American dies every 33 seconds of cardiovascular disease, which includes disorders of the heart and blood vessels.

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membership/directory/](https://www.pulaskicms.org/membership/directory/)



# CHI St. Vincent Reaches Agreement with Centene

## Patients Will Maintain In-Network Access to Care By Providers They Know and Trust

[CHI St. Vincent](#), a leading regional health network serving Central and Southwest Arkansas, is pleased to announce we have reached a new multiyear agreement with Centene on Jan. 1, 2025. The renewal agreement will allow patients to maintain in-network access to all CHI St. Vincent services across existing contracted products including Centene’s Qualchoice Commercial, Ambetter Individual and Family, which includes ARHome membership, as well as Allwell Medicare Advantage plans.

From the beginning, our goal in working with Centene has always been about ensuring we can continue to meet the needs of our patients today and in the future.

“The agreement with Centene is a win for our patients who deserve access to local high-quality care,” said Chad Aduddell, Market President of CHI St. Vincent.

“We highly value our long-standing partnership with CHI and are truly grateful that we have the opportunity to continue to work together to provide our members with access to high-quality care,” said John Ryan, Centene-Arkansas Plan President and CEO.

CHI St. Vincent deeply appreciates the trust patients have placed with us and we look forward to continuing serving patients for generations to come.

For more information on CHI St. Vincent, visit [chistvincent.com](http://chistvincent.com).

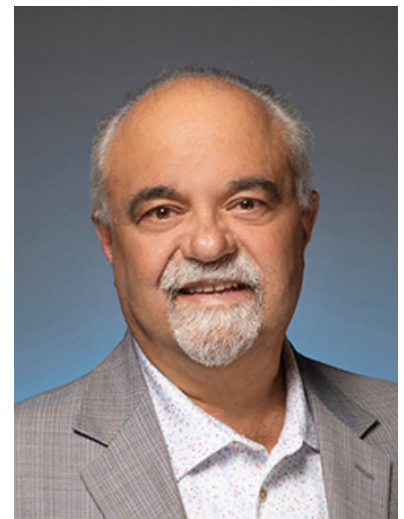
# E. Scot Davis to lead Arkansas Spine and Pain as CEO

Arkansas Spine and Pain (ASAP) has announced E. Scot Davis as its new CEO. In this role, Davis will oversee financial and clinical operations across seven Arkansas locations.

“ASAP is the leader in pain management for spine and joint problems, and I’m honored to lead an organization so dedicated to improving the quality of life for its patients,” Davis said. “I look forward to working alongside this talented group of specialists to increase accessibility to cutting-edge pain management solutions across Arkansas.”

With over 30 years of expertise in physician practice management, Davis has a wealth of experience in physician recruitment, joint ventures, compensation modeling and operational efficiency across diverse specialties. Prior to joining the ASAP team, Davis served as the CEO of Arkansas Urology for nearly 12 years.

“We’re extremely grateful to have Scot on board,” said Dr. Amir Qureshi, founder and president of Arkansas Spine and Pain. “Under his leadership, we’re confident he will guide the organization into an exciting new chapter of growth and innovation.” *E. Scot Davis*



A Memphis native, Davis holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in public administration from Memphis State University, as well as a Master of Business Administration from Christian Brothers University.

For more information about Arkansas Spine and Pain, visit [ArkansasSpineAndPain.com](http://ArkansasSpineAndPain.com).

## Baptist Health Neurosurgery Arkansas-Little Rock Welcomes Osama Intikhab, MD



*Osama Intikhab, MD*

Osama Intikhab, MD, recently joined the team offering Arkansas’ most comprehensive neurosurgery care at Baptist Health Neurosurgery Arkansas-Little Rock.

Dr. Intikhab received his medical education from Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan, and residency training in Diagnostic Radiology at Detroit Medical Center/Wayne State University. He completed fellowships in Neuroradiology at Henry Ford Hospital and Interventional Neuroradiology at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

“My goal is to treat all those who entrust their care to me with respect, and at all times protect the sanctity and dignity of human life,” Dr. Intikhab said.

Baptist Health Neurosurgery Arkansas-Little Rock is located at 9601 Baptist Health Drive, Suite 750, on the campus of Baptist Health Medical Center-Little Rock.

For more information about Dr. Intikhab and the services he provides at Baptist Health Neurosurgery Arkansas-Little Rock, visit [Baptist-Health.com](http://Baptist-Health.com) or call (501) 224-0200.

## Janet Marshall Promoted to Chief Development Officer of Baptist Health Foundation



*Janet Marshall*

Janet Marshall has been promoted to chief development officer (CDO) of Baptist Health Foundation.

Marshall – who has served as the interim CDO for more than three months – began her career with Baptist Health in 1992 as the Bolo Bash coordinator. She most recently was

the senior marketing, annual gifts and events officer.

Prior to returning to Baptist Health in 2023, Marshall was vice president of development at The Methodist Foundation of Arkansas for 20 years.

A graduate of Baylor University with a Bachelor of Science degree, Marshall has two sons – Garrison, who is married to McKenzie, and Reece. Garrison and McKenzie recently welcomed a daughter, Hattie, born at Baptist Health Medical Center-Little Rock. In addition, Marshall is a member of St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock.

Baptist Health Foundation provides financial support for Arkansas’ largest and most comprehensive not-for-profit health care organization, Baptist Health. For more than 60 years, the Foundation has provided the funding needed to strengthen Baptist Health’s ability to deliver its healing ministry, comprehensive treatment and innovative services.

When donors give their time, money and support to Baptist Health Foundation, amazing things happen. Visit [BaptistHealthFoundation.org](http://BaptistHealthFoundation.org) for more information.