

# SVH DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES SERVICE APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIR FOR NM RURAL HOSPITAL NETWORK

JANUARY, 2025

In addition to serving as Director of Facilities Service at Sierra Vista Hospital, Don Welch will take on an important role with the New Mexico Rural Hospital Network by chairing the organization's Facility Management Directors Committee.

Established in 2011, the New Mexico Rural Hospital Network, comprised of 11 rural, independent, non-profit hospitals, facilitates collaboration between these hospitals. Members of the network benefit from group purchasing discounts, business partnerships, sharing of best practices, education, and other advantages. These resources and relationships have proven to be invaluable to rural hospitals like Sierra Vista over the years.

Still fairly new to Sierra Vista Hospital, Don Welch assumed the position of Director of Facilities Service in July of 2024, having moved from Uvalde, Texas, where he held the same position for ten years at Uvalde Memorial Hospital. As Director of Facilities Service, Don oversees every aspect of plant management, from grounds, buildings, and equipment to HVAC, security, and emergency protocols, all with the ultimate goal of a clean, safe, and comfortable environment for staff and patients alike.

As the newly-appointed Chair of the Facility Management Directors Committee, Don has already found himself in frequent communication with his peers at the other NM Rural Hospital Network facilities, with calls coming his way nearly every day. His Joint Commission, CMS, and extensive plant management experience and expertise give him a vantage point to help answer the tough questions he receives from the group. And while Don welcomes calls at any time from his peers, he and his colleagues also have the opportunity to dive deep into issues in their monthly video committee meetings and the NM Rural Hospital Network quarterly meetings.

Don welcomes this chair position as an opportunity to share and receive ideas and information with a group of peers facing the same, ever-evolving, always fluid challenges that he faces at Sierra Vista Hospital – power, water, weather, security, equipment issues... the list goes on and on. Thankfully, for Sierra Vista, having such a qualified, seasoned, and capable person in such a vital position is a huge benefit to our hospital and the community we serve. We congratulate Don in his appointment as Chair of New Mexico Rural Hospital Network's Facility Management Director's Committee and thank him for all he does for Sierra Vista Hospital.

