

BCHC welcomes new nurse practitioner



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BANDON — Bandon Community Health Center welcomes Family Nurse Practitioner Laura Bye to the clinic staff. Bye began serving patients at the BCHC Bandon clinic April 1.

For more than 10 years, Bye has worked with patients in varied medical settings, including hospitals, clinics and home health locations throughout the Pacific Northwest. Bye considered a move to the Oregon Coast for some time. She chose Bandon after meeting the BCHC staff.

“The staff they have are amazing,” said Bye, who noted how refreshing it is to find such a cohesive group of professionals.

Her depth of training, coupled with special expertise in pain management and geriatric care, benefit the health center and the community, said Executive Director Linda Maxon.

“We’re really fortunate to have a practitioner come to us with such a strong background in caring for Medicare patients, and she’s especially knowledgeable of in-home services,” said Maxon.

“Clinically, Laura is very sound and grounded. And

she will do very well with patients managing long term pain, with many tools and a team approach to helping patients.”

Bye said her strength in caring for elderly Medicare patients is her communication skill. Her introduction to health care began in childhood — her father was a physician in rural practice. She started her own her medical career as a registered nurse and earned her Masters of Nursing degree and FNP license in 2009.

Her decision to earn her FNP license was motivated by the desire to make a difference in people’s lives. The relationship between primary care practitioner and patient are as fulfilling for her as for her patients, she said. In the health center setting, she is able to invest time getting to know individual patients.

BCHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center serving South Coast residents of Bandon, Langlois, Port Orford and Agness. To expand patient services, the center will relocate to a larger clinic this summer and hire additional staff. Recruitment is underway for a medical director and psychiatric nurse practitioner.

