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EDITORIAL: Iredell Health System aims to inspire wellbeing

Editorial Board May 14, 2017

OUR VIEW: Kudos to Iredell Health System's new mission statement, which puts a focus on the health of our community.

WHY WE BELIEVE THAT: Is there a more confusing, ill-informed debate in our nation today than the future of healthcare?

In the daily back-and-forth about who deserves coverage and how we pay for it, it is comforting to see a health organization make its intentions clear. Iredell Health System did so Wednesday, unveiling a new mission statement: Inspire Wellbeing – Together.

The organization is saying it is here to serve a community where health matters.

Hospital President Ed Rush says the future of healthcare is a big unknown. But he is sure the future involves keeping people healthy. Improving our area's health involves collaboration and compassion. That means turf takes a backseat. That means political decisions are absorbed and faced.

But politics is not the focus.

The focus, as the new vision statement reads, is "Guide our Neighbors to Optimal Health." Rush notes optimal health is specific to the individual. Reaching the goal, however, is a communitywide effort.

Of course, all this is just words until it's put into action.

Brooke Mason, who heads up patient experiences for the hospital, says one initiative launches June 1. The hospital will contact discharged patients within 48 hours. The call will delve into medication questions, information not fully absorbed in a sometimes hectic hospital stay, and areas where the hospital succeeded or could improve. The goal, Mason says, is to keep readmissions down and make people healthier.

CONCLUSION: Healthcare debates continue to make headlines. Uncertainty abounds. But we are convinced the best solutions arrive when good people do the right things. Iredell's focus on patients, compassionate treatment and moving beyond hospital walls to keep neighbors healthy is a step in that direction.