



September 23, 2024

To the citizens of Bowie:

As FCHS approaches the one-year anniversary of the Faith Community ER in Bowie, we have engaged in evaluating the productivity, utilization, and economies of the facility and comparing the actual data against projections.

Based on our internal review, the facility is not meeting the projections required to maintain operations.

We also attempted to convert the facility under a new federal designation known as REH, Rural Emergency Hospital. Our attempt has twice been unsuccessful due to the way the legislation was written. It will only allow for the conversion of an existing acute care hospital and does not provide for designation of a new emergency room like what we opened in Bowie. The federal funding of approximately \$3.2 million annually under the REH designation would have been sufficient to support our efforts.

Without financial assistance to maintain the facility, the Bowie ER will be closing at 7am on Sunday Oct 6th.

Current employees that are eligible will be reassigned to available positions within the system.

The goal was to provide Level IV trauma emergency care, and that endeavor was certainly successful. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and often heartwarming. No doubt there was a positive impact on many lives within the Bowie community and Montague County.

However, the utilization and referrals to Faith Community Health System's main campus did not materialize. Operating what effectively is a free-standing ER is simply not sustainable without a greater level of financial support from the community.

FCHS sincerely appreciates the support received from all who utilized the ER.

The FCHS Rural Health Clinic located on N. Mill Street is currently unaffected by the ER closure and, as we have since 2017, will continue to serve Bowie and the surrounding communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank L. Beaman".

Frank L. Beaman, CEO

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