



Staffing changes planned at Holy Cross amid departures

By Andrew Oxford

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Administrators at Holy Cross Hospital are preparing for several staffing changes in the coming weeks that include the departure of the facility's three general surgeons.

Replacements for the departing doctors have been arranged, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Loretta Ortiz y Pino told *The Taos News*.

One surgeon officials described as being well-known at Holy Cross would begin working as a replacement on Friday (May 31).

Another doctor would assume shifts for one of the departing surgeons on Monday (June 3). A third replacement would start work at the hospital in August.

The team would provide general surgery services at the hospital in addition to maintaining a private practice.

"We will never have a gap in our coverage," Dr. Ortiz y Pino said, adding that the departure of the general surgery team had been anticipated.

The staffing transition, the chief medical officer said, would not affect patient care.

Hospital officials would also be facilitating meetings with employees in other departments on Thursday (May 30) and Friday (May 31) to discuss broader changes to staffing and policy.

Citing national trends in hospital administration, Dr. Ortiz y Pino said Holy Cross officials were examining the facility's efficiency.

"We are in the process of developing a plan. There are lots of different options for becoming more efficient," Dr. Ortiz y Pino said. "If you follow what has been going on around the country, hospitals are closing left and right."

Officials emphasized that the transition among the general surgery team was not related to discussions of other staffing changes.