

Chippewa County Montevideo Hospital Welcomes April Shuneson, APRN, CNM

Chippewa County Montevideo Hospital is excited to welcome to our community and the surrounding region April Shuneson, APRN, CNM. April received her advanced practice nursing degree at Bethel University in St. Paul, MN and is a board certified Nurse-Midwife. April's specialties include: midwifery care, adolescent/women's health, and newborn care.

April grew up in north central Minnesota and has always considered herself a Minnesota girl. April and her husband Mike have spent the last seventeen years in rural Wisconsin. April and Mike have three grown sons that are married to three wonderful young ladies, two of which are nurses, too. April enjoys running, traveling, spending time with her three granddaughters, and quilting.

From an early age April decided she wanted to become a nurse. Through her own experiences, she recognized what an impact one caring individual could have on someone. "I wrote my eighth grade career paper on being an advanced practice registered nurse. The human body is an amazing thing and I have always loved the sciences and learning new things". April became an LPN right out of high school. As life would have it, love, marriage, and three sons later caused her to put these aspirations on hold. Once they were older, April returned to school to first get her Registered Nurse and then Masters of Science in Midwifery degree.

April grew up in a rural location and of course as a teenager thought she wanted to move to a bigger city. "When it came to raising a family, I recognized the benefits of a small community. I like the sense of teamwork that comes from working in a rural location. It is what I am most familiar with and feels comfortable to me. CCMH provides this sense of pride in community and workplace so it was an easy choice in deciding to come here". April is excited to begin her practice here at CCMH and get to know her patients as well as their families. "There is just something about being in a rural setting that allows this to happen more naturally. Everyone has a story; it is great to hear these and recognize that every aspect of a person's life affects their health. It's a great honor for me to partner with patients and help them reach their health goals. Too often in the medical world we assume that everyone speaks our language and this is usually not the case. I love helping and educating patients understand what is happening in their bodies in ways that make sense to them. Then they are better able to improve their health by making informed choices. I also love walking the path of pregnancy with patients and seeing them become families. This is very rewarding for me".

A midwife's philosophy is different in that we see pregnancy and birth as a normal physiological process and something only to be intervened upon when it becomes necessary. Midwives offer a lot of education so that patients can make good decisions on what they feel is appropriate for them. "As a Nurse-Midwife, I am trained as both a nurse and as a midwife. We can see patients in a variety of settings, hospitals, clinics, and birth centers. I like being able to work in both the clinic and hospital and feel it is the best of both worlds". Midwives provide primary care to women from adolescences to beyond menopause. They specialize in care throughout pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period. Midwives also provide gynecologic and family planning care and are able to see newborns in the first 28 days of life.

CCMH is now accepting appointments for April, if you would like to schedule an appointment with her please call 320-269-6438. On Wednesday, November 1st from 1:30pm to 3:00pm CCMH will be hosting a joint open house for April Shuneson and Molly Ries in the front lobby entrance. Please join us to welcome our new midwives, April and Molly, to CCMH and the community. All are invited to attend!