



# Citizens for Healthy Community Hospitals

## What's at Stake

Community hospitals that serve small towns and rural populations are more than vital centers for the delivery of health care. In the case of Audrain Hospital and Clinics, its strong connection extends to the people and communities in Callaway, Montgomery and Ralls Counties. Audrain Hospital affects all aspects of rural life from the health and well-being of generations of families to the continued economic prosperity of the entire communities. Beyond the numbers, its importance can be measured in research that shows community hospitals with long histories like Audrain reflect community attachment—the closeness and identity that makes communities resilient and successful. Without them, small towns and rural populations don't stand a chance.

Here is what's at stake if Audrain Hospital is prevented from becoming a part of MU Health Care.

### **Our Access to High Quality, Affordable Health Care:**

Audrain Hospital and its rural health clinics provide a high level of medical care to a wide geographic area. These services include in-patient and out-patient care, general surgery, emergency services, urgent care, obstetrics and pediatrics, heart and vascular care, cancer center, pain management, a sleep center, diagnostic and laboratory testing and an in-patient pharmacy. In the last two years, Audrain has opened a 20-bed behavioral health unit, established a family practice and walk-in clinic in Fulton, upgraded to 3D mammography, expanded hours for urgent care services, implemented TeleStroke



Treatment and established a Palliative Care Program. In 2017, the hospital was awarded Primary Care Medical Home Certification for Clinics and in 2018 received Level III STEMI Designation (Heart Attack Treatment).

*The loss of Audrain Hospital and its clinics would mean that patients would have to travel significant distances to receive primary and specialized care. Emergency rooms and urgent care clinics would not be readily accessible. It would affect the continuum of care for patients who need specialized therapies, dialysis and cancer treatment. It would affect women and children who need obstetric and*

*pediatric care in their hometowns. It would impose unnecessary hardship and stress on our most vulnerable populations, including older patients and those who have disabilities. It would affect the patients at the Veterans Home in Mexico who may need immediate care before being transported to the VA Hospital in Columbia, Missouri.*

**Economic Health:** Audrain Hospital and its rural clinics are economic engines that have a direct bearing on the economic growth and stability of Mexico and surrounding communities. Without a community hospital, there will a loss of employment and good paying positions. It will difficult to recruit physicians and health care professionals to the area. Businesses that depend on the hospital will close or move their operations. And, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to attract new business to Mexico and Audrain County.

Medical Staff	MD, DO, DDS (Employed and independent providers	122
	Advanced Practice Nurses	23
Total Employees		455
	With Associates of higher degrees	192
	With Technical degrees	58
	RNs and Nurse Practitioners	104 RNs, 12 NPs

**Simply put, Audrain Hospital's reach and impact on the health of Central Missouri - specifically the citizens of Audrain, Callaway, Montgomery and Ralls Counties - is fundamental and essential. These are services we can't afford to live without.**