

Clearfield Hospital receives grant

By Jeff Corcino
Staff Writer

Clearfield Hospital was awarded a grant to reduce hospital-acquired infections at a ceremony yesterday at the hospital.

The Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) and the Highmark Foundation awarded Clearfield Hospital a \$36,000 grant for technology that will allow it to track and prevent hospital-acquired infections.

Robert Murray, CEO of

Clearfield Hospital, said it already has a very low infection rate and the grant will allow the hospital to reduce this even further.

The grant will assist the hospital in its utilization of MedMined Data Mining Surveillance Service.

"Even one death from infection is one too many," said Mr. Murray.

According to Mr. Murray, Clearfield Hospital's infection rate is currently well below 1 percent, the national average

for hospitals is approximately 2 percent.

Marc Volavka, executive director of PHC4, said it is very excited to be giving this grant because the majority of Pennsylvanians receive their health care from relatively small hospitals like Clearfield Hospital.

He also said he was pleased that Clearfield Hospital is dedicated to its patients and improving its already effective infection controls.

"Clearfield Hospital should be commended for taking the lead in implementing this infection control technology, which has been proven to lower both infection rates and health care costs," said Mr. Volavka.

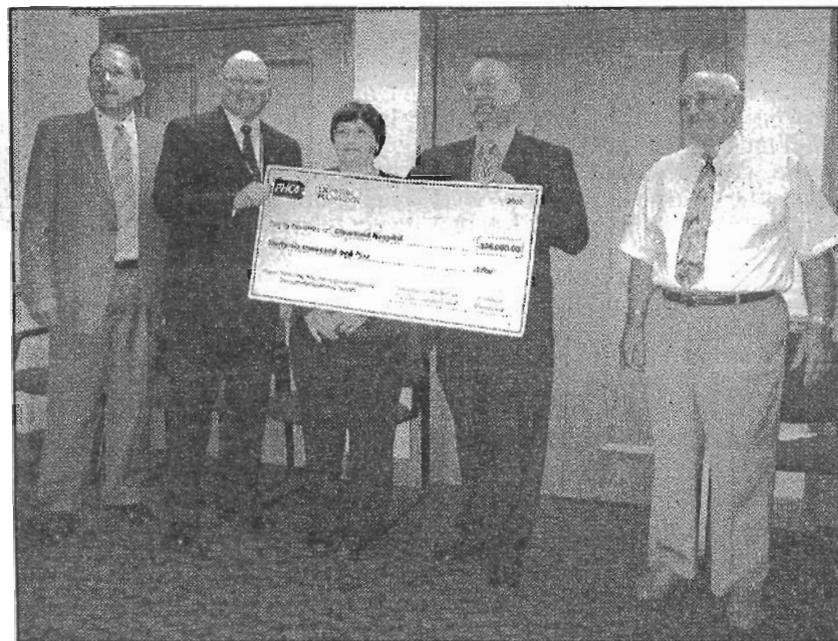
Mr. Volavka also said the sophisticated technology not only effectively records and tracks infections, it also frees hospital staff from manually collecting the data and allows them to spend more time on the floors and rooms of the hospitals and further prevent the causes of hospital-acquired infections.

PHC4 is awarding 11 grants to Pennsylvania hospitals. Clearfield Hospital is the first to be awarded.

Mr. Volavka said Clearfield Hospital's application was one of the best received and said they were very excited to award the hospital the grant.

Also in attendance was state Rep. Camille "Bud" George, D-74 of Houtzdale, who commended hospital administration and staff for their dedication to improving the care of its patients.

PHC4 committed \$500,000 to the project and the Highmark Foundation approved \$250,000, of which \$150,000 is earmarked to match dollars secured from other health insurers.



Clearfield Hospital received a \$36,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council and the Highmark Foundation to implement new technology to further improve its already successful infection control program, at a check presentation ceremony yesterday at the hospital. From left are Mark Adams, aide to state Sen. Joseph B. Scarnati, R-25 of Brockway; Robert Murray, CEO of Clearfield Hospital; Kim Smolko, registered nurse, infection control manager; Marc Volavka, executive director of PHC4; and state Rep. Camille "Bud" George, D-74 of Houtzdale. (Photo by Jeff Corcino)