HUMBOLDT GENERAL HOSPITAL
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 24, 2016 MEETING
SARAH WINNEMUCCA CONFERENCE ROOM

BOARD PRESENT:
Mel Hummel, Chairman
Ed Hopfer, Secretary
Kevin Chatfield, Member
Michelle Miller, Member
Richard Cook, Member
Kent Maher, Legal Counsel

STAFF PRESENT:
James Parrish, Administrator
Sandi Lehman, CFO
Eddy Davis, Controller
Pam Wickkiser, Administrative Director
Pat Songer, Administrative Director
Bryn Echevarria, Radiology Manager
Shauna Barsanti, Business Office Manager
Louis Mendiola, Health System Development
Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant
Melissa Lopez, Administrative Support
Jana Sperry, Patient Relations Manager
Jared Oscarson, EMS
Mike Bell, IT
Lonnie Hammargen, Clinic Manager
Leonard Perkinson, M.D.
Fergus Laughridge, EMS
Michael Cogsdill, EMS

GUESTS:
Mike Sheppard (Owners Representative), Nicole Maher (Public Relations Director), Barb Jacobson, Millie Custer, Robin Granath, Jennifer Hood, Elaine Hawkins, Lewis Trout, and Cheryl Upshaw (Humboldt Sun)

CALL TO ORDER:
Board chairman Hummel called the May 24, 2016 board meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
There was no public comment.

MEDICAL STAFF REPORT:
Dr. Granath reported he is excited about the new physicians joining the existing staff. Granath supports the upgraded facility and equipment, and suggested focus on the staff and benefits may be beneficial.

EMS UPDATE:
Administrative Director Songer said in April there were 228 call outs, 24 inter-facility transports and 21 air ambulance flights.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT:
Administrative Director Wickkiser gave a presentation on the status of the clinics, explained the new software programs, and provided an update on the new wing. Medicare welcome exams, patient no shows, patient satisfaction and the phone system were also discussed.
Patient Relations Director Sperry gave a presentation on patient relations and the revision of previous goals, explained the new forms and discussed customer service training, the patient complaint process, goals and patient experience week.

Administrator Parrish advised in April there were fifteen charity care program applications, and thirteen were approved. The Patient Access Department assisted twelve patients with Medicaid applications, responded to 866 questions in person and 789 by telephone, and there were three billing errors handled.

CONSENT AGENDA:
Motion by board member Chatfield and second by board member Cook to approve the consent agenda as presented for the medical staff appointments-reappointments and the April 26, 2016 board meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:
Administrator Parrish presented the April 2016 financial reports. PERS pension liability was discussed.

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board member Chatfield to approve the April 2016 financial reports as presented, which include monthly expenditures, warrants and utilization reports. Motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS-OTHER REPORTS:
1. Administration / public hearing on fiscal year 2016-2017 tentative budget / approval and submission of fiscal year 2016-2017 final budget / CFO-Administrator
Board chairman Hummel announced that this is a public hearing on the tentative budget for fiscal year 2016/2017. There was no public comment.

Administrator Parrish said the tentative budget is the same budget that was discussed at the retreat on May 14, 2016. Chief Financial Officer Lehman and Controller Davis gave a presentation on the 2016/2017 budget. Lehman explained the budget. There was discussion on mine taxes, comparisons and projections process and publishing of the budget. Parrish reminded that the budget is a planning document and is for discussion. Parrish noted $2.3 million has been cut from the budget. Board member Hopfer stated the hospital and the budget are in the current good condition due to Parrish. Managers were asked to cut costs, which is reflected in the documentation they received. Board members Miller and Chatfield expressed that they still have questions about the budget. Legal Counsel Maher stated that the budget doesn’t have to be approved tonight; the submittal date is May 31, 2016. Parrish recommended looking at projections showing other levels of pricing increases beginning with no adjustments. Lehman presented figures with no price increases included in the budget and with an increase in prices to the sixtieth percentile. Miller stated she would like an overview of all ten thousand codes to see what prices will come down and what prices will go up. Parrish noted that representative price changes have been provided, but staff is unable to provide information on all the codes which will change. Parrish suggested another meeting may be appropriate to discuss the ten thousand codes. Miller said she preferred a one on one meeting, as other board members may not be interested in another retreat. Lehman stated that each item on the charge master will be reviewed to assure it’s appropriate. Board member Hopfer stated that there are people smarter than him that have been working on this and we need to trust them to do their job. Board chairman Hummel discussed information relating to a hospital in Oregon that laid off long term employees and hired new personnel to bring costs down; he said he is not willing to go that route. Hopfer stated a new budget will allow a move forward on a social services building to better the community.
Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board chairman Hummel to approve the 2016/2017 tentative budget as presented as the final budget. The motion did not carry with Hopfer and Hummel voting aye and Chatfield, Cook and Miller voting nay.

Motion by board member Cook and second by board chairman Hummel to approve the 2016/2017 final budget with the price increases set at the sixtieth percentile. Motion carried with Hopfer, Hummel, Chatfield and Cook voting aye and Miller abstaining.

3. Physician Recruitment / Administrator
Administrator Parrish said there was recently an interview with an FPOB and a salary analysis that’s being put together for a PA. No action was taken.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS-STAFF REPORTS:
Board member Chatfield stated he appreciates the board working together and thinks they made a good decision.

Board chairman Hummel commented on Chief of Medical Staff Granath being listed under “Guests,” and suggested he be listed as Chief of Medical Staff on the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Lewis Trout stated he favors a second retreat to look at the budget more closely because he believes there was not full public scrutiny at the last retreat as only one member from the public attended. He suggested holding retreats during the week as the County does.

Board chairman Hummel responded that County Commissioners make in the $24,000 to $26,000 per year range, and hospital board members receive $80 to $85 per month and most have jobs during the week. Hummel thinks the public has jobs as well, and the weekends are better suited for the public than during the week.

Melissa Murphy, Winnemucca resident, commented on the clinic practice of sending patients to another provider when the patient’s primary provider is not available. Murphy said if the other doctor has access to the patient files, at what point should the information in the file be only between the patient and the primary doctor, and she questioned if privacy is protected. Murphy said she was told that prices here are higher than Reno and it is because the volume here is lower than Reno. Murphy questioned if prices keep going up, will that make more people go to Reno.

Board chairman Hummel adjourned the May 24, 2016 meeting of the Humboldt County Hospital District Board of Trustees at 7:23 p.m.

APPROVED:  

Mel Hummel, Chairman

ATTEST:

Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant