

Humboldt General Hospital
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 24, 2020

Meeting Brief

For additional details on the topics discussed, please refer to the Board of Trustees meeting packet on the Humboldt General Hospital website.

Administration Report

- Issues related to COVID in the community continue to put a strain on hospital operations. The current surge of cases requires the hospital to modify operations including HGH is working to modify operations to effectively utilize resources including using telemedicine for regular clinic visits, adding additional providers to the screening clinic, suspending surgery except for emergencies, shuffling inpatient spaces to create additional negative pressure rooms, and creating a drive-thru COVID screening clinic for asymptomatic patients. Hospital visitation is limited to only end of life cases until further notice. In the event a patient needs to be transferred, in addition to hospitals in Reno or Utah, transfer agreements are in place with hospitals in Idaho.
- Even in the midst of the COVID crisis, HGH is exploring new services that will provide necessary healthcare services to the community. Services include: cardiology services with a cath lab; medical oncology; renal dialysis; expanded OB services, and behavioral health services.
- The hospital continues to work on reviewing and update its charges to ensure that they are competitive. A full evaluation of the revenue cycle is underway with significant changes coming. The hospital has used a third party vendor to do its coding and billing. Those functions will be brought in-house which will allow more accuracy and local control of the process. More communication will be shared with the community regarding the improvements.
- HGH was pleased to award staff with COVID Retention Bonuses for their work between February and October. The bonuses were funded using Federal CARES Act dollars, which is an approve use by HHS. A second bonus will be awarded in March 2021 for hours worked between November and February.
- Telepharmacy services will be added to the hospital. The service will utilized during the hours that the pharmacy is closed: 6:00 pm – 6:00 am on weekdays and 5:30 pm to 7:30 am on weekends. Telepharmacy will reduce overall costs and support quality care.
- HGH and Winnemucca Police are exploring the creation of a public safety building at the current police headquarters. The safety complex would include HGH EMS and allow better access to main roads. It was noted that combining resources will translate into better service for the community.
- HGH is working to create a rural medicine rotation and medical residency program. It is important to invest in bringing physicians in training to the

community in order to encourage them to choose HGH once they complete their medical training.

- A Human Resources Information System (HRIS) was evaluated and a vendor was selected. The HRIS will improve employee management, the hiring process, and provide better workforce financial reporting and planning. Paycom was the selected vendor.
- October finances were discussed and the full financial report can be found on the HGH website. There was a net gain from operations in October.