

**HUMBOLDT GENERAL HOSPITAL  
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MARCH 24, 2015 MEETING  
SARAH WINNEMUCCA CONFERENCE ROOM**

**BOARD PRESENT:**

Mel Hummel, Chairman  
Ed Hopfer, Secretary  
Kevin Chatfield, Member  
Michelle Miller, Member  
Richard Cook, Member  
Marlene Brissenden, County Comm. Member

Kent Maher, Legal Counsel

**BOARD NOT PRESENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

James Parrish, Administrator  
Sandi Lehman, CFO  
Eddy Davis, Controller  
Darlene Bryan, CNO  
Mike Bell, IT Director  
Rose Green, HR Director  
Leonard Perkinson, M.D.  
Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant  
Pam Wickkiser, Administrative Director  
Pat Songer, Administrative Director  
Shauna Barsanti, Business Office Manager  
Lonnie Hammargren, Clinic Manager  
Louis Mendiola, Wellness Coordinator  
Melissa Lopez, Administrative Support  
Shar Pedersen, Quality Manager  
Ken Whittaker, Operations Captain  
Debbie Whittaker, Community Paramed. Mgr.  
Robin Gillis, Nurse Manager  
Theresa Bell, Purchasing Manager

**GUESTS:**

Tom Calla (CTA), Mike Sheppard (Owners Representative), Nicole Maher (Public Relations Director), Samantha Evans (HRG), Gabi Slemper (HRG), Cassie Wise (HRG), Jason Coffin (HRG), Robin Monchamp, Bev Mendiola, Bonnie Zabala, Dawn Ragan, Millie Custer, and Joyce Sheen (Humboldt Sun).

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Board chairman Hummel called the March 24, 2015 board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:**

There was no public comment.

**MEDICAL STAFF REPORT:**

Dr. Perkinson said medical staff is continuing to expand on the peer review process. The residency program has matched two qualified candidates who will start in July in Las Vegas, and they will come to Winnemucca in July 2016. The resident who matched last year will be in Winnemucca beginning July 2015. Perkinson discussed the process and answered questions from the Board.

**EMS UPDATE:**

Pat Songer, Administrative Director, said in February there were 172 call outs, 22 inter-facility transports, two rescues, 10 McDermitt transports, five CPR students, and eight car seats installed. There were a total of 179 McDermitt transports in 2014, 66 transports from the reservation, 41 responses to the reservation that

were not transports, 35 transports from the town of McDermitt, 37 non-transports in the town of McDermitt, four Denio calls and 36 Kings River calls. Perkinson said the Community Paramedicine program is working for the hospital and EMS; Perkinson had success with a patient who passed peacefully in the home. Board member Chatfield discussed the McDermitt report and Songer responded there are various options, such as a first response vehicle, or moving a unit to Orovada to provide quicker service. Chatfield asked if a plan can be discussed.

#### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT:**

Administrator Parrish said in February there were 19 charity care program applications and a total of \$28,639 paid out. The Patient Access Department assisted 12 patients with Medicaid applications, responded to 926 questions in person and 722 by telephone, and there were seven billing errors handled. An HRG (the hospital contract billing provider) employee has been on-site for almost a month.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion by board member Brissenden and second by board member Miller to approve the medical staff appointments-reappointments. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by board member Chatfield and second by board member Cook to approve the board meeting minutes for February 24, 2015 with a correction on item number two: board member Hummel said he voted nay on the building expansion snow melt systems. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **PRESENTATION REVIEW/ APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

Administrator Parrish presented the February 2015 financial reports.

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board member Miller to approve the February 2015 financial reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **DISCUSSION / ACTION ON ITEMS OF BUSINESS & OTHER REPORTS:**

##### **1. Accounting / update on accounts receivable / HRG-Administrator**

Administrator Parrish said HRG representatives will update on accounts receivable and billing matters. Jason Coffin introduced Cassie Wise, Gabi Slemph and Samantha Evans, and gave an overview of the history, the current status and the forecast for the future. Wise explained that logs are being kept by Evans regarding patient discussions. Board member Chatfield said he would like to see progress charts for billing issues and unhappy customers. Board member Miller would like information on what is trending and how often claims are checked. Miller asked about self-pay training. Coffin explained the changes that were made in December 2014 regarding training and staff. The Charity Care process was discussed. HRG will be at the July 2015 board meeting for an update. CFO Lehman provided an action plan and discussed aged accounts, staff training, and daily auditing.

##### **2. Building expansion project report / Administrator-Owners Representative**

Administrator Parrish said the projects update will be given by Mike Sheppard, Owners Representative, Sletten Construction and CTA. Sheppard reported briefly on the construction project: the first concrete footing pour is Thursday; Hunewill Construction is finishing the major excavation; Northern Nevada Concrete is on site with forms; the schedule is on target; Sletten was complemented for their safety; Mizpah Street crossing in the wrong place is a concern; and, they are working on the flex space tie-in. Tom Calla (CTA) gave an update on the design progress and the schedule for the future phases. Board member Chatfield would like information on soft costs and equipment purchases. Board member Brissenden inquired about the railroad easement. Sheppard explained the status.

### **3. Medical Services / B. Leonard Perkinson, M.D. employment agreement / Administrator**

Administrator Parrish said Dr. Perkinson's three year contract expires the end of March 2015. The proposed contract is in the meeting report. Parrish said Perkinson has done an excellent job in the clinic and OB, the hospital and the community. Perkinson generates over 10,000 RVU's, and an average family practice physician does about 5500 RVU's. Parrish would like to retain Perkinson and proposed a five year contract with a 3% salary increase, a continuing medical education allowance of \$5,000, a retention bonus of \$15,000, and a longevity bonus at the end of each year. Perkinson explained the longevity bonus will be paid directly to outstanding student loans. Board member Miller commented that Perkinson wears many hats, including Chief of Staff and leading with the Residency program. Board member Brissenden questioned the five year contract. Parrish said it was set up due to the longevity bonus and because they want to retain good physicians. Perkinson said he requested a five year contract. Board member Cook expressed concern about the compensation, and said he believes the pay is twice what other comparable physicians in this state make. Parrish reminded that Perkinson's productivity is twice that of his colleagues. Miller said she researched physician compensation and the proposed pay is at the median rate.

Motion by board member Chatfield and second by board member Hopfer to approve the employment agreement for B. Leonard Perkinson, M.D. as presented. Motion carried with Chatfield, Hopfer, Hummel, Miller, and Brissenden voting aye, and board member Cook voting nay.

### **4. Medical Services / Xario 200 Ultrasound Imaging System equipment purchase for clinic / Administrator**

Administrator Parrish said this is an ultrasound unit for the Dr. Perkinson clinic which has been on the budget for three years at \$50,000. The cost of the unit is \$60,573. Perkinson gave an overview of the equipment uses and explained he will be a certified operator. The life of unit is approximately ten years.

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board member Chatfield to approve the purchase of the Xario 200 Ultrasound Imaging equipment in the amount of \$60,573. Motion carried unanimously.

### **5. Physician Recruitment / Administrator**

Administrator Parrish said a family practice physician CV has been received, and a phone interview will take place next week.

### **HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS / STAFF REPORTS:**

Board member Cook inquired about the board retreat. Parrish advised a tentative date is set for May 15 and 16, 2015. Cook suggested the board should do the retreat and get itself together. Parrish said he and board chairman Hummel are working with a consultant to facilitate the discussions. Cook said that is the problem, the board doesn't show any leadership and it should be more independent of administration. Cook asked about the agenda. Parrish stated he is working with Hummel to set the agenda.

Board member Miller said accounting should be included on the retreat agenda, and members should work with administration and HRG to fix the billing problems. Miller appreciates that everyone is taking the billing matters head-on.

Board member Hopfer said he takes offense to Cook's comment about patients that physicians are seeing; they see a lot of patients. Cook commented on Perkinson's pay and said other (hospital) employees would get a raise if they went to work at Wal-Mart. Perkinson reminded that he and every other physician generate substantial money for the hospital.

Board member Brissenden said a lot of money is being spent on the expansion and commented about Hycroft going into bankruptcy which could affect the hospital with approximately \$800,000 in unpaid

property taxes. Brissenden inquired about the expansion plan check points. Administrator Parrish explained there are two future check points, and that he is working with UNR on an economic review of Humboldt County.

Board chairman Hummel thanked HRG for the presentation and Chatfield for updates on construction.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:**

Robin Monchamp said she was at the Ranch Hand Rodeo when a contestant was hurt and an ambulance brought in. The contestant’s parents said he had to be (ground) transported to Reno as they couldn’t get Care Flight. Monchamp asked who makes the call to transport by ambulance. Parrish said the physician decides. Monchamp asked if the ambulance has to stop at HGH or if they can go direct to Reno. Parrish stated federal law requires they stop at the hospital first. Monchamp said she noticed an expansion of the McDermitt clinic and that they have been open during the posted hours. She thinks it would be a good idea to have an HGH EMS unit at the clinic. Administrative Director Songer said Indian Health Services provides the clinic services, not HGH, and HGH EMS is present to respond to emergency and other 911 calls. The services were further discussed and explained.

Board chairman Hummel adjourned the March 24, 2015 meeting of the Humboldt County Hospital District Board of Trustees at 8:15 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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Mel Hummel, Chairman

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Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant