

**HUMBOLDT GENERAL HOSPITAL
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APRIL 28, 2015 MEETING
SARAH WINNEMUCCA CONFERENCE ROOM**

BOARD PRESENT:

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

Kent Maher, Legal Counsel

BOARD NOT PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

James Parrish, Administrator
Eddy Davis, Controller
Sandi Lehman, CFO
Darlene Bryan, CNO
Mike Bell, IT Director
Rose Green, HR Director
Leonard Perkinson, M.D.
Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant
Shauna Barsanti, Business Office Manager
Lonnie Hammargren, Clinic Manager
Pat Songer Administrative Director
Debbie Whittaker, Community Paramedic Mgr.
Pam Wickkiser, Administrative Director
Jared Oscarson, Ambulance
Shar Pedersen, Quality Manager
Robin Gillis, Nurse Manager
Theresa Bell, Purchasing Manager
Jana Sperry, Patient Relations Director

GUESTS:

Elissa Palmer, M.D. (Rural Residency), Marsha Colby (Auxiliary), Robin Monchamp, Millie Custer, Sam Evens (HRG Representative), Brayden Stepper, Jill Stepper, Robert Stepper, Noel Kao, Ron Hagen, Lewis Trout, Denise Watson, Nicole Maher (Public Relations Director), Mike Sheppard (Owners Representative), Bill Sharp (Sletten Construction) and Tom Calla (CTA)

CALL TO ORDER:

Board chairman Hummel called the April 28, 2015 board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Lewis Trout stated a legislative proposal to increase the board compensation is going to be considered as a possible amendment to any legislation, and remarked if there is support for the proposal, then contact should be made with a legislator. Trout distributed an article from the Lovelock Review Miner about the Burning Man contract and why Burning Man decided to make a switch. Trout said he received a letter in response to a public records request for the contracts for Kent Maher, Nicole Maher and Michael Clay Sheppard and was informed there are no written agreements, which he does not believe is the case. Trout suggested that the administrator may have such contracts, and the fact that the public records custodian does not have those contracts is not in compliance with public records act; they need to be provided to the public records act custodian so she is in a position to respond to the request.

Denise Watson said she is the speaker for Humboldt County for Better Health Care, a local consumer group, and gave her opinion on the number of meetings the board should have and how the board should respond

if they have conflict before a vote. Watson said she hopes there is an explanation about Burning Man and the loss of revenue. Watson commented on the billing and suggested the billing issues will not be fixed as long as the current coding system continues, and she believes that a statement should be sent before the insurance pays.

MEDICAL STAFF REPORT:

Dr. Perkinson said medical staff is making the peer review procedure more formal. Staff is experiencing some good growing pains in the orthopedic department. Perkinson complimented surgery and OB for delivering a 24-25 week old infant that weighed one pound eleven ounces; the baby is doing well due to the staff. Perkinson introduced Elissa Palmer, Rural Residency Program Director, who gave a brief update on the program. Perkinson said medical staff is getting anxious to work with residents.

EMS UPDATE:

Pat Songer presented Braydon Stepper with a life saver award and certificate to attend EMT class for helping with an accident at Water Canyon. In March there were 197 call outs, 24 inter-facility transports, eight rescues, eight calls from McDermitt, five community CPR students, 11 car seats installed with three mandatory installs, and EMS has been installing safe cribs. Songer reviewed the Burning Man statistics from the 2014 Burning Man event: there were 319 blue patients, the rest were triaged out; 1947 green patients; 615 yellow patients; 152 red patients, which was an increase from 32 red patients the prior year; 55 burn patients; 101 drug related cases; 281 orthopedic injuries; 2300 walk-ins with 607 of those transported to the clinic; 200 x-ray studies; 38 ultrasounds; 162 lab tests; 207 suture patients; and, 12 ALS ambulance transports by ground and nine by helicopter or air. In response to questions from the board, Songer commented on the contract, and explained the financial portion of the contract. Songer noted there will be other uses for the equipment which was used at the event.

Board member Brissenden said she was told by an employee of the Hyatt in Reno that Songer stays there frequently and every two weeks he flies out with his crew, and asked Songer why. Songer advised he does not fly out of Reno every two weeks, but he does stay at the Hyatt when he has to stay in Reno for personal business, or if he is going to fly out early, or if there are events in the area which he is participating in or attending.

Board member Cook stated that Songer is quoted in the Reno Gazette Journal as saying Humboldt General Hospital is not interested in working with CrowdRx if they reach out to the local hospital and ambulance entities for collaboration, and why would we not work with CrowdRx. Songer said when he was interviewed by the newspaper he was informed that CrowdRx was unlicensed, unregulated, and did not have licensed personnel in Nevada, and EMS is not interested in working with an unlicensed organization unless they are directed otherwise. Songer stated CrowdRx is very good at working with big venues that do mass gatherings in populated areas. Songer said he is concerned with maintaining public safety standards. Cook said he does not believe Songer was hired to have anything to do with Burning Man; Cook believes this is a totally separate issue and the Burning Man contract is separate from the board, the board has not had input or knowledge about it. Board chairman Hummel advised that is incorrect; he was on the board when Burning Man made a presentation to have the EMS provide medical services at the event, and every year the board has received an update on the prior year event and the upcoming event. Hummel noted if Burning Man doesn't want to contract with the hospital, there is nothing to be done about it. Hummel remarked that if Pershing County asks for assistance then we will deal with Pershing County.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Administrator Parrish said in March there were 11 charity care program applications, and all were approved. The Patient Access Department assisted 11 patients with Medicaid applications and 14 patients

with Access to Health Care applications, responded to 1176 questions in person and 962 by telephone, and there were eight billing errors handled. Board member Chatfield asked if it is known in each instance what insurance plans pay. CFO Sandi Lehman said sometimes they know and sometimes they have to contact the company. Board member Miller inquired on the progress of streamlining the benefits program; Lehman responded it is in the process. Lehman explained the services that HRG and Peak provide.

Parrish introduced Jana Sperry, Patient Relations Director. Sperry commented on her past experience.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board member Brissenden to approve the March 24, 2015 board meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION REVIEW/ APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Motion by board member Brissenden and second by board member Chatfield to approve the warrants and disbursements as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Parrish presented the March 2015 financial reports.

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

DISCUSSION / ACTION ON ITEMS OF BUSINESS & OTHER REPORTS:

1. Administration / report on phase 3 construction and phase 4 design progress, construction manager preconstruction services and cost estimates / Administrator–Sletten Construction-CTA-Owners Representative

Administrator Parrish introduced Mike Sheppard (Owners Representative), Bill Sharp (Sletten), Dustin Keyes (Sletten), and Tom Calla (CTA), and they gave an update on building project, and responded to board member questions about the project. SNF Manager Robin Gillis discussed the furniture for memory care in response to Board member Chatfield’s questions. The subcontractor selection process and the age of the existing equipment were discussed. No action was taken.

2. Administration / orthopedic surgery program update / Administrator

Administrator Parrish gave a presentation in response to Board member Chatfield’s question on how orthopedics is doing, and explained the need for the program, the positive patient responses, and the busy OR schedule. No action was taken.

3. Administration / proposal to change system model for McDermitt ambulance services / Administrator-EMS Coordinator

Administrative Director Songer gave a presentation on the history of placing ambulance services in McDermitt, Nevada. Songer said the level of the services provided has been considered, and it is proposed to relocate the base for the service to Orovada, Nevada and change staffing to an ALS QRV (Quick Response Vehicle) with immediate dispatch frequency, and build a robust first response network. The EMS will continue to train at the McDermitt School. Songer gave a video presentation.

Motion by board member Chatfield and second by board member Hopfer to proceed with proposed change of the model for the McDermitt ambulance service as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Administration / agreement for hybrid air medical program / Administrator-EMS Coordinator

Administrator Parrish said last year's budget included an air ambulance program for HGH, but it was not acted on due to the financial and risk considerations, along with the uncertainty created by the Affordable Care Act. There is also some concern that a helicopter service could place a helicopter in Winnemucca with no affiliation and no oversight by the hospital. A possible solution to the concerns is to enter into a hybrid type agreement to provide a base station under local medical direction, with a contracted air ambulance service providing the aircraft, the pilots and the mechanics, and HGH providing nurses and paramedics under local medical control, the cost of which is reimbursed by the air ambulance service at a fixed sum. Administrative Director Songer gave a presentation and discussed the benefits of a hybrid type program, including local control of and input on medical operations, and improved patient outcomes because of decreased times to obtain medical assistance. Songer commented on the estimated use of an air medical program. Dr. Perkinson explained the benefits of the program for patients if the time from accident to treatment is reduced. Board member Brissenden asked why a five year agreement is proposed. Songer explained that most companies will not enter into an agreement for less than five years because they need the time to recover the costs associated with providing the service. There was discussion and questions on the proposed program features and details. Board member Hopfer asked what the board will be asked to decide at this meeting, and Songer replied that the request is to obtain approval to enter into an agreement with a provider. Songer said that legal counsel Maher will need to review and revise the contract to be specific for the services provided; the agreement in the meeting packet is a generic type contract. Board chairman Hummel suggested it is desirable to have the crew housed close to the hospital.

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board member Chatfield to approve the procurement of an agreement to provide a hybrid air medical services program as presented to be based in Winnemucca. Motion carried with board members Miller, Hummel, Hopfer and Chatfield voting aye, board member Cook voting nay, and board member Brissenden not voting.

5. Physician Recruitment / Administrator

Administrator Parrish said there was a visit from a family practice physician from the state of Washington, and staff will be working with him to determine his interest in practicing here.

HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS / STAFF REPORTS:

Board member Brissenden said she is encouraged by upcoming retreat and the fact that there is a facilitator for the meeting; she commended the facilitator. Brissenden said she would have liked to have the physician contract earlier than in the meeting packet. Brissenden said she believes the unprofessional and immature behavior which was displayed by Chief of Staff at the last board meeting toward a hospital trustee was unacceptable.

Board member Hopfer thanked board member Chatfield for the construction updates.

Board member Miller said she appreciates the changes in billing process.

Board member Chatfield stated he believes the organization is progressing in the right direction.

Board member Cook appreciates the community involvement and thinks it important for the community to be here.

Board chairman Hummel said he believes the community told board members when they were elected to look out for the community interests, but he does not believe we need a ten thousand person poll on each item voted upon. Hummel disagrees with Brissenden's comments about the last meeting; Hummel thinks the board of trustee member needs to apologize to the Chief of Staff.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Lewis Trout thanked Administrative Director Songer for sharing the perspective on Burning Man and the contract and, based on Songer's knowledge, professional skills and assessment of the situation, there is justification for a Nevada based company providing those services to a site based in Nevada. Trout stated board member Chatfield hit a number of points on working conditions at hospital. Trout believes the pharmacy is one facility in the hospital that is overlooked and there should be a change order considered.

Board chairman Hummel adjourned the April 28, 2015 meeting of the Humboldt County Hospital District Board of Trustees at 8:04 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mel Hummel, Chairman

Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant