

**HUMBOLDT GENERAL HOSPITAL
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JULY 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
Sandi Lehman, CFO
Eddy Davis, Controller
Darlene Bryan, CNO
Rose Green, HR Director
Leonard Perkinson, M.D.
Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant
Shauna Barsanti, Business Office Manager
Lonnie Hammargren, Clinic Manager
Ken Whittaker, Operation Captain
Jeremy Hurst, FNP
Debbie Whittaker, Community Paramedic Mgr.
Pat Songer, Administrative Director
Melissa Lopez, Administrative Support
Shar Pedersen, Quality Manager
Pam Wickkiser, Administrative Director
Theresa Bell, Purchasing Manager
Jana Sperry, Director of Patient Relations
Mark Hummel, IT
Billie Lucero, Wellness Coordinator

GUESTS:

Samantha Evans (HRG Representative), Marsha Colby (Auxiliary), Judy Adams, Robin Granath, Shirley Evans, Vickie Rock, Millie Custer, Lewis Trout, Marilyn Hladek, Ken Hladek, Joyce Sheen (Humboldt Sun), Cassie Wise, Gabi Slemper, Donna Newman, Nicole Maher (Public Relations Director) and Renn Maher

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Lewis Trout said he confirmed the rumor circulating on Facebook about EMS layoffs was false. Trout suggested the medical staff appointments should indicate which personnel are contractors and which are employees. In the media there were recent reports that the hospital has to refund tens of thousands of dollars of net proceeds of mines mining tax in connection with Allied Mining. Trout questioned if there are any impacts. Trout gave his opinion on the governance compact proposal and position descriptions which will be considered by the board at this meeting.

Ken Hladek stated he is a resident of Humboldt County, and commended and expressed appreciation to the board, administration, medical caregivers and support staff of Humboldt General Hospital for having a first class award winning hospital in rural Nevada. Hladek said this is a modern campus which is being updated to meet the needs of the community and to invest for the long term. Hladek said the Hospital is forward

thinking for supporting emergency medical services, establishing memory care service, establishing orthopedic services, and increasing capabilities and upgrading facilities.

Lonnie Hammargren read a letter of support from him, personally and professionally, to HGH. Hammargren shared stories of past experiences his family has had with HGH during times when many of the current services were not available and the burdens that were caused by the lack of services. Hammargren said is appreciative of the new services implemented by HGH and the success the facility has enjoyed.

MEDICAL STAFF REPORT:

Dr. Perkinson said medical staff is finalizing the formal peer review process with the help of Quality Management to begin formal cases review in conjunction with the education component. Perkinson responded to the public comment regarding reappointments of physicians and said it doesn't matter if a physician is a contractor or an employee, because all must be approved by medical staff to have privileges at the Hospital.

EMS UPDATE:

Administrative Director Songer said in June there were 210 call outs, 33 inter-facility transports, 61 CPR students, one mandatory car seat install, and 12 car seats provided to the community. Songer spoke of the CPR students and noted that they are all local. A brief update was given on the air medical program to cure rumors in the community due to a letter that Lewis Trout sent to the State Health Division. Songer said EMS is moving forward with the air medical program, looking at a vendor, and hoping for an August 15, 2015 start date. The program costs nothing to the Hospital, and it allows the Hospital to utilize current medics and nurses in the program. Last week Songer was apprised by the state of the letter Trout sent to the state concerning the air medical program which questioned the validity of the program. Trout made statements in the letter that were erroneous and there were items that were not stated in a board meeting which need to be clarified. Songer assured that the sole objective of the air program is to provide immediate and timely lifesaving medical services to the residents of the community. There are no financial incentives to the hospital or any person associated with the hospital. Songer welcomed any board members or community members to call or come by the EMS office and learn about the program before stating fictitious facts Songer suggested that instead of listening to the senseless rhetoric that keeps going on, interested persons should seek information from those who are informed.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Administrator Parrish said in June there were 17 charity care program applications, and all were approved. The Patient Access Department assisted 12 patients with Medicaid applications, responded to 957 questions in person and 728 by telephone, and there were seven billing errors handled.

Cassie Wise and Gabi Slemph with HRG gave a presentation on the billing system status and the organization goals. There has been a lot of positive feedback. The third training has been completed with Patient Access Staff. Wise addressed board member Miller's questions about collection accounts being reviewed prior to going to collections and the process of looking at older claims.

Parrish said the Kent Maher contract for legal services was sent to an outside attorney as directed by the board and the contract came back, but it was too late for this agenda. Board member Miller and Parrish met with Maher and went over the proposed contract, and it is agreeable with the board representative and Maher.

Parrish advised that Pam Wickkiser resigned from HGH and will be relocating to be the CEO of an imaging center in Colorado Springs. Wickkiser spoke on her behalf.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Board member Brissenden expressed concern with the governance compact and board education plan. The governance compact provides for a duty of loyalty to the hospital but because there are elected trustees on the board, she feels there has to be some type of format that has duties to the community as well. The board calendar is not an education plan; it is updates from department heads. She feels education part is what board members need to become effective board members. There are no problems with position descriptions.

Board member Hopfer asked how often the compact items can be changed. Administrator Parrish advised the board can put it on the agenda to discuss at any time. Legal counsel Maher stated the form states it is not meant to be a formal contract, it's a set of expectations. Board members are bound to follow the law whether there is a compact or not. Brissenden commented on elected board members versus appointed board members, and said she would like the verbiage to include loyalty to the community. Board member Miller stated she interprets it as loyalty to the patient base, which is the community. Board member Cook said that the form was designed for non-profit and corporate boards that are appointed; this board has to have loyalty to those who elected them. Miller stated her loyalty is to every person who is seen at the hospital, the patient base. Hopfer advised it's a good start and can be changed if necessary. Brissenden expressed concern about signing the governance document. Maher advised that it is a choice of board members whether or not they sign the document.

Cook advised that he would like to change the June 23, 2015 meeting minutes under the financial reports to read "board member Cook said he does not believe the warrants and disbursements gives him enough information to do his due diligence."

Motion by board member Miller and second by board member Chatfield to approve the consent agenda as presented and to make a correction on the June 23, 2015 board meeting minutes with the revision of the phrase "board member Cook said he does believe the warrants and disbursements gives him enough information to do his due diligence," to, "board member Cook said he does not believe the warrants and disbursements gives him enough information to do his due diligence." Motion carried with Cook, Brissenden, Hummel, Miller and Chatfield voting aye, and Hopfer abstaining as he was not present.

PRESENTATION REVIEW/ APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Board member Brissenden asked CFO Lehman about a number of voided checks and credits that were issued. Lehman responded that Controller Davis was cleaning up old items that had not been cashed. The checks were voided and new checks were issued.

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board member Miller to approve the June 2015 warrants and disbursements as presented. Motion carried with Miller, Cook, Chatfield, Hopfer, and Hummel voting aye, with Chatfield abstaining from voting on the payments to him, and Brissenden voting nay on any payment to Kent Maher.

Administrator Parrish presented the June 2015 financial reports. Parrish addressed the question about refund of the \$104,435 net proceeds of mines payment to Hycroft. Board member Miller asked how the orthopedic clinic performed. Parrish responded that through the first six months it generated a little over two million dollars in revenue, with a net profit of \$358,000, which is about ten percent ahead of schedule. Board member Hopfer inquired about the 8% revenue drop for Harmony Manor. Parrish explained that due to the construction there are only 26 patient spaces available, because four beds are out of service. Board member Brissenden asked who the Medicare Compliance Officer is. Parrish responded CFO Lehman.

Board member Hummel inquired if patients have been turned down for admission to Harmony Manor. Parrish responded yes, they have had to turn patients, but they also have to turn town patients when it is at 30 beds.

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

DISCUSSION / ACTION ON ITEMS OF BUSINESS & OTHER REPORTS:

1. Administration / purchase of nursery monitoring security system / Administrator

Administrator Parrish said a new nursery monitor is needed for the OB department. The current monitoring system is old and antiquated. The system provides security for the nursery in case someone tries to abduct a child. The proposed system is on an Amerinet contract, it is compatible with old system, and it is transferable to the new construction. Approval for the purchase is requested in the sum of \$50,250.02. Board chairman Hummel asked the age of current system. DON Bryan responded it dates to 1995. The new system has a capacity of eight images and it can be expanded if necessary. Dr. Perkinson explained the circumstances that would require more than eight images are rare.

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board chairman Hummel to approve the nursery monitoring system as presented in the sum of \$50,250.02. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration / purchase of VariAx clavicle plating system / Administrator

Administrator Parrish said this system is for the orthopedic program, which returned a net profit of \$358,000 in the first six months of operation. The clavicle plating system is used for clavicle repair. The cost is \$13,693.60, which is within the budget of \$33,000. Parrish spoke with OR Manager Ashley Sage, and she said there were a total of six procedures performed in the first seven months. Board member Miller asked what is currently being used for the procedures. Parrish responded that a unit is borrowed when needed, but it is not always available, which delays care. The purchase was delayed to assess how many procedures would be performed. Miller said she appreciated restraint in purchase to determine the need.

Motion by board member Miller and second by board member Chatfield to approve the purchase of VariAx clavicle plating system as presented in the amount of \$13,693.60. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Administration / purchase of real property located at 838 Harmony Rd. / Administrator

Administrator Parrish said that as directed by the board a resolution was in packet for the authorization to purchase the residence located at 838 Harmony Rd. at a purchase price of \$184,500. The appraisal for the property came in at \$186,000. Parrish recommended the resolution be approved. There was discussion on size and use of residence. Legal counsel Maher advised the board on the purchase process and the property features.

Motion by board member Brissenden and second by board member Cook to approve the resolution for the purchase of residence at 838 Harmony Rd. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Physician Recruitment / Administrator

Administrator Parrish said a podiatrist has expressed interest in locating here and the prospect will be pursued. A CRNA training facility from the Tucson, Arizona area is considering using the hospital as a training site.

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HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS / STAFF REPORTS:

Board member Brissenden advised that tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. in the court house meeting room there will be a public hearing on the application for a certificate of need (CON) which was filed with the State of Nevada for the hospital expansion. Brissenden asked legal counsel Maher what protections there are for the board should the CON not be issued. Maher responded that contracts are in place for the building construction, and if the contracts are not honored there could be liability per the contracts.

Board member Miller thanked Parrish and Maher for the productive month in getting Maher's contract together. There were comments about not being able to hear, and the chairs were moved closer in hopes to help those people, but no one sat in the front.

Board member Hopfer apologized for not being at last board meeting, and thanked EMS for their stellar job in Yerington at Night in the Country.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Lewis Trout said sitting in the front row has merit, as he was able to hear the board members, but when presenters are working with video and speaking in the direction of the board, it is difficult to hear them at times. As a former member of the airport board, Trout said he worked with the Northern California area office and the Phoenix district office which are the two offices having jurisdiction over this part of Nevada. They are the ones who would deal with the helicopter service. Trout said he asked a question of the state as he is unsure what certificates or state jurisdiction there might be. There is one question that was asked of Songer and the administration that was not answered, that is, if helicopter service goes into effect and a patient is picked up in the northwest corner of the county, where will the patient be flown, considering the closest hospitals are in Washoe County.

Pat Songer (Administrative Director) responded by reading an email from Trout to the state wherein Trout stated, "this helicopter scheme seems to be a situation where HGH Administration is simply attempting to increase revenues to its emergency department to stabilize an accident victim before transferring them to Renown, Saint Mary's or Northern Nevada Hospital's in Reno area for best available immediate care." Songer advised helicopter services in the state of Nevada transport patients to the closest appropriate facility. In the event the helicopter is dispatched to a scene, it will fly to the closest appropriate facility. The place of transport is based on patient care and the best outcome for the patient, as has been stated in many prior board meetings. Songer reread the above statement from Trout's email per Administrator Parrish's request. Parrish stated for the record HGH has never transported a patient to HGH simply to increase revenues, and he takes personal offense at the wording of the email.

Nicole Maher (Public Relations Director) recognized Dr. Perkinson, Jeremy Hurst, and the new residency physician, Samaan Sattarzadeh, M.D., for helping with the free sports physicals. In four hours 150 physicals were performed. Maher stated the Residency Clinic is going well since it started July 6, 2015. Dr. Sattarzadeh went to the Night in the Country event. In November, the Rural Clinic will officially open and a reception will be happening.

Dr. Perkinson introduced Dr. Sattarzadeh, the first rural track resident physician. Dr. Sattarzadeh thanked the community, the hospital and the hospital staff for welcoming him. Songer stated he did an outstanding job at Night in the Country.

Jim Parrish (Administrator) advised that he spoke to IT about attempting to get a sound system in the meeting room.

Louis Mendiola (Health System Development Manager) spoke of the tones of the meetings shifting recently. Mendiola thanked the board members for their willingness to run for public office. Mendiola reminded why the hospital is here, which is to provide excellent patient care to the community. The processes that take place at the hospital are sometime confusing, but that is the case everywhere. Mendiola said he worked at the ER at Renown for six years and observed many difficult situations, particularly when a doctor has to deliver bad news to the loved ones of a patient. Mendiola hopes the board and the community support this hospital and organization so that when colleagues have to deliver that type of message, they can constantly say this organization was backing them when they were trying to do everything they could. Mendiola thanked the board and states he hopes they will concentrate on what is important, that is the healthcare to the community and the patients.

Board chairman Hummel adjourned the July 28, 2015 meeting of the Humboldt County Hospital District Board of Trustees at 7:12 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mel Hummel, Chairman

Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant