

**HUMBOLDT GENERAL HOSPITAL
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AUGUST 23, 2016 MEETING
SARAH WINNEMUCCA CONFERENCE ROOM**

BOARD PRESENT:

Mel Hummel, Chairman
Ed Hopfer, Secretary
Kevin Chatfield, Member
Richard Cook, Member
Jim French, County
Comm. Member

Kent Maher, Legal Counsel

BOARD ABSENT:

Michelle Miller, Member

MEDICAL STAFF PRESENT:

Brad Granath, M.D.
Leonard Perkinson, M.D.

STAFF PRESENT:

James Parrish, Administrator
Sandi Lehman, CFO
Eddy Davis, Controller
Rose Green, HR Director
Darlene Bryan, DON
Pat Songer, Administrative Director
Mike Bell, IT Director
Bryn Echevarria, Radiology Manager
Shauna Barsanti, Business Office Manager
Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant
Melissa Lopez, Administrative Support
Gregory Harding, EMS
Fergus Laughridge, EMS
Debra Whittaker, EMS
Ken Whittaker, EMS
Tori Stephens, Materials Management

GUESTS:

Nicole Maher (Public Relations Director), Barbara Jacobsen, Millie Custer, Melissa Murphy, Suzan Loda, Joel Murphy, Earnest Fortmann, Robin Granath, Robin Monchamp, Lewis Trout, and Cheryl Upshaw (Humboldt Sun).

CALL TO ORDER:

Board chairman Hummel called the August 23, 2016 board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Community member Lewis Trout commented about an interview of Fergus Laughridge by Channel 2 News as a representative of Humboldt EMS at a Yerington music festival. Trout stated that there was no report in the last board meeting and was hoping there would be some additional information particularly in regard to revenues, expenses, income and disposition.

Barbara Jacobsen, Hospital Board Seat D candidate, said she passed out binders regarding a CIT program in Carson City and encouraged the hospital to send an ER staff member and Paramedic to the program.

MEDICAL STAFF REPORT:

Dr. Granath reported that Medical Staff has been working very hard to ensure the health of the community. There is a patient currently being tested for the Zika virus; the HGH lab is set up to test for it. This last month the hospital was busy and, for a number of days, all the telebeds were being used. The new clinic is up and running, they are pleased to be there. Granath advised that the physicians up for appointment-reappointment have been checked out carefully and endorsed by him.

EMS UPDATE:

Administrative Director Songer said in July there were 252 call outs, 32 inter-facility transports and 31 air ambulance flights. Board member Cook asked if any EMS employees will be going to Burning Man under contract with anyone; Songer responded no.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Administrator Parrish advised in July there were six charity care applications received and approved. The Patient Access Department helped with twelve Medicaid applications and responded to 956 questions in person and 884 by telephone, and there was one billing error handled.

Parrish gave an update on: back to school immunization and wellness checks; smart start school supply drive; quarterly recognition awards; ASIST training; suicide prevention community walk; and, the accreditation committee. Chairman Hummel advised the board to contact administration for the binder with information on accreditation.

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 July 26, 2016 board meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Administrator Parrish presented the July 2016 financial reports. Parrish answered questions from board member French. Motion by board member French and second by board member Hopfer to approve the July 2016 financial reports as presented, which includes warrants and utilization reports. Motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS-OTHER REPORTS:**1. Administration / purchase, installation, training, maintenance, and support services from MModal Services, Ltd. for Olympus microphone equipment and software licensing used to facilitate the Health Information Management system / Administrator-CFO**

Administrator Parrish said MModal is voice recognition software installed into the computer system for physicians to use, and it is included in the budget for \$50,000. The system proposed for purchase is \$48,575. CEO Lehman gave a history on the current system and how MModal will benefit the hospital. Dr. Granath, Dr. Perkinson and IT Manager Bell gave information on the MModal system and answered questions.

Motion by board member Chatfield and second by board member Hopfer to approve the purchase from MModal Services, Ltd. for equipment and software as presented not to exceed the amount of \$48,575. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration / determination that various items of equipment from the Dietary, Acute Care and Surgery departments are no longer required for public use and authorization to dispose of equipment by sale, gift, recycling, donation or other acceptable method / Administrator-CFO

Administrator Parrish said that the equipment items (as listed in the board meeting packet) are no longer needed for use by the district and requested permission to dispose of them. Parrish advised the hospital will look at options for disposal of the items.

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board member Hummel to authorize administration to dispose of the equipment as presented because it is no longer required for public use by the district. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Administration / request by Administration for authorization to solicit Humboldt Hospital Auxiliary to purchase equipment for rescue truck / Administrator-EMS

Administrator Parrish requested permission to solicit the Hospital Auxiliary to purchase equipment for the rescue truck in the amount of \$41,199. EMS Director Songer provided information on the equipment and answered questions regarding use, training and specifics of the equipment.

Motion by board member Chatfield and second by board member Cook to authorize administration to solicit the Hospital Auxiliary to provide funding for the purchase of rescue truck equipment in the amount of \$41,199. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Physician Recruitment / Administrator

Administrator Parrish said Dr. Westling will be moving to the Rural Health Clinic with the residency physicians, and a locum tenens will be brought in to provide services in the Walk In Clinic while a nurse practitioner or physician assistant is recruited.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS-STAFF REPORTS:

Board member Hopfer stated a member of the community came to him regarding the air ambulance membership renewal. Administrator Parrish advised this will be on the September board meeting agenda.

Board member Chatfield asked about the Rural Health Clinic (RHC) offices. Dr. Perkinson stated the new space is amazing, it is very nice and is more efficient; there are growing pains as with any change but it will be very good. They are working on getting patients to enter through the parking garage. Providers Hurst, Mathews, the Residents and Perkinson have moved into the facility. RHC is now at capacity.

Board member Cook stated that he was copied on an email from a Burning Man member regarding a number of issues with Burning Man and HGH EMS staff; he didn't know what to do about it. He felt blindsided and then received calls from the Reno press. Cook stated he's at a loss and would like to know what role the board has. Board member French stated this is the reason he held his comment, he thinks it will be difficult for them to establish leadership until they have all the facts; this is a shot over the bow to HGH and encourages administration to provide information and communicate. Legal counsel Maher stated this is a personnel matter and will be dealt with as any other personnel matter. French stated his concern is that it has gone past a personnel matter and questioned if HGH staff will be authorized to attend these things and is the organization going to accept the liability that goes with that. Maher advised that the authorization that the board gave ended when the Burning Man contract ended. Cook brought up the chemical restraint use. Maher stated the board needs to read the statement from the State; no action was taken regarding the use of the chemical. The board needs more information before bringing the matter to a public meeting. Cook stated if an HGH employee is moonlighting for Pershing County Deputy Sheriff's Office, standard equipment doesn't include HGH pharmacy drugs. There was further discussion on the job duties. Maher advised Cook that he is going way beyond the scope of what can be dealt with in this type of meeting, especially if it is not an agenda item. Maher recommended Cook obtain more information and a response will come from the chairman or the administrator. Maher stated that he previously sent Cook information on the Corporate Compliance Policy which provides how board members should respond. Cook wanted to make it clear that he didn't

ask for any of this and does not want to remotely be considered any part of any conspiracy; whatever happened, happened. French stated that if they are going to have to shoulder these items, administration should brief the board. Maher advised that is fine, but this did not come to the board from within the organization, it came from an outside source. No one in the organization had control over that circumstance. It has been a personnel matter all along. EMS Director Songer stated that the board is making a statement about performance from a document that only has one side of the story; Songer believes he and his staff's performance is being judged in an HR setting from a one-sided document. French insisted that Songer did not receive all (the information) that they received and would have liked to have been on the front side not the back side. Cook stated it goes back to 2014 when HGH was contracted with Burning Man. A letter came with five attachments, including a letter to Parrish in 2014. There is not just one issue, there are multiple issues. Cook didn't appreciate the press calling him out from 2014 and 2015 issues that he had no clue of. Parrish and Maher reminded the board these are personnel issues. Maher stated personnel matters are not handled in a public forum except in very limited cases. French stated he did not ask for any explanation and did not bring up any personnel issue or even the department, he brought up the issue that he believes they were kept in the dark and should have had an opportunity to go through the document and speak with Songer and the personnel involved to get an idea how to answer a question intelligently.

Board chairman Hummel stated at May meeting during the budget discussion there was a comment about having a retreat or discussion later in the year on some of the costs in the hospital that may go up or down. Hummel questioned if any other board members are interested in having such a retreat or discussion. Cook said he would like to follow up on that; there were a lot of issues at the board retreat that didn't get worked out and the idea of the retreat is for the board to work out issues. Board member Chatfield suggested waiting until February or March to give the new board members a chance to be included in the process. Hummel advised he was not speaking so much about the budget, he was more interested in the percentage of the price changes. French stated there were a couple of things that came through the retreat that had to do with policy and direction, including pricing, and he didn't have enough opportunity to consider the pricing. Chatfield stated it's already been said that in November there could be other changes with the health care and insurance costs may go up. He would like to wait and see what happens there first. French stated there are broader policy issues that need working on and he is in favor of a meeting. Board member Hopfer agreed with Chatfield and feels the meeting should be after new members take office.

Hummel would like to see on September board meeting an item to discuss and take action on a review of the CEO contract which is up at the end of next year. Hummel said he didn't necessarily want an action on the contract but the action is to be able to review the contract.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Community member Melissa Murphy remarked on the Administrator's comment about hospitals facing closure and she suggested those closures can't be compared to Winnemucca. Murphy questioned why the hospital is still spending money if there are downward (financial) trends.

Community member Suzan Loda commented on the disposal of the equipment and suggested no more junk is needed in the landfill and the equipment should be recycled. Regarding the Burning Man comments, the board should refer those questions to the lawyer. Loda suggested having the retreat between November and December and have the new board members attend so they have advantage of experience with the old board members. Loda said she agreed with Murphy's comment. Loda said she is

not in favor of the helicopter air ambulance membership program because there are only 250 to 300 people who take advantage of it and the hospital is paying for all 17,000 county residents.

Board chairman Hummel adjourned the August 23, 2016 meeting of the Humboldt County Hospital District Board of Trustees at 6:55 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mel Hummel, Chairman

Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant