

**HUMBOLDT GENERAL HOSPITAL
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
October 22, 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
Rose Green, HR Director
Mike Bell, IT Director
Pat Songer, Administrative Director
Rita Clement, ED Inpatient Director
Lonnie Hammargren, Clinic Manager
Shar Pedersen, Quality Manager
Bryn Echevarria, Radiology Manager
Gregory Harding, Materials Management
Jana Sperry, Patient Relations Director
Shauna Barsanti, Business Office Manager
Louis Mendiola, Health System Dev. Manager
Billie Lucero, Wellness Manager
Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant
Melissa Lopez, Administrative Support
Mark Hummel, IT
Rick McComb, IT
Jared Oscarson, EMS
Fergus Laughridge, EMS
Mike Cogsdill, EMS

GUESTS:

Mike Sheppard (Owners Representative), Bill Sims, Joyce Sheen (Humboldt Sun), Nicole Maher (Public Relations Director), Erica Osborn, Dr. John Packham, Dr. Tom Harris, Sharlet Berentsen, Lewis Trout, Joel Hochlalter, Vicki Hochlalter, Brad Granath M.D., and Robin Granath .

CALL TO ORDER:

Board chairman Hummel called the October 22, 2015 board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Sharlet Berentsen said she has heard some negative comments in the community about the hospital, and wanted to compliment the board and staff for the progress that has been made at the hospital and the good job they are doing to provide health care to the community. Berentsen commended the doctors for their compassion and care, and said the community is lucky to have them and these facilities.

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MEDICAL STAFF REPORT:

Dr. Granath said there is nothing new to report. Granath briefly explained how the new helicopter air medical service was used to transfer a patient of his from McDermitt, Nevada to another facility, noting it was a very clean, lifesaving, and excellent transport.

EMS UPDATE:

Administrative Director Songer said in September there were 231 call outs, 34 inter-facility transports, 17 requested flights, and 15 other flights. Songer said a stemi patient was flown from Winnemucca to a cath lab in less than 90 minutes, and a vehicle accident on Monday required three Care Flight helicopters and the local MedEx Air One helicopter. Songer confirmed in response to Board member Chatfield's question that there is no cost to the hospital for the air medical transport service. Chatfield said he is thankful there were enough board members who voted to approve the lifesaving helicopter service for the community and the surrounding areas. Dr. Granath commented the air medical transport service is a huge breakthrough for the community; he is not aware of ever having a patient transported to Reno to a cath lab in the ten years he's been here. Board member Miller asked about the ambulance stationed in Orovada, and if it made any difference with the recent highway vehicle accident. Songer noted that ambulance did not respond because there was an incident in McDermitt being responded to at the same time as the highway vehicle accident. Administrator Parrish advised he will address the air medical service membership program later in the meeting. Chatfield remarked that it is noteworthy that some of the persons who were opposed to having the helicopter service were the first to want to sign up for the program.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Administrator Parrish said in September there were ten charity care program applications, and eight were approved; \$20,710 was written off. The Patient Access Department assisted 19 patients with Medicaid applications, responded to 955 questions in person and 897 by telephone, and there were five billing errors handled. The Board questioned the number of phone calls and if the phone system can track calls.

Dr. John Packham from University School of Medicine and Nevada State Office of Rural Health presented a Critical Access Hospital update.

Dr. Tom Harris, an economist with the University of Nevada, gave a presentation on economic impact of the hospital to the community. Board member Hopfer asked if this presentation has been shown to Humboldt County Commission. Harris advised it has not, but he would be happy to give the presentation.

CFO Lehman gave a presentation on the analysis of profit and loss statement comparison. Controller Davis explained the net proceeds of mines revenue.

Parrish shared pictures of the WDVS (Winnemucca Domestic Violence Services) award, NRHA (Nevada Rural Hospital Association) financial stability award and the staff on the helicopter during a training exercise.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by board member Cook and second by board member Miller to approve the consent agenda as presented. Board members Hummel, Hopfer, Cook, Chatfield and Miller voted aye, and board member Brissenden abstained on the board minutes as she was not present and voted aye on the appointments and reappointments. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION REVIEW/ APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Motion by board member Chatfield and second by board member Hopfer to approve the September 2015 warrants and disbursements as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Parrish presented the September 2015 financial reports. Board member Chatfield asked if the board could receive some information on the hospital's community involvement to learn if possibly there is more that can be done in the future to promote a positive health care impact for the community. The ICD10 status was discussed.

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

DISCUSSION / ACTION ON ITEMS OF BUSINESS & OTHER REPORTS:

1. Administration-Anesthesia / purchase of anesthesia ultrasound system for needle visualization in the amount of \$30,500 / Administrator-Anesthesia

Administrator Parrish said this unit is used by Anesthesia for needle visualization during nerve block procedures. The unit is budgeted at \$30,000, and the quote came in at \$30,500. Anesthetist Mark Reyka gave a presentation on how the unit works and how it will impact patient care. There was further discussion on the details of usage, life expectancy and training for the unit.

Motion by board member Chatfield and second by board member Hopfer to approve the purchase of anesthesia ultrasound needle visualization system for the sum of \$30,500. Motion carried unanimously.

Reyka thanked Parrish and the hospital for the donation made to the Honor Flag in his brother's name.

2. Administration-Maintenance / purchase of maintenance software package in the amount of \$27,715.28 / Administrative Director

Administrator Parrish said the hospital has several thousands of dollars in medical equipment, and this software package will allow development of a centralized data bank of all medical equipment for maintenance, repair history, manufacture recalls and FDA releases. It will also track out-of-service times and the repair history, which will be utilized when determining the capital budget. The package was budgeted at \$50,000. Administrative Director Songer gave an overview of the package and the current system in use. IT Director Bell answered questions about server space and power usage.

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board member Brissenden to approve purchase of maintenance software package for the sum of \$27,715.28. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Administration-ER / update on the Emergency Department Information System / ED Inpatient Director

Administrator Parrish said the EDIS system was installed five weeks ago. ED Inpatient Director Clement gave a presentation with stats on the status of the system and how the system functions. Mental health patients have been affecting the numbers due to the amount of time they stay in the ER because beds are not available at mental health facilities. IT Director Bell spoke of additional changes they plan to make. Clement thanked the board for the system; the staff and physicians like the ease of the system. No action was taken.

4. Administration-EMS / purchase of rescue apparatus in the amount of \$500,000 / Administrative Director

Administrator Parrish said this unit was budgeted at \$500,000. The current rescue truck is over ten years old and is 20,000 lbs over weight. Administrative Director Songer stated HGH is the prime rescue provider in the county, and provided information on the vehicle capabilities and use, and answered questions on the unit generating revenue. Board member Miller stated this is a benefit to the community as lives are priceless. Songer stated the new unit will replace a 2004 GMC which will stay in service, the lifespan is estimated at 15 to 20 years, and the build time is nine months.

Motion by board member Chatfield and second by board member Hopfer to approve the purchase of a 2016 Freightliner rescue truck for the sum of \$499,536. Motion carried unanimously.

Songer complimented the HGH staff for the work and services provided in response to the vehicle accident earlier this week.

5. Administration-Patient Access / purchase of AccuReg Registration and Eligibility Verification Solution / Administrator-CFO

Administrator Parrish stated there have been problems in billing starting with registration, and this software program which provides registration eligibility verification should alleviate some of the problems. The cost is \$43,425, and is it was budgeted at \$45,000. CFO Lehman gave a presentation on the software, training, user friendliness and usage. Clinic Manager Hammargren spoke of the benefits of program.

Motion by board member Miller and second by board member Brissenden to approve purchase of the AccuReg Registration and Eligibility Verification Solution program for the sum of \$43,425, and to pay the \$6,300 monthly service fee. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Administration / proposal to offer membership services for emergency air medical transport services in the amount of \$6,000 / Administrator

Administrator Parrish requested approval to expend \$6,000 to provide a one-year air medical transport service membership for every citizen of Humboldt County. MedEx Air One will accept the insurance payment as payment in full; there will be no copayments or deductibles involved. Parrish thanked owner Joel Hochlalter for the generous offer. Administrative Director Songer commented on other membership programs and the expectations of the community. Hochlalter said the membership program is retroactive to the helicopter services start date and answered questions on the cost details and explained the program. The board thanked Hochlalter.

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board member Miller to approve purchase of MedEx Air One one-year memberships for every resident in Humboldt County in the amount of \$6,000. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Physician Recruitment / Administrator

Administrator Parrish said he has been speaking with a podiatrist and Family Practice physician. Parrish is still seeking a Family Practice OB physician. No action was taken.

HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS / STAFF REPORTS:

Board member Cook asked legal counsel for clarification and ramification on abstentions and not voting. Legal Counsel Maher explained that an abstention is an affirmative assertion on the part of the person who has the responsibility to vote; not voting is when the person who has the responsibility to vote does nothing when the vote is called for. Board member Brissenden asked if an abstention has to happen at the time of the vote. Maher said yes, and typically a reason is given for the abstention.

Board member Hopfer asked to get copies of presentations from Dr. John Packham and Dr. Tom Harris.

Board member Brissenden thanked Joel Hochlalter for the air medical service membership program offer.

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PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Louis Mendiola, Health System Development Manager, invited the board to the staff recognition program luncheon at noon on October 30, 2015 for the awards presentation.

Nicole Maher, Public Relations Director, reminded of the helicopter service open house on Saturday October 24, 2015, and invited the board to the Rural Health Day on November 20, 2015.

Board chairman Hummel adjourned the October 22, 2015 meeting of the Humboldt County Hospital District Board of Trustees at 8:11 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mel Hummel, Chairman

Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant