

**HUMBOLDT GENERAL HOSPITAL
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OCTOBER 28, 2014 MEETING
SARAH WINNEMUCCA CONFERENCE ROOM**

BOARD PRESENT:

Moe Hanzlik, Chairman
Mel Hummel, Secretary
Ed Hopfer, Member
Marlene Brissenden, County Comm. Member

Kent Maher, Legal Counsel

BOARD NOT PRESENT:

Kevin Chatfield, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

James Parrish, Administrator
Sandi Lehman, CFO
Darlene Bryan, CNO
Leonard Perkinson, M.D.
Mike Bell, IT Director
Rose Green, HR Director
Eddy Davis, Controller
Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant
Melissa Lopez, Administrative Support
Pam Wickkiser, Administrative Director
Jackie Gonzalez, OR Manager
Ken Whittaker, EMS
Debbie Whittaker, EMS
Craig Prest, Maintenance Director
Shauna Barsanti, Business Office Manager
Robin Gillis, SNF Manager
Diane Castillejos, Clinic
Danika Aboud, Clinic
Nathalie Lara, Clinic
Louis Mendiola, Wellness Coordinator
Mike Cogsdill, EMS
Jason Manley, EMS
Jared Oscarson, EMS
Brad Kitts, EMS
Mike Sharpe, EMS
Jordan Kohler, EMS
Fergus Laughridge, EMS
Enrique, Ponce, EMS
Tina Perkinson, RN
Jeremy L. Hurst, MSN, FNP-C

GUESTS:

Robin Monchamp, Millie Custer, Donna Newman, Denise Watson, Lorri Glasgow, Gayle Gamron, Dawn Sheriff-Heslip, Joyce Sheen (Humboldt Sun), Sherry Smith (Hospice), Michelle Miller, Jim French, Jean Williams, Bonnie Hilbish, Ron Hilbish, Lina Tapia, Sharon Bower, Garth Amos, Tom Calla (CTA), Zach Lester (CTA) Marsha Colby (Hospital Auxiliary), Sara Hurst and Bill Sharp (Sletten), Nicole Maher (Public Relations Director), Mike Sheppard (Owners Representative), and Richard Cook,.

CALL TO ORDER:

Board chairman Hanzlik called the October 28, 2014 board meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

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PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Jeremy L. Hurst, MSN, FNP-C introduced himself and thanked the board for employing him. The response to him from the community has been great. Hurst said it's an honor to serve the community.

Denise Watson said she knows and voted for most of the board members; they are servants at heart and came to the board to improve the hospital. Watson and group she represents agree on that goal and hope to work together as partners and friends to provide access to better health care. Watson said her group has concerns about expansion of the hospital, hospital accessibility, lack of doctors, staff turnover, lack of staff, reduced hours of The WIC, and billing problems. Their organization is collecting information and will address the board again.

Lina Tapia (Robles) said her husband is a veteran with prostate cancer. His physician at Renown was shot, and he doesn't have a primary care provider. His condition has to be monitored and it is burdensome to drive all the way to the Veterans Hospital in Reno. She said there is a need for immediate care for people and for new doctors.

MEDICAL STAFF REPORT:

Dr. Perkinson said that medical staff appointments and reappointments were approved at the last medical staff meeting, and they have reinstated the quality review and peer review processes.

EMS UPDATE:

EMS Administrative Director Songer advised in September there were 188 call outs, and 24 inter-facility transports. Songer passed out information from UNR on HGH community paramedicine program written by Reno Gazette-Journal. At Burning Man this year there were a little less than 3000 patients and 22 were transferred to other facilities. A presentation on Burning Man will be made at the next board meeting. Songer gave an update on the Ebola matter.

Administration Report:

Administrator Parrish said in September there were no charity care program applications, and a total of \$81,588 was paid out. The Patient Access Department assisted one patient with a Medicaid application, responded to 733 questions in person and 450 by telephone, and there were seven questions about billing.

Parrish presented: (1) slides on physician supply; (2) awards to Robin Gillis from Health Insight for achieving a six or better quality rating at Harmony Manor, and the Women's Choice award for second year in a row; (3) a proclamation from James Oscarson, Nevada State Assemblyman, to Pat Songer; and, (4) photos of HGH as a top 20 Rural Hospital, Bob Halkyard donating first-aid equipment, and the modular unit.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Motion by board member Hummel and second by board member Hopfer to approve the board meeting minutes for August 26, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board member Brissenden to approve the board meeting minutes for September 23, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION REVIEW/ APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Administrator Parrish presented the September 2014 financial report.

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board member Hummel to approve the September 2014 financial reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ON ITEMS OF BUSINESS & OTHER REPORTS:

1. Phase 3 facilities expansion and construction / condense planning, design and construction schedule for future of facilities expansion and rehabilitation / Administrator-CTA-Owners Representative

Administrator Parrish said it was suggested by all the CMAR applicants during the CMAR interviews and selection process to condense the building project phases 4 and 5 planning and design schedule to improve the construction efficiency and save money. CTA was asked to research the possibility to determine the potential cost and time savings, and still maintain stopping points. Their findings indicate it is possible to reduce construction time by about 11 months and save about 1.5 million dollars in costs. Parrish outlined the planning which has been completed and the associated costs (approximately 1.2 million dollars) and recommended that the planning and design of phases 4 and 5 be moved up, and that the board authorize expenditure of the approximate 2 million dollar balance of the funds previously identified for use on the planning process. Zach Lester (CTA), Tom Calla (CTA) and Bill Sharp (Sletten Construction) presented further information on the cost and time savings, details on the planning process, and answered questions.

Motion by board member Hummel and second by board member Hopfer to authorize the planning and design construction schedule to be condensed for phases 4 and 5 as explained at a total cost not to exceed 3.5 million dollars (which includes the expenditures already made for phase 3). Motion carried with board members Hanzlik, Hummel and Hopfer voting aye and board member Brissenden voting nay.

2. Union Pacific lease agreement for construction services property / Administrator

Administrator Parrish explained the location of property proposed to be used for a construction services yard for the upcoming construction phases, and advised that the proposal to lease the property for three years from Union Pacific is in the meeting packet. Mike Sheppard, Owners Representative, explained the work and improvements required to clean-up the proposed site and make it useable for a construction yard.

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board member Hummel to approve the agreement with Union Pacific Railroad as presented for use as a construction yard site. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Synergy Surgicalists, Inc. agreement for orthopedic surgicalist services / Administrator

Administrator Parrish advised that based on the information presented at the last board meeting, Synergy Surgicalists, Inc. is the group recommended to provide 24/7 orthopedic surgery services, which includes ER, the Clinic and surgery. An agreement, which is in the meeting packet, has been negotiated according to the terms outlined in the Synergy presentation.

Motion by board member Hummel and second by board member Hopfer to approve the agreement with Synergy Surgicalists, Inc. for orthopedic surgery services as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Echo Mathews employment agreement for Nurse Practitioner health care services / Administrator

Administrator Parrish said the agreement will be brought back at the next meeting due to some further revisions which need to be worked out. It is anticipated the services will start December 1, 2014. No action was taken.

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5. Steam coil replacements purchase / Administrator

Administrator Parrish noted that \$50,000 is budgeted for replacement of worn out units of the steam coils that are used to warm the building. The cost to replace is \$16,257. Craig Prest, Maintenance Director, answered questions.

Motion by board member Brissenden and second by board member Hopfer to approve the purchase of steam coils as explained in the amount of \$16,257 from RHP Mechanical. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Water softener purchase / Administrator

Administrator Parrish said replacement of the water softener is budgeted for \$50,000. RHP Mechanical submitted the low bid to replace the unit at \$31,651, and it will match the current Culligan system. Craig Prest, Maintenance Director, answered questions.

Motion by board member Hopfer and second by board member Hummel to approve purchase of Culligan water softener from RHP Mechanical in the amount of \$31,651 from RHP Mechanical. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Physician Recruitment / Administrator

Administrator Parrish advised that Jeremy Hurst started October 27, 2014 and Echo Mathews will start December 1, 2014. An interview is scheduled Friday with a nurse practitioner. The orthopedic surgery services will start January 1, 2015. Recruitment contracts are out for a family practitioner and a FPOB. Parrish said there are currently two recruiting companies working for the District, that is, Pacific Companies and Fidelis.

HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS / STAFF REPORTS:

Board member Hopfer thanked those in attendance observing what the board does on a month to month basis, noting that although some of the decisions to be made are not easy, the board tries to do the best for the community. Hopfer asked Parrish if he had anything on billing; Parrish responded that there were some folks sent to collection inappropriately. Parrish followed up by meeting with HRG, and learned that they had poor training and were short on staff. Parrish put them on notice in writing that the service is not appropriate, and informed them better service is expected; they are on a 90 day notice to improve services. HRG came back with four page document stating the steps they will take to improve service. Parrish apologized to community.

Board member Hummel said he is glad the billing matter is being addressed. Parrish said an additional Patient Access Representative will be added to the staff. Parrish will report at November meeting.

Board chairman Hanzlik believes the District is headed down the right path by condensing the planning-design process. Hanzlik said he has directed people to the hospital for billing concerns and reminded again that patient matters at a public meeting will not be discussed due to HIPPA law and regulation.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Denise Watson said she listened carefully this meeting, and expressed her opinion that it's easy to agree on things as there is a big sense of camaraderie in the room, which is good, but folks on the outside don't have that same feeling. Watson reiterated some of the matters she spoke about earlier, including the disconnect she feels, the lack of responsiveness she believes exists, the number of doctors and the hospital expansion.

Dr. Perkinson expressed his feelings on the public comments made tonight, and offered several reasons why doctors do not come to Winnemucca (spouse will not move, no choice of schools, not close to the amenities of more populated areas, etc.), and why they often do not stay. Perkinson explained his reason

for coming to this facility is because of Administrator Parrish, the state of the art equipment, it is staffed well, and the technology is updated more than most hospitals. Perkinson said this is the finest facility he has worked in, and he noted several places where he has worked.

Bonnie Hilbish and Ron Hilbish said they attended the meeting to speak on behalf of Dr. Perkinson, and described the treatment of their daughter and others. Winnemucca doesn't say thank you enough. The Hilbishes thanked the board and administration for the tough decisions that are made here. They said do not want Perkinson's heart to be hurting; whatever is asked of him he does and he is appreciated. They expressed their gratitude again and said in 67 years this is the finest doctor they have seen, and that this is a beautiful hospital.

Board member Hummel asked the public to provide their ideas of how to get doctors to come to this community.

Robin Monchamp said she appreciates the passion and all that everyone does, and related a story of an incident which occurred in California involving a complaint resolved to her satisfaction and contrasted that to an experience she had at the HGH ER. She suggested someone is needed as a patient advocate.

Danika Aboud noted there is Quality Services department for complaints and gave the telephone extension.

Board chairman Hanzlik adjourned the October 28, 2014 meeting of the Humboldt County Hospital District Board of Trustees at 8:24 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Maurice Hanzlik, Chairman

Alicia Wogan, Administrative Assistant