

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1 OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY**

October 26, 2023

In Attendance: Commissioners: Lois Robertson, Susan Johnson, Melanie Kiss, Becky Walrath, Lynnette Elswick; Executive Officers: Merry-Ann Keane, Chris Wagar, Kim Manus, Joseph Clouse
Others: RaeLynn Wellman, Theresa Johnson, Rhi Drake, Casey Scott, Trina Gleese, Tina Batsch, Becky Dana, Jennifer Johnston, Sara Glazier, Leif Furman, Kim Bradstreet, Michelle Nedved, Sonya Scauflaire

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Robertson called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m.

READING OF LEGAL NOTICE:

The regular meeting legal notice was distributed as required.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA / CONSENT ITEMS:

The Meeting Agenda, Auditors Reports and Uncompensated Report (Consent Packet) were approved via motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Bad Debt/Charity: September 2023, inclusive District Write-off: \$ 162,604.56

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 2023, minutes were approved via a motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There wasn't any business from the audience.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chief Of Medical Staff: Dr. Aaron Reinke, MD, Chief of Medical Staff was not present.

Finance: Kim Manus presented the financials. She advised there is a team meeting weekly to discuss swing beds, this helps ensure billing is being done properly and timely. This week's meeting helped move two patients into assisted living. The case workers have started using a new program that allows them to view placement availability. This will allow them to see if local patients are being served elsewhere and allow them to be moved close to home. Kim and Chris have met with TRC partner CPS to evaluate the 340B process and provide insight on what and how the District can do better.

Kim addressed salaries/wages for provider professional fees-this is in reference to the surgeons and agency workers. The District has had to have help from Spokane for special services. Using agency RNs is double the cost of employed RNs. This leads to fewer staff and reduced level of care.

Kim received an email from the ACO, in 2022 the collective group was at a total loss. NHHS is responsible for 60.6% of the loss. NHHS will have to pay the ACO \$136,175. Money has been put into an escrow, the District has \$373k in the escrow, this will help offset the fee. Due to the loss in 2023, the District is anticipating a loss next year. This supports the decision made to put the ACO on hold while we reset in 2024.

The District is still not able to accept United Healthcare Medicare Advantage plans. UHC advised in July that everything was set up and ready. UHC is taking premiums, but patients are not able to see their

providers at the clinic. Kim has emailed CMS about this, and UHC. The District will discuss running ads in the newspaper and social media explaining the situation to the community.

Quality/Performance Improvement - Rhi Drake advised the committee welcome Dr. Nathan Lilya as the Quality Medical Director. The days to close for September is at five days. Reporting in September was up from August with the Hospital having the largest group of reports. There were 10 grievances and 4 complaints in August and September.

CEO Report – Merry-Ann shared NHHS continues to run in the black this month. Express Care is running well, they are seeing 15-18 patients per day. We are still looking for a second provider. Dr. Stewart is starting on Monday. PA's Ben Beam and Sammi Hilfiker are in the process of being credentialed. Dr. Vimal Shenoy will be joining as a per diem ED provider once his credentialing is completed.

EMS update Fire District 2 and SPOFR have agreed to pursue 911 and interfacility transfers in the event that POEMS ceases to provide ALS service.

NHHS attended our first IHA meeting. As well as the annual WSHA meeting. Connections were made with both groups. The Chelan meeting will resume in June with a three-day session and the CEO retreat will be at a different time TBD. Merry-Ann has been asked to chair the subcommittee for the WSHA Rural Hospital committee for Rural Obstetrics. WSHA has filed a lawsuit against the DOH in reference to the new interpretation of the Charity Care law. The new interpretation doesn't allow for geographic boundaries.

SLT and other management will meet November 7th and 8th for strategic planning for 2024, 2026 and 2028. Merry-Ann is requesting two board members attend to provide insight.

The flood mitigation is complete but cannot move forward with repairs until the insurance provides approval.

Merry-Ann has spoken with Matt Elsworth at AWPHD about support for the ED/admitting/lab space project. He will be connecting with the Board to discuss plans to make the replacement possible. This will require planning, a tax levy or bonds, architects, and major construction.

OTHER BUSINESS –

Casey Scott did not provide education as expected, this will take place next month.

ACTION ITEM AGENDA

Motion made, seconded, and approved to reschedule the November meeting from Nov. 23 to Nov 16th due to Thanksgiving.

Motion made, seconded, and approved for capital purchase of portable X-Ray machine in the amount of \$171,939.36.

Motion made, seconded, and approved to update the purchasing authority matrix.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

As permitted by RCW 42.30.110(1) (g), the meeting was moved to the Executive Session at 11:26 am for approx. one hour to discuss legal matters with counsel.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Commission returned to Open Session at approximately 12:33 pm.

Action Item: Motion made, seconded, and approved of proposed new organizational chart adding a 90-day evaluation with six-month probation of new director positions.

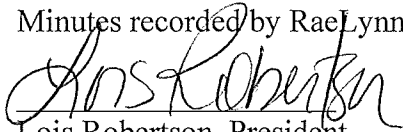
NEXT MEETING DATE

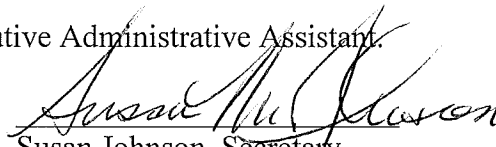
The next meeting will be November 16, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:33 pm.

Minutes recorded by RaeLynn Wellman, Executive Administrative Assistant.


Lois Robertson, President
Board of Commissioners


Susan Johnson, Secretary
Board of Commissioners