

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

**December 28, 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, Jane Tilley, Becky Dana, Annie Suchocki, Trina Gleese, Christie Wall, Dalene Zieske, Trina Gleese

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Robertson called the meeting to order at 10:00 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: October 2023, inclusive District Write-off: \$ 150,331.57

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2023 minutes were approved via a motion made, seconded, and unanimously approved.  
November 16, 2023, minutes were approved via a motion made, seconded, and unanimously approved.  
December 8, 2023, minutes were approved via a motion made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

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 advised the new providers are doing well. The clinic numbers are up. Express Care is doing better with more providers. He is working on PRP pricing so this service can be offered. The District already has the equipment. There will be a big update for EPIC at the end of January. He advised that this is his last meeting, Dr. Lewis will be the new chief of medical staff.

Finance: Chris Emond explained the financial packet. The District is in the positive. Cash on hand is 124 days. He advised that he has been negotiating the mobile MRI equipment lease. It has settled on a one-year term at \$33,000 a month. The District is looking to hire their own MRI Tech and will continue to use one provided by the mobile MRI company in the interim.

Quality/Performance Improvement - Rhi Drake advised the District remains on target for days to close events, sitting at 6.4 days. She addressed the 2023 Performance Improvement Projects, completed projects 59%, paused projects 12%. Some projects will continue into 2024 and have been adopted as normal practice.

CEO Report – Merry-Ann advised it was a month of outside advocacy and partnerships for NHHS. Clarifying misunderstandings regarding Behavioral Health and Emergency Services in our community; speaking with legislators about rural OB; ensuring EMS transfers continue to be available to our patients; meeting with the Spokane County Regional Interlocal Leadership Structure to discuss Behavioral health

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support in partnership with HCA/DOH; working with WSHA and compliance as we respond to the statewide legal challenges.

She was happy to share that the District is in a positive variance with the budget for the year.

A new CRNA has been hired to start in April. We are continuing to interview CRNAs and a CNO.

POEMS ceased business on December 1st. FD#2 has assumed transfers for the District, they are utilizing the same call house that POEMS utilized, and the stipend paid per transfer remains the same as what was paid to POEMS.

The 2023 Strategic Plan is complete! The 2024 Strategic Plan will be rolled out the first week of January. Strategic planning for 2025 and 2028 will take place in January.

Consultant work to review all aspects of Residential Care operations is underway. There will be changes in the New Year to allow the service lines to be sustainable. Olivia Low has left the District for another role, and Jenny Cooper will be assuming interim leadership as of December 22nd.

**OTHER BUSINESS –**

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

**ACTION ITEM AGENDA**

Resolution 2023-15 in reference to leasing the surplus house to POCFD2 was unanimously approved.  
Resolution 2023-16 removing Chris Wagar as an authorized signatory was unanimously approved.  
Resolution 2023-17 setting the 2024 Holiday schedule was unanimously approved.  
Resolution 2023-18 rescinding resolution 2023-14 and approving the 2024 budget was unanimously approved.

Public work bids were presented, the Board agreed to move forward with the suggested low bidders based on information provided by Chief Operating Officer, Chris Wagar.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

As permitted by RCW 42.30.110(1) (g), the meeting was moved to the Executive Session at 11:22 am for approximately one hour to discuss personnel matters.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Commission returned to Open Session at approximately 12:18 pm.

Upon returning to Open Session the Commission unanimously approved Resolution 2023-19 in reference to CEO/Superintendent incentive bonus and 2024 compensation.

Per the recommendation of the Medical Staff Executive Committee, the Board of Commissioners approved the following privileges by motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously:

**Provisional - NHHS**

Kimberly McKay, CRNA

**Provisional Appointment – Off-Site Radiology (Inland Imaging)**

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Anne Marie McLellan, MD

**Provisional Appointment – Teleneurology (Providence)**

Meghana Srinivas Kinariwala, MD      Amin Hossein Rabiei, MD

**Courtesy Reappointment – Telehealth (Providence)**

Aixa D. Espinosa-Morales, MD      James W. Jordan, MD      Maria V. Recio-Restrepo, MD

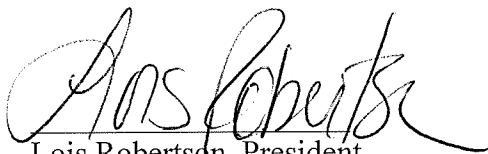
**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be on January 25, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:22 pm.

Minutes recorded by RaeLynn Wellman, Executive Administrative Assistant.

  
Lois Robertson, President  
Board of Commissioners

  
Susan Johnson, Secretary  
Board of Commissioners