

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

November 16, 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; Jenny Smith Others: RaeLynn Wellman, Peter Ricoy, Aaron Petersen, MD; Theresa Johnson, Rhi Drake, Madison Stewart, Jennifer Stout-Willett, Rebecca Carey, Jane Tilley, Becky Dana, Kim Rutland, Leif Furman, Calli Schmaltz, Sara Glazier, Annie Suchocki, Trina Gleese, Jennifer Johnston, Paul Rutland

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Robertson called the meeting to order at 10:01 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: \$ 89, 716.13

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

October 26, 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 the District has lost two days of cash on hand. Accounts receivable have gone down, progress is being made on the unbilled accounts. The budget that was presented to the Board shows a \$2.1 million loss for 2024, she explained we will circle back around and have an updated version at the next regular Board meeting. Accounting is doing an interim cost report through the end of September that has to be submitted by December 8th. ACU is the home department for ACU, they are making sure that nurses are only going to OB when needed. ACU is about 60-65% Medicare patients so OB nurses being staffed in ACU when no OB cases allows to shift the cost so we can keep the doors open.

Quality/Performance Improvement - Rhi Drake advised the Quality meeting was pushed to Friday the 17th due to Board and Med Staff being on the same day. There will be multiple departments presenting their PI Projects. There weren't any RCAs in October, but there was one follow up. The solution was an all-around medication room review. The quality RN has been working with teams to get everything reorganized and have the rooms for each department mimic each other. More complaints are being handled at the time of service rather than patient calling in after the fact.

CEO Report – Merry-Ann gave an overview of all the amazing work that has taken place over the last year. She advised the financial picture shows barely in the black, she's hoping to end this way, but

considering the budget shows we should be at a \$2.8 million loss right now, we're doing okay! NHHS has welcomed three new providers, Dr. Taylor Stewart FMOB, Sammi Hilfiker and Ben Beam PA-Cs. Vimal Shenoy will be starting when credentialing is completed.

EMS options are being explored for the transition, but the contract with POEMS is still in full force.

Leadership completed 2024 strategic planning. The team did one years' worth of work in one day.

The flood mitigation is still ongoing, insurance is working to find a number they can agree on to move forward.

The ED and lab space expansion has been on the report all year and will remain until a solution is found.

"It is unfortunate that behavioral healthcare has been sensationalized in the court of public opinion with inaccuracies, omissions, and misinformation instead of in the spirit of collaboration." This was Merry-Ann's response to the article published by the Newport Miner. Newport Hospital and Health Services longest tenured ED physician, Dr. Aaron Petersen made an appearance to discuss his response and feelings of the article with The Board. He wanted everyone to be aware that mental health crisis is a national issue around every hospital in the nation. There are simply not enough mental health facilities. He explained that NHHS has two rooms that can safely take care of mental health patients, they are rooms that can be cleared of (of harmful items) and the patient can be safely viewed. We do not have single bed certification; we do not have an in-house psychiatrist; we do not have psychiatric registered nurses. There have been times when patients are here for several days, this takes a lot of resources. Patients have been known to become physically abusive towards staff, one instance a few weeks ago, Dr. Petersen went to check on a patient who then punched him in the face. Compliance consultant Peter Ricoy advised hospitals go on divert, that is a fact that is highly encouraged throughout the country. This is communication that for one reason or another it is temporarily unsafe for incoming patients. This does not mean that patients are turned away at the door, this is communicating to first responders that it would be a safer choice to take the patient to another facility.

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 draft a response to the newspaper article that will be signed by all members of the board and CEO. This letter is to be presented at the next county commissioners meeting.

Motion made, seconded, and approved 2024 Strategic Plan.

Motion made, seconded, and approved via resolution to rescind resolution 2020-07.

Motion made, seconded, and approved for capital purchase of property parcel number 463119510028.

Motion made, seconded, and approved for \$500 incentive bonus per FT, noncontracted staff that was employed prior to 10/31/2023 through 12/2/2023. Susan Johnson abstained.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

As permitted by RCW 42.30.110(1) (g), the meeting was moved to the Executive Session at 11:08 am for approx. one hour to discuss legal matters with counsel.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Commission returned to Open Session at approximately 12:06 pm.

Action Item: Motion made, seconded, and approved of proposed new organizational chart.

Provisional - NHHS

Albertson, Billy - CRNA

Haberman, Taylor – CRNA

Reappointments – NHHS

Bell, Keith – PAC

Breckenridge, Harold Kent – CRNA

Buscher, Christopher – PAC

Jones, Geoffry – MD

Matelich, Lisa – MD

Courtesy Reappointment – On-Site Radiology (Inland Imaging)

Russell, Leslie - MD

Courtesy Reappointment – Providence – Telehealth

Akopov, Sergey – MD

Judd, Lilith – MD

Lada, Robert – MD

Marvi, Michael – MD

Menon, Ravi – MD

Oveian, Margarita – MD

Rontal, Andrew – MD

Sapkota, Biggya – MD

Courtesy Reappointment – Providence - Nephrology

Joshi, Shaun – MD

Courtesy Reappointment – Providence - Cardiology

Kwasman, Michael – MD

Peterson, John - MD

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be on December 28, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:08 pm.

Minutes recorded by RaeLynn Wellman, Executive Administrative Assistant.



Lois Robertson, President
Board of Commissioners



Susan Johnson, Secretary
Board of Commissioners