HASKELL COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES – April 20, 2026

Haskell County Hospital District Board held a special board meeting on April 20th at 8:30 AM in the Haskell Hospital Education Building at 1 Avenue N, Haskell, Texas, per the Open Meetings Act.

Attending: President Robbie Peiser, Vice President Amy Martin, Secretary Darlene Hopkins, Member Lynn Dale Dudensing, Member Elna Camacho (Zoom), Member Reida Penman, CEO Michelle Stevens, COO Mary Belle Olson, CNO Meghan Shelton, ACNO Dana Myers, Controller Crystal Molina (Zoom), CFO Elizabeth Miller (Zoom), Haskell RHC/ER NP Kelby Johnson, Haskell ER PA Erica Botcher, Haskell Pharmacy Tech/Haskel EMS and back up EMT Leah Nicholson, Haskell RN Marley Boyd, Haskell Compliance RN Meri Combs, and Haskell ER NP Philip Smith.

Absent:

General Public: Haskell EMS Director Melissa Strawbridge, Haskell County Fire Chief/City Emergency Manager/EMS PRN EMT Casey Moeller, Haskell EMS Paramedic John Foster, Haskell County Judge Kenny Thompson, Haskell County Judge Secretary Angela Stewart, Haskell EMS Board Member/City Councilman Eric Lewis, Haskell/Stamford EMS EMT Bryce Green, Haskell City Manager Winston Stephens, Haskell EMS EMT Cherri Stegemoeller, Haskell County Commissioner Precinct 3 Matt Sanders, Haskell County Commissioner Precinct 2 Bill Steele, and Haskell County Commissioner Precinct 1 Jerry Don Garcia.

Invited Guests: None.

1. **Call to Order and Invocation.** Robbie Peiser called the meeting to order at 8:36 AM and certified a quorum. Darlene opened with the invocation.
2. **Public Comment.** No public comments.
3. **NEW BUSINESS**
4. **Haskell EMS Discussion.** CNO Meghan Shelton presented the transfer report that she compiled. Haskell EMS Director Melissa Strawbridge discussed her transfer report compared to Meghan's transfer stats. CNO Meghan Shelton noted that some patients may leave by private vehicle when EMS is unavailable, based on provider judgment and with appropriate documentation. Solutions to minimize transfer time were discussed such as sharing the Haskell EMS schedule. Lynn Dale asked when ground transfers are not available if a patient could be surprised by an AirEvac bill. ACNO Dana discussed that AirEvac is the last resort for transfers due to the cost to the patient. Marta from AirEvac is 40% of the AirEvac calls for the Haskell region are from Haskell Memorial Hospital. This is the second highest AirEvac usage for the region. Dana discussed that Stonewall, Throckmorton, and Olney have been used for ground transfers. Melissa discussed her process for assigning staff when a transfer call is received. Haskell EMS is paid $100 for backup staff, and the staff will be gone for 4-5 hours. There is not an on call or back up crew. Dana asked about the financial impact for transfers. Other EMS seem to prefer transfers because of the positive financial impact. BLS and ALS transfers – 2 people to do the transfers. Haskell EMS netted $75K from transfers after the costs were netted against the $157K transfer collections. Haskell ER Erica discussed an ER transfer that took 2 hours to confirm. She started with Haskell EMS and then tried AirEvac and then Haskell EMS agreed to take the patient, and the radios were not working. The radios do not work in the senior center. Kelby and Erica also mentioned that the Haskell EMS staff said that messages weren't sent out to see if there was a crew available. Kelby reiterated that Haskell Hospital and EMS are in this for the patients. Elna requested focusing on solutions to take care of patients as efficiently as possible. Melissa reiterated that she cannot leave Haskell County open to take a transfer for the hospital. Amy mentioned that when her husband was on staff Haskell EMS covered the county with back-up agreements and 1/3 of the staff and the pay was much less. Melissa stated that it would take $300K to have a primary crew and an on call back up crew. Erica discussed a pediatric patient that was denied by Haskell EMS and was finally accepted by Throckmorton to transfer to Cook Children's Hospital. Dana recommended reviewing how other EMSs operate and bill and how their back up pay is structured. Dana asked how Olney had a new EMS building. It was funded by a grant and Melissa stated that they are working on grants. John stated that their billing company is a large and reputable billing company. Meghan reported that Dr Shahbodaghi., incoming Haskell

Memorial Hospital Medical Director beginning in May and a former EMS Medical Director in Montana, had discussed models where nurses may be deputized to function as EMTs for transport and noted this as a concept that could be explored. Melissa stated that the state law still requires 2 licensed EMS providers. The group discussed if future EMTs could be recruited from the regional schools. Eric asked what the time constraints are for transfers. Meghan reported that the hospital receives quality review feedback from accepting facilities indicating that, in some cases, transfers fall outside recommended timeliness windows. She further noted that, in most cases, the general goal is approximately two hours, with more specific time constraints for certain conditions such as STEMI and stroke. Action items are for the EMS to review the crew structure to accept more transfers, have the EMS discuss with other EMSs to see how they are structured and for the EMS and hospital district to review and possibly revise the transfer agreement. Melissa will discuss the importance of the staff's responding to the GroupMe messages. Adding all staff to the EMS GroupMe was recommended. Quarterly combined meetings were recommended. Darlene reiterated that more advertising for staff needs to happen to expand the staff and PRN staff.

5. **Executive Session.** No executive session was needed by the board.
   Pursuant to Texas Government Code §§ 551.074, 551.085 and 551.071, the Board of Directors shall meet in Executive Session to deliberate personnel matters, certain proposed new service or product lines of the hospital and to consult with its attorney, either in person or by video or telephone, matters which require confidential discussion under the attorney client privilege.
6. **Adjourn** - President Peiser adjourned the meeting at 10:33 AM. The next regular board meeting is April 28, 2026.

Darlene Hopkins — 4-28-26

Board Secretary — Date

Robbie Peiser — 4-28-26

Board President — Date

Michelle Stagg — 4-28-26

CEO — Date