HASKELL COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 24, 2025

Haskell County Hospital District Board held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on June 24th at 6:00 PM 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 Elna Camacho, Member Lynn Dale Dudensing, Member Reida Penman, CEO Michelle Stevens (via Zoom), COO Mary Belle Olson (via Zoom), CFO Elizabeth Miller, Controller Crystal Molina, CNO Meghan Shelton, and ACNO Dana Myers.

Absent: None.

General Public: Ryder Cude.

Invited Guests: Barry Couch via Zoom.

1. **Call to Order and Invocation.** Robbie Peiser called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and certified a quorum. Robbie opened with the invocation.
2. **Review minutes from the May 20, 2025 meeting.** Accepted as presented.
3. **Health Connect Presentation by Barry Couch.** Mary Belle introduced Barry Couch with Health Connect. He works with TORCH CEO John Henderson to assist rural hospitals navigating the current landscape to survive and thrive. Health Connect helps educate community leaders about the importance of maintaining a healthy healthcare delivery system. This process takes 3-4 phases over an 18-month period. The board and community leaders are surveyed on their thoughts and concerns about healthcare. Outmigration is studied to see why patients are leaving and to determine if a current service needs to improve or if there is a potential service line to add. Barry is the primary facilitator with the support of three other facilitators. The cost would be approximately $10K spread over 18 months. The first step would be to develop an email roster of the community leaders. This is usually 30-40 people. Then there are 2 surveys administered this summer and then there is a forum. The forum will probably be in September 2025 or early October. Phase 3 is the launch. The launch is 45-60 days after the forum to review the issues that need to be addressed from the survey results. Barry recommended pulling the chamber and other city calendars to plan a save the date campaign. Normally on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 11 AM-1:30 or 2. The board discussed that this would be good to remind the community about our services, especially the new services such as pain management and sleep studies.
4. **Public Comment.** Ryder Cude mentioned the new 3 data centers (Homebound, LLC). The county approved the abatement agreements, but the hospital will not be asked to sign an abatement agreement. They will try to hire local first to fill the 150 long-term positions. The first phase should come online in 2029.
5. **Review the patient census.** Michelle summarized the stats for May 2025 compared to April 2025 and May 2024. Inpatient was down from 6 to 2. Swing beds still looked good, 4 in May 2025 compared to 6 in May 2024. ER visits were up slightly. MRI was down slightly.
6. **Review and approve the financial report including the employee census and AP check registers.** Elizabeth reviewed the May 2025 reports. Cash continues to be higher than the prior year. All the metrics continue to be much better than the prior year, but with the Medicare recoupments and the low May stats, Elizabeth stated that they are preparing for low cash flow which is typical for the summer months. Elna made the motion to approve the financial reports, and Reida seconded. All voted to approve the financial reports except Lynn Dale voted not to approve.
7. **OLD BUSINESS**
    A. **Review and approve the revised Haskell EMS agreement.** The revised agreement has increased prices, so the board needed to review and approve again if they desire to. Reida made the motion to approve, Amy seconded. Four in favor, and Elna and Darlene abstained.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**
9. **Annual Strategic Planning.**
    A. **Reviewed the vision and mission and values.** The board likes values, vision and mission, but they recommended having Groundswell review and revamp them to freshen them up because they are at least 4 years old. They were created by PeopleCentric.
    B. **Reviewed the updated organizational chart.** One change was noted by Meghan. Should be 2 RNs not 1.
    C. **Reviewed the SWOT analysis.** The C-suite will meet with the managers to review their comments in conjunction with their departmental budgets. Discussed adding mammograms and bone density.
10. **Review and approve the Groundswell marketing agreement.** The agreement is $94K but Texas A&M will cover $22K. It would be around $6K per month that Haskell would pay. The agreement is July 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026. This would replace our other website SEO vendor and combine all the services under one marketing agreement. Elna made the motion and Reida seconded. All were in favor.
11. **Discuss, and if any, take action on the state opioid funding resolution.** Elizabeth presented the state opioid funding resolution. The estimate based on what Haskell County received is $300K, but the final distribution amounts are determined by the state. Darlene made the motion to approve the resolution. Elna seconded. All are in favor.
12. **Discuss, and if any, take action on the retention of outside counsel on a contingency fee basis and approval of the contingency fee professional services agreement.** This was tabled until the July 2025 board meeting.
13. **Discuss, and if any, take action on the submission of the request for review and approval of contingent fee legal services contract for a political subdivision.** This was tabled until the July 2025 board meeting.
14. **Review and approve policies and procedures.** None to review and approve.
15. **Review and approve the medical staff credentials.** These providers were approved: Scott Carpenter, DO and Derrick Armfield, MD. Anyone note who made the motion to approve the credentials and seconded?
16. **Chief Nursing Officer Report.** Meghan reported that staffing is still an issue as we wait on the 3 nurses to complete their degrees. Meghan and Meri are organizing skills fairs to ensure that our nurses and aides are competent and compliant.
17. **Chief Operating Officer Report.** Mary Belle reminded the board about the Hospital Foundation Bunco event on August 5th.
18. **Chief Executive Officer Report.** Michelle reported that she and Mary Belle are in Washington, DC meeting with the congressmen. The advocacy issues that we focus on are making telehealth reimbursement permanent and holding Medicare Advantage payers accountable to pay properly.
19. **Executive Session** – No executive session needed.
    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.
20. **Adjourn** - President Peiser adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM. The next regular board meeting is July 22, 2025.

Darlene Hopkins
Board Secretary Date

Robbie Peiser
Board President Date

Michelle Stys
CEO Date