HASKELL COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES – JULY 22, 2025

Haskell County Hospital District Board held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on July 22nd 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, COO Mary Belle Olson, CFO Elizabeth Miller, Quality and Risk Management RN Meri Combs, Infection Control RN Holly Sells, NP Kelby Johnson, NP Amy Penington, CNO Meghan Shelton, and ACNO Dana Myers (via Zoom).

Absent: Controller Crystal Molina.

General Public: None.

Invited Guests: Frost Law Firm attorneys Matt Eddleman and Glen Frost via Zoom, and FSB President Ryder Cude, and Mayor Christina Isbell.

1. **Call to Order and Invocation.** Robbie Peiser called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and certified a quorum. Darlene opened with the invocation.
2. **Review minutes from the June 24, 2025 meeting.** The change for not taking action on the med staff credentials will be made. Dr. Carpenter and the Vesta radiologist will be approved during this meeting (July 22, 2025). No other changes.
3. **Abandoned Property Tax Forgiveness Presentation.** Michelle introduced Mayor Christina Isbell. Christina provided information on the abandoned property tax forgiveness proposal and the interlocal agreement. The largest tax amount to be forgiven is usually around $600. Each abandoned property will be presented to all of the taxing entities at board meetings to approve the tax forgiveness.
4. **Senex Quarterly Revenue Cycle Presentation.** Clayton Jobe presented the quarterly revenue cycle update and discussed the trends for 2023, 2024, and 2025. He reviewed the standard monthly slides that are provided to the board and reviewed additional details related to the current and historical metrics. Clayton also updated the board on hiring the new biller Amber.
5. **Public Comment.** None.
6. **Review the patient census.** Michelle summarized the stats for June 2025 compared to May 2025 and June 2024. June 2025 stats were much better than May 2025. Swing beds were much higher at 6 compared to 4 in May 2025. ER and RHC visits are down which is somewhat normal for the summer months.
7. **Presentation by Matt Eddleman with Frost Law Firm regarding the ERTC agreement and contingency fee agreement review request.** He reviewed the timeline for Haskell's ERTC claims from November 2022 to June 2024. Frost Law Firm reviewed the transcripts to see that the audit was closed in August 2024. Matt reviewed the ERTC general eligibility guidelines and how HCHD qualified. The claims were filed for the 1st through the 3rd quarters of 2021. The January 1, 2021-March 10, 2021 ERTC was allowed and paid plus statutory interest. The total payment was around $850K. Lynn Dale asked if the contingency fee applies to a settlement amount and the fee structure is the same. The safe harbor for reduced services is 10%. Lynn Dale asked about the statute of limitations. It is 2 years and it starts from when the claims were disallowed. Form 2297 Waiver of Statutory Notice was filed for the 1st quarter of 2021. The form was not filed for quarters 2 and 3 2021. If the form was filed in December 2023 which means that the statute of limitations would be up in December 2025. The most expensive costs that fall outside of the contingency fee calculation would be calling expert witnesses. A couple of expert witnesses could be around $20K per Glen'
8. **Review and approve the financial report including the employee census and AP check registers.** Elizabeth reviewed the June 2025 reports. Cash is lower than June 2024 due to the MC cost report recoupments. Metrics are not as good as they have been due to the decrease in cash, but they will start trending favorably in the fall when volumes increase for all departments and tax collections increase. Lynn Dale reiterated that contracts and proposals need to be sent sooner or he will vote no if the action item is not tabled. Reida made the motion to approve the financial reports, and Darlene seconded. All voted to approve the financial reports except Lynn Dale voted not to approve.

9. **OLD BUSINESS**
   A. **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.** Elna made the motion to approve the agreement. Lynn Dale seconded the motion and all were in favor.
   B. **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.** Reida made the motion to and Darlene seconded. All in favor.
10. **NEW BUSINESS**
11. **Review and approve the abandoned property tax forgiveness interlocal agreement.** Elna made the motion and Darlene seconded to approve the interlocal agreement. All voted in favor.
12. **Review and approve the First State Bank UC IGT loan.** Lynn Dale discussed the origination fee. Lowered to 8.5% and 1.5%. Elna made the motion and Amy seconded. All were in favor.
13. **Review the compliance report for April-June 2025.** Meri Combs presented the QAPI metrics and action items for all of the hospital departments including the RHC.
14. **Review the April-June 2025 infection control report.** Holly presented the infection control report covering April-June 2025.
15. **Review and approve the semi-annual nurse staffing report.** Meghan presented Jan-June 2025 nurse staffing report required by the state. The plan balances patient acuity and staffing. Minimum staffing was met for all shifts. Meghan reviewed the nurse staffing outcomes. There was 1 adverse drug event and 5 patient/staff complaints and 2 workplace injuries/illnesses and none were related to nurse staffing. Darlene made the motion to approve all three reports. Lynn Dale seconded. All were in favor.
16. **Review and approve policies and procedures.** None to review and approve.
17. **Review and approve the medical staff credentials.** These providers were approved: Scott Carpenter, DO and Derrick Armfield, MD (Vesta) from the June 24, 2025 meeting and Benjamin England, NP, Mohammad Bhalli, PA, and Cesserie Samantha Moyer, PA for Flint ER coverage. Lynn Dale made the motion and Reida seconded the motion and all are in favor.
18. **Chief Nursing Officer Report.** Kelby and Misty will be on KVRP next week. Trey does segments weekly on Wednesdays and tries to bring a guest from the hospitals.
19. **Chief Operating Officer Report.** Mary Belle reminded the board about the Hospital Foundation Bunco event on August 5th. The flyer and sponsorship levels were included in the packets. We have raised $3K in sponsorship and ticket income. We are lining up volunteers like the Paint Creek and the Haskell cheerleaders. She also reported the Intersect Power will donate to cover the cost of generator which is $29K. They are also sponsoring the Bunco event at the $750 level. The clinic entrance ramp has been repaired. Railing will be installed soon so that we can have patients come in the front entrance. We have a travel PTA currently to relieve the PT wait list. We are gathering quotes to refresh the old RHC to move pain management and sleep studies and the specialty clinic to that building.
20. **Chief Executive Officer Report.** Michelle did not have any additional updates.
21. **Executive Session** – Adjourned at 8:20 PM from the regular session. Executive session called to order at 8:25 PM. Adjourned from executive session at 9:03. Back into regular session at 9:04. NO action items from the executive session.
    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.
22. **Adjourn** - President Peiser adjourned the meeting at 9:04 PM. The next regular board meeting is August 26, 2025.

Darlene Hopkins

Board Secretary Date

Robbie Peiser

Board President Date

CEO Date