July

HASKELL COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR 7/25/23

The Haskell County Hospital District Board met at the regular time on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 6:00 PM In the Hospital Education Building at 1 North Ave N, Haskell, Texas 79521, as per the Open Meetings Act.

Attending: CEO Michelle Stevens, COO Mary Belle Olson, CFO Elizabeth Miller, CNO Meghan Shelton, Internal Business Office Manager Kris Mitchell, QA Nurse Medora Mitchell, President Robbie Peiser, Secretary Reida Penman, Member Jenny Camacho, Member Darlene Hopkins, Member Amy Martin, and Member Lynn Dale Dudensing, Controller Crytal Molina, HR Manager Melody Hicks, and Patient Relations/CCM Manager/Note Taker-Typist Carla Long RN.

Absent: Clinic Manager Sydney Saucedo. **Invited Guests:** Aaron Milligan with Durbin and Co., Kelby Sue and Chip Whitlock with Parkhill.

General Public: Rodney Miller, Karen Lehrmann, Commissioner Bill Steele, Haskell Star Reporter Tristen Swinney, Tom Long, Cole Turner, Joseph Molina, Jan Gannaway, and Randy Bowers.

President Peiser called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. **Review of Minutes from June 27th Meeting:** All Board Members approved the 6/27/2023 Board Minutes as presented except for **Lynn Dale Dudensing**. **Mr. Dudensing** stated he felt Attorney Kris Fouts had not offered an official legal opinion, but rather stated that there was a difference of opinion. (bottom of page 3). He stated he also did not say that "if he voted yes to approve the financial statement knowing there was nepotism taking place, he could go to jail" (top of page 4). He stated this comment had been added for dramatic effect. **Carla Long RN** stated, "No Sir. I wrote exactly what you said." **CEO Stevens** stated, "That is what I heard you say too."

President Peiser asked for a vote to approve June 27, 2023, Meeting Minutes as presented. All board members voted yes, except for **Lynn Dale Dudensing** who voted no. Minutes approved as presented.

2. **Public Comment: President Peiser** asked the public if anyone wanted to make a comment. 1 person said yes.

A. **Rodney Miller-** Mr. Miller stated he had been born and raised here, worked in the area as a highway patrol officer and in administration positions. He added he had taken care of his elderly parents. Mr. Miller stated he had the same phone and phone line all that time and paid $10 a month for that service for 60 years. Because the Hospital changed to a different type of phone line, he had been forced to get a different phone for $75 to call his healthcare provider and the hospital. It was now costing him $69 a month, and every call to the hospital is now long-distance. He stated he did not know why that was done except to discriminate against people for color, race, or income. He asked if this was a civil rights issue like it seemed to him. **CEO Stevens and President Peiser** both explained to **Mr. Miller** that the hospital had been forced to change to the new type of phone system because of changes in health care and that soon all phone lines everywhere were going to be digital and the old phone systems would be gone for good, and this had nothing to do with discrimination or civil rights.

3. **Parkhill TAS Deficiencies Presentation** – **Kelby Sue** and **Chip Whitlock** presented the costs and steps that would be involved in fixing the TAS Deficiencies that McKinstry had not addressed correctly with the ER Renovations several years back. Accessibility and the scope of work were discussed with a focus on the ER entry for patients and public access into the building. They stated changing the slope of the ambulance bay would cause many more costly challenges. It was discussed that the cost for these renovations would be on the books for McKinstry to pay the hospital back for, since their work caused the issues. The surveyors expect the hospital to require an extension due to the scope of the work needed. **CEO Stevens** stated the hospital has been given 270 calendar days for this project. It was discussed that Haskell Hospital needs to keep track of all costs and time spent on this repair work due to McKinstry needing to pay for these.

Lynn Dale Dudensing asked: What are the hard numbers on the cost for this project, and will those numbers change after the hard survey? Parkhill staff stated the numbers in the Presentation were the hard numbers for the construction described for the public entry renovation. Which they were doing in the most cost-effective manner possible. **Mr. Chip Whitlock** stated that $10,000 of the projected cost was for the hard survey itself.

Jenny Camacho stated she felt like we need to investigate the scope of the project further. **Darlene Hopkins** said the grade of the EMS Bay slope needed to be minimized as it is a danger to EMS workers and patients. **Lynn Dale Dudensing** asked how much area it would take to construct an acceptable slope for the EMS Bay, and could we purchase some of the land to the west of the hospital to use for this? **Chip Whitlock** stated this would require a large purchase of land and the need to close a road which is why they had focused on rerouting the patient entrance in a different spot entirely to avoid the cost of demolishing the current EMS Bay slope. **Darlene Hopkins** said she would like to see drawings of what they are proposing with this new route. **Elizabeth Miller** will email out the old project drawings to give the board members a better understanding of what is being proposed. **Chip Whitlock** stated the penalty cost for not fixing the entry to meet regulations would be $18.9 million where the proposed planning would be $42,000 with $10,000 of that being the cost of the hard survey itself. The renovation costs are being estimated by Parkhill.

4. **FYE 9/30/22 Audit Presentation** – Aaron Milligan with Durbin and Co. Presented the FYE 9/30/2022 Audit Presentation details. Mr. Milligan stated Haskell County Hospital District received an Unmodified Opinion which is the cleanest rating you can receive in the Audit Process. He discussed that the 2022 Assets were noted to be $15,317,768 million. There are difficulties with the Net AR. These are being addressed by the hospital and the new billing company. Also, with any change in billing companies there is a tough transition period due to the switchover. Mr. Milligan stated this should start to level off and smooth out in 2023-2024. It was noted that the System Conversion had too many unapplied cash receipts, which are also being addressed, and all rural hospitals of the same size in Texas are experiencing the same financial difficulties right now.

President Robbie Peiser asked, "how do we compare to other Hospitals our size?" **Mr. Milligan** stated, 'All are finding themselves in the same situation.' **President Peiser** said, "So this justifies a tax increase?" **Mr. Milligan** stated, "Yes."

Lynn Dale Dudensing asked, "I look at the Net Position. What concerns and suggestions do you have?" **Mr. Milligan** said, "It is very scary. The Government is going to have to do something. I have read your facilities figures but I do not remember your exact numbers. The Government is going to have to do something,"

Elizabeth Miller and **CEO Stevens** explained that we were trimming costs everywhere we can, such as overtime, and not hiring additional new people but spreading out duties to the remaining staff members instead. We are also adding services where there is minimal to no cost to do so, like the Pulmonary function testing, and the Sleep Apnea program.

President Peiser asked for a motion on the approval of the audit report for FY 9/30/22. **Reida Penman** made a motion to approve the Audit report as presented. **Darlene Hopkins** seconded the motion, and it passed with 100% approval.

5. **Patient Census -** CEO Stevens presented the patient census for June 2023. No questions or comments about census.

6. **Financial Report** – CFO Miller presented the Financial Report for review and approval including the Employee Census, Check Register, Balance Sheets, Rolling 13, Income Statements, Financial Statistics, Monthly Cash Summary, AP Aged Reconciliation Summaries, Stamford Family Health Center Income Statements (Rolling 29 month), and the Lights On Presentation.

Lynn Dale Dudensing asked what the decrease in clinic visits with Dr. Rose's leaving will be. And will the FNPs be able to pick those up? **CEO Stevens** stated Dr. Rose's numbers had already dropped before he resigned, and yes, the FNPs are already picking these up. Mr. Dudensing asked if the open charts had been closed out and the referrals made. **CEO Stevens** stated "Yes."

Mr. Dudensing asked how much was left in the line of credit at the bank. **CFO Miller** stated there were three draws in May totaling $300K, One draw in June totaling $70K, no draws in July of 2023 leaving $56,000 available in the line of credit. She also emphasized that the hospital has already started paying back the interest on those draws.
Mr. Dudensing asked how money is coming in. **CFO Miller** replied that overtime is way down, our claims are now cleaner with Senex Billing Co. and the appropriate billing practices they have initiated. We are saving the previous cost of renting the downtown office space now that employees are back working in the hospital or from home. We will also amend the cost report to Durbin and Durbin on 2-3 things which will increase cash flow. We are paying our local

businesses and independent companies first. We used money from the government to pay off 90-days out accounts payable.

Robbie Peiser explained the reimbursement process from the government for the new members' benefit and added that things should level out now if we continue to use good management of finances. **CEO Stevens** stated we should also be getting a Capital Improvement Grant for $100,000 to apply on the cost of the plumbing issues.

Lynn Dale Dudensing asked, "So year to date we have lost 2.1 million, correct? **Robbie Peiser** stated CEO Stevens, COO Olson, CNO Shelton, and Controller Molina are all available to talk to you more in-depth if anyone has questions.

President Robbie Peiser – told **Mr. Dudensing** that they had researched after the last meeting and the correct way to handle the financial presentation vote (since he felt the way he did) is for him to abstain from the vote instead of voting no. Voting no indicates that there is something wrong with the financial information presented.

Mr. Dudensing stated, "No Robbie, I am not going to do that. I researched too and my vote will stay a no."

President Peiser stated, 'Okay,' and asked for a motion on the Financial Presentation Approval. **Jenny Camacho** moved to approve the Financial Report as presented. **Amy Martin** seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4 to 1, with **Mr. Dudensing** casting the only NO vote. **Jenny Camacho** requested at the next meeting that we have two separate split out sheets for the contractuals, one sheet listing those that we have control over how and when they are paid, and one listing those we do not have control over how and when they are paid.

7. **New Business:**

A. Parkhill TAS Service Proposal: It was decided to table the Parkhill project until more information is obtained.

B.**FYE 9/30/22 Audit: President Peiser** asked for a motion on the approval of the audit report for FY 9/30/22. **Reida Penman** made a motion to approve the Audit report as presented. **Darlene Hopkins** seconded the motion, and it passed with 100% approval.

C. **Quarterly QA Compliance Report** – Quarterly QA Report was presented by QA Nurse **Medora Mitchell**. **Robbie Peiser** asked if the indicators being monitored reach 100% will they be changed to monitor something else. **Medora Mitchell** stated "yes." **Darlene Hopkins** made a motion to approve the Quarterly QA report as presented. **Jenny Camacho** seconded the motion, and the motion passes with 100%.

D. **Policies and Procedures**: None.

E. **Medical Staff Credentials**: None.

8. **CNO Report**: **Meghan Shelton CNO** reported she hired two full-time nurses: Ashley Armstrong for nights and Tanisha Riley for days. She introduced **Heather Waters Respiratory Therapist** who informed the Board that there had been a significant increase in the Pulmonary Function Testing, it has doubled in the last month. She also stated that all patients being admitted to the hospital are receiving Stop Bang Questionnaires to screen for Sleep Apnea, and that 70 to 80% were positive for sleep apnea that had never been diagnosed before. This is a great service to our community due to the long waits in Abilene for these tests. Sleep Apnea treatment makes an enormous difference in quality of life and health for these patients.

9. **COO Report: Mary Belle Olson** reports the Walk-In-Clinic staff will be joining the Rural Health Clinic on Thursday and Friday and will start seeing patients there on July 31st. The staff will remain the same, and their walk-in system will also remain the same. This allows for higher reimbursement from the Government for these visits.

The recertification for the Nurse Loan Program will be a virtual recertification at the end of this week. We are also on notice for recertification for the National Health Care Service Corps soon. The Bunco Fund Raiser is to be August 1st, 2023. We have raised $10,000 dollars for this event so far. The Silent Auction is up and running so please tell your family and friends. The Hospital Foundation Board is hosting, and they help the hospital in many ways such as the Chapel renovation in memory of Jerry Cannon, and Scholarships for students in going into medical fields.

10. **CEO Report – CEO Stevens** reported everything in her report would be discussed in the Executive Session.

President Peiser adjourned the regular session at 7:52PM.

Executive Session ended at 8:45PM.

Regular Session resumed at 8:47 PM.

President Peiser asked for an approval motion on **Attorney Robert Spurck's** Legal Opinion that the Nepotism discussion now be put to rest permanently unless circumstances arise to make it necessary to revisit the subject.

Jenney Camacho made a motion to approve **Attorney Robert Spurck's** Advice and Legal Opinion that the Nepotism discussion now be put to rest permanently unless circumstances arise to make it necessary to revisit the subject. **Amy Martin** seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4 to 1, with **Mr. Dudensing** casting the only NO vote.

Regular Session adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Carla Long 8/31/23 / Michelle Stevens 8/31/23

Note Taker/Typist Date Hospital CEO Date

Robbie Peiser 8-31-23 / Keida Denman 8/31/23

Board President Date Board Secretary Date