

West Custer County Hospital District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 23, 2017
Minutes of the Meeting

Attendance: Directors Present: Bob Tobin, Chair
Katherine Ripley-Williams Vice-Chair
Ann Evans, Treasurer
Janny Candelaria, Secretary
Bob Weisenbach

Staff Present: Delwin Lester
Theresa Kennedy

A quorum being present, Ms. Ripley-Williams called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. All meeting attendees stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Opening Comments from the Board

There were no opening comments.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Board meeting on February 23, 2017, were reviewed.

- *Mr. Weisenbach made motion to approve the Regular Board meeting minutes dated February 23, 2017, as presented. Ms. Evans seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

EMS Report

Run Statistics: Mr. Lester gave the report for EMS. EMS Report statistics are up significantly for the first two months of 2017 as compared to 2016 and 2015. The report has been reconfigured to report on a by-month basis instead of partial month periods being used to make up a month. Statistics were Feb 2017 50 calls to 34 in 2016. Transports were 24 in Feb 2017 vs 18 in 2016. Total calls YTD is 98 in 2017 vs 72 in 2016, and 52 transports in 2017 vs 34 in 2016.

Staffing: Mr. Lester reported on staffing. We have one EMT Basic finishing up the FI process. No new pending hires but we continue to look and recruit.

Grants: Mr. Lester reported that the grant for the new chasis and monitors is up for review today with RETAC. We have made it to phase three of the process and feel good about the chance of being awarded this grant. We have not heard yet on the grant submitted for the generator thru homeland security.

Donation: Mr. Lester indicated the new furniture donation has been received and is in the EMS Quarters. A thank you to Mr. Weisenbach for that donation.

Executive Director Report

Centura Health: Mr. Lester reported that we had a meeting with Gwyneth Howard, CFO from St. Thomas Moore. Also there was Ms. Briggs, Centura IT, and Mr. Miklich from Fremont County Public Health. Mr. Miklich meet with Ms. Green from Custer County Public Health to share with her how Fremont County operates and share information on how they purchase vaccines and programs that are available.

Lori from Centura found our IT systems to be very compatible with what they are using. The meeting with Ms. Howard was to discuss and review any contracts or agreements in place at our facility as well as our staffing model and costs. Ms. Kennedy shared that Ms. Howard is already working with Centura HR to see how the transfer of personnel might look like relative to benefits and policies. Ms. Kennedy indicated Ms. Howard was very positive with all areas covered and was able to pinpoint many areas in which there would be a cost savings because they already deal with a vendor or have a contract with an entity and their volume and buying power is greater. Mr. Lester stated that these types of savings along with the increased reimbursement rates that will be received make the agreement a positive thing for both sides. Mr. Lester shared that the bottleneck on this process seems to be at the attorney level and that Ms. Howard was going to go back and check status with her counsel. Mr. Lester continued that we did get a response from our counsel indicating that Centura's legal has responded to them stating they do not see anything in the District's questions or proposals that would be an obstacle. The board continued discussions with how to present this agreement to the public. Ms. Kennedy did share that she asked Ms. Howard to look at the change from a patient side and to share with us anything that would be important to the patient.

Clinic Operations Data: Mr. Lester reported on the clinical operations data and that we have seen a dip in patient visits in the past few weeks. However, we are slightly ahead with year to date numbers compared to last year. Total patient visits to date of 1340 in 2017 vs 1332 in 2016 and daily visits were 20.94 to 24.91 patients per day over the past four weeks.

CFO Report/Finance Committee

Financials: Ms. Kennedy gave the report. AR between the clinic and the clinic biller continues to be challenged due to the UB04. Our clinic biller has audited 1220 of the 2557 claims affected. Of those 48% we owe \$10,414.60 back to secondary insurances and 400-600 claims need to be appealed. Based on these numbers and since in most instances when reprocessed secondary owed us money, our \$30,000 allocation for secondary payback still seems to be in line. Ms. Kennedy shared that even though the biller is 1/2 way thru the rebill, there is still an \$85,000 credit balance listed in the Clinic AR. The biller, when questioned, could not give an answer but did believe it would simply shake out as they finish the process.

Ms. Kennedy shared with the board that Medicaid has transitioned to a new contractor on March 1, 2017. This is resulting in many billing issues for all providers in the state. For us, we are experiencing denials on all of our Clinic Part B claims, but Part A Claims are funding. On the EMS side, the EMS biller has not been able to batch bill in the new Medicaid portal, but per our request is successfully submitting our claims individually. The EMS Biller has also had billing clearinghouse problems on the Medicare side and was finally successful in submitting Medicare

claims on March 19, 2017. We had not received a payment from Medicare for EMS since October 31, 2016. There are also some older EMS Medicaid claims that still need to be addressed by the biller. Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Lester will have stronger conversations with the EMS biller should these claims not be paid in the future. Mr. Lester shared that we are looking into the ability and cost for us to bill EMS internally.

On collection rates, Ms. Kennedy said our general ledger is running close to what the billers indicate, but rates are down slightly. No explanation at this time but it could just be payer mix. For EMS the lack of Medicare payments contributes to their decrease.

The Hospital District is showing a net profit of \$25,462.74 YTD for the clinic. EMS is showing \$31,100.32 YTD net profit resulting in an overall Net Profit YTD for the District of \$56,563.06.

Instymed Machine: Ms. Kennedy indicated that the Instymed Machine was acquired on a grant and was able to initially operate at a profit to the facility. That grant has ended and in 2015 we had a loss of approximately \$3,000. 2016 is showing a loss of almost \$10,000. The reasons for this are medication purchase timing, expired meds, reduction in use due to lower patient visits, and the cost to cover the medications for Medicaid patients. We have reached out to Instymed Corporation to discuss options to lessen this cost such as lower monthly rental, plus we are increasing the \$10 patient processing fee to \$12.

Grants

Ms. Ripley-Williams has no update on the Colorado Health Foundation Grant but will send a draft to the board shortly. Ms. Ripley-Williams needs clarification from San Isabel Electric on their criteria. They seem to want an event or project to present. Ms. Kennedy suggested that we submit a capital or IT item that we need such as a total gym for physical therapy or a scanner for our patient navigator.

IT Committee

Mr. Lester reported that we have made a change in our IT service provider. We have moved from Colorado Data Service to CTI, who is out of Pueblo. CTI has come in and done an assessment of our systems. CTI discovered that we need a new firewall as the one that was installed just two months ago by Colorado Data was an old unit and no longer supported. They also need to change out our switches and instead of replacing the server, will install a virtual server on our existing server. This will allow us to put Allscripts on its own dedicated server and allow for us to extend the life of this existing server for three to four years. The Allscripts upgrade is requiring more RAM and that all systems be 64 bit. We have four CPUs that are only 32 bit which will be replaced and are increasing our RAM from 12MG to 96MG. We also now have a good backup system in place. Total hardware cost at this time is \$13,680. There will be installation costs as well. That hardware has been ordered and we have paid 50% down. When completed, we should experience speed increases up to tenfold.

Ms. Ripley-Williams asked if there was anything that could be done relative to the recent Firewall that was installed. Mr. Lester indicated that legal counsel has been notified of that situation along with other challenges that occurred under Colorado Data Services support.

Ms. Kennedy informed the board that our copier leases came up for renewal. We have signed a new contract for the supply room copier with lease payments and a maintenance agreement. For the nurses' station, we have purchased the copier at a cost of \$1300 and signed a maintenance agreement.

Advisors to the Board

There were no advisors to the board present.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Evans reported to the board that per their request she has reviewed the Catholic Ethical and Religious Directives and does not believe there is anything in that document that would cause an issue should we reach an agreement with Centura.

Mr. Tobin requested all board members come up with a list of bullet points on what they believe the public and employees might deem as important relative to an agreement with Centura.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Schedule Next Board Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. Ms. Evans informed the board she would not be present.

Adjournment

- *Mr. Weisenbach made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Candelaria seconded, the motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Janny Candelaria
Secretary to the District Board