

Cheyenne County Hospital Board Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2025

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met in regular session on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the Clinic Conference room. Board members present were Sondra Bracelin, Ruth Milliken, Carol Partch, and Ericka Wieck. Others present were Jeremy Clingenpeel, CEO; Les Lacy, VP GPHA; Heidi Tice, CFO/recorder; Connie Barnes, Interim CNO, Marla Ross, Business Office Manager.

Sondra Bracelin, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda: Ruth moved to approve the agenda, Ericka second, motion carried.

Approve Minutes: Ruth made a motion to approve the regular board minutes, Ericka second, motion carried.

Department Head report: Marla Ross, Business Office Manager

Marla said there are three new employees in the business office. Alicia Raile and Linda Whitmore started about six months ago. Alicyn Baxter has been in the office about a year.

Marla said Phreesia has been live about a year. The payment portion has been in service since about June. She has spent a lot of time getting PCI compliant, which is for the credit card machines. She also handles the credentialing and reviewed the number of providers that are on staff for the facility.

Carol asked if there has been an increase in the amount of charity care. Marla explained that there has, partly due to the Farmworkers program and patients that have services not covered by that program.

Board Treasurer Report – Ruth Milliken

The report was in the packet. The date on the report needs changed to April 30, 2025. The report showed the amount in the general account \$20,886.10; memorial account, \$20,196.87; The Bank, \$989,535.13. CD at The Bank \$600,000. Total available funds as of April 30, 2025, are \$1,668,462.96. She also included a report from the Cheyenne County Hospital Enhancement fund with a balance of \$21,565.50, as of March 31, 2025.

Ruth noted that the interest from the CD cannot be moved to the foundation since it is from public funds. She encouraged all board members to share ideas on how to grow the amount in the foundation. There is not enough in the foundation to provide scholarships yet. She also reported that the account is now open at Western State Bank.

Ericka moved to approve the treasure report, Carol second, motion carried.

Board member report:

Sondra asked if there was a GPHA employee grievance policy. Les stated there was and that there is one in the employee handbook. She wanted to be sure employees understand the process.

Sondra asked if there were plans to get rid of OB. Jeremy said there was not.

Financials: Heidi Tice, CFO:

She reported that April had 34 acute days, bringing the year-to-date to 278 compared to 144 last year. The swing bed days were 5, which is extremely low, bringing the year to date to 222 compared to 224 last year. Year-to-date expenses include \$220k contract CRNA; \$193k contract nursing and \$92k contract providers.

After presenting the cost report at the last meeting, Heidi worked with Sara at GPHA on the hyperbaric cost-to-charges and amount due. Heidi explained that one of the most difficult parts of the cost report is matching the revenue to the expenses. If you have revenue in November, the expense needs to hit November. Since NexGen is paid based on what the hospital gets paid, that does not often happen. There could be a hyperbaric treatment in November, but we might not get paid until February, which is when we pay NexGen their 80%. Therefore, the revenue is in one year with the expenses in the next. After evaluating this, some of the cost was moved in the 2024 cost report year. This brought the amount owed on the cost report to \$497,434. Of this amount, NexGen owed the hospital \$140,265.56. We did receive the wire with their portion today, so the cost report will be mailed this week. Since the board already paid the hospital \$463k last month for the payable, we can either reimburse the board the \$105,831.56 or keep it to pay bills. The slow volume in April and the beginning of May has led to a cash shortage with the expenses remaining high.

Carol moved the hospital to keep the \$105,831.56 to pay bills, Ruth seconded, motion carried.

Tyler Boss, Forvis, will present the audited financial statements remote at the June meeting.

Heidi told the board that the financial system, Microsoft GP, is going away. Therefore, the conversion to Multiview has started for all financials, budget, accounts payable, and central supply. This affects only three employees that use this system. The go-live is October 1st.

Chief Nursing Officer: Connie Barnes, Interim

Connie reported the nurses have been celebrating Nurses Week. They had a fun week of breakfast, shirts and coffee bar. The break room has got a new TV for the wall. This helps when she has nurses' meetings to be able to put the information on the TV screen for staff to be able to view.

Connie talked about the OB staffing. It is hard to find travelers with OB experience, but that is something she is working on. She feels there is a need to advertise in AWON.

Connie said the hospital is part of District 7 for infection prevention. She talked about some of the stats for infections, measles and influenza.

QAPI/Safety report: Shawna Blanka, COO

Reports were in the packet.

CEO Report – Jeremy Clingenpeel, CEO

Jeremy's report was in the packet. He shared the cost report changes and total owed to Medicare is \$497,434.

This week is hospital week, and we have taken time to celebrate with everyone. Each day we have treats. They also received a Lands End gift card. Employees have appreciated the flexibility to shop and pick out what they like.

The Chief Nurse Officer position has been re-opened. Connie and Jeremy had a phone interview with a candidate from Kansas and will be bringing her on-site next week for interviews.

The Bird City Clinic has been re-designed with changes in structure from steel to wood framing to help decrease the costs. The team feels good about the design options and is taking

the plan to bid. Jeremy and Teryn are working to write an article for the local newspaper and social media to help inform local residents about the project and hope to get local contractors to bid on the project.

GPHA report – Les Lacy

Les' report was in the packet. He talked about the upcoming GPHA Annual meeting in Salina. There was a recent CEO roundtable where they learned about the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Security, building trends, virtual pharmacy, and telemedicine opportunities. There was also a best practices presentation for hospital boards.

Les talked about the importance of cyber security. He talked about ongoing training and looking for ways to be safer.

Senate passed PWFA & PUMP as amendments to the FY 2023 omnibus spending bill in overwhelmingly bipartisan votes. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act went into effect. This is something that HR managers will be trained on in the near future.

Les stated that the only static thing about healthcare is change. While change can vary from time to time, it is important to continue to study and observe the best approach for each situation.

Old Business:

- a. **CCKCF Enhancement fund** – This was covered under the treasurer report.
- b. **Bird City Clinic** – Was covered in the CEO report.

New Business:


Carol asked about the survey results that showed a low number for those that would recommend our facility. Jeremy explained that he would work with Shawna and get those details for the next meeting.

Sondra asked about being able to bring own medicines to the hospital. Connie explained that it is allowed if the drug is in a compound or one that we do not have.

Announcements:

The next board meeting is Thursday, June 19 at 8:30 a.m.

Ericka moved to adjourn the meeting, Ruth seconded, motion carried.


Sondra Bracelin, VC/Secretary


Heidi Tice, Recorder