

Cheyenne County Hospital Board Meeting

Thursday, July 24, 2025

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met in regular session on Thursday, July 25, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the Clinic Conference room. Board members present were Sondra Bracelin, Ruth Milliken, Carol Partch, Ericka Wieck and Ryan Murray. Others present were Jeremy Clingenpeel, CEO; Les Lacy, VP GPHA; Heidi Tice, CFO; and Shawna Blanka, COO/recorder..

Ryan Murray, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

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

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

Visitors/Public Comment: none

Department Head report: Ryan Reyelts, RHIT Health Information Management

Ryan shared that the staff consists of Pam Johnson, the manager; Jackie Ritchey and himself as HIM clerks.

They have been working on a pain management review that came from Medicare and are now on the second review for them. He reported that Keith Gist, CRNA that performs the pain management clinic has been working with them to adjust items requested by Medicare.

They have coded 8640 charts from July of last year to this July. They also take care of the appeals to insurance and there are times it is worth the work, as the insurance will go ahead and pay.

Board Treasurer Report – Ruth Milliken

The report was in the packet. The report is shared for the month end June 30, 2025. Ruth said that she wrote the check for the enhancement fund out of the wrong account, but it is fixed now. The report showed the amount in the general account \$19,497.72 at Western State Bank; memorial account, \$20,677.17; The Bank, \$1,141,816.04. Total available funds as of June 30, 2025, are \$1,832,187.79.

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

Board member report: Carol asked about the Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance, and she had heard that some clinics in Kansas were not accepting that insurance. Les reported that there are some hospitals that have chosen not to accept BCBC insurance.

Financials: Heidi Tice, CFO:

She reported that June had 21 acute days, bringing the year-to-date to 252 compared to 227 last year. The swing bed days were 28, bringing the year to date to 208 compared to 291 last year. Year-to-date expenses include \$321k contract CRNA; \$357k contract nursing and \$173k contract providers.

The interim cost report that was done at the end of May showed an estimated receivable around \$800k. This estimate was booked in the June financials. This can change, based on volume. We will prepare another estimate at the end of July. She reported that while funds remain tight, we have been able to meet all bill run and payroll needs. The volume has been picking up over the last month.

Carol asked about the Medicare contractuals. Heidi explained that this is the estimate that was booked for the cost report receivable. Les stated that from the interim cost report which showed a receivable even though we don't have that money yet, it still must be booked into the financials.

QAPI/Safety report: Shawna Blanka, COO

Shawna shared that the hospital had a business email compromise last week that is being investigated currently. She said the alert came from the Huntress software that Nex-tech has on the computers. Nex-tech and our internal IT enabled the user's account. She had notified our Cybersecurity insurance, and we will have the forensics take a further look into it. She shared from a Cybersecurity webinar that there have been 211 Ransomware on healthcare facilities so far this year. 90% of healthcare facilities have had at least 1 breach. The average ransomware demand is \$600k-1 million. The average downtime for the facility is 19 days and the recovery cost is an average of \$1.85 million. She shared that email compromises are number one currently.

1. 2nd quarter QAPI report – was included in the packet and pointed out new projects from infection control. If there are no numbers in the box then that department has not entered anything.
2. 2nd quarter Risk Management report – SOC 1=41; SOC 2=39; SOC 3=0; SOC 4=0; Great Catches 3, Near Miss 1. Items addressed were AMA, billing related, procedure/test infection control, medication events, security/safety, complaints.

CEO Report – Jeremy Clingenpeel, CEO

Jeremy's report was emailed out. He shared that he is still looking for a CNO and that Danielle and Celeste are helping out.

Jaly Frewen came to the facility to tour. She will be taking her boards. She will also oversee the 340b program. Reminder that the hospital summer picnic is August 2. He shared that HOSA is growing in the state of Kansas but there is not 1 chapter in northwest Kansas. This is for future health professionals. He said it is \$1500 dues for a chapter and is done through the school.

The Bird City Clinic bid deadline has been extended one more time for the local contractors. He said we will not be breaking ground until the new clinic is fully funded. We will be working on more grants and fundraising.

GPHA report – Les Lacy

Les reported items from the Sunflower Health Network governance which are items for boards to be aware of that include workforce, community health needs assessment, physicians, mission of putting patients first and advocacy.

Old Business:

- a. **Bird City Clinic** – Was covered in the CEO report.

New Business:

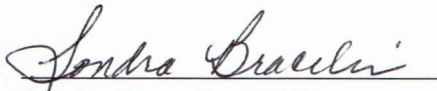
- a. Title IV notice approval – The notice was in the packet. This is for the Sr. Life van and needs to be done annually as it is part of a KDOT grant. Ruth moved to approve the notice, Ericka second, motion carried.
- b. Gabel siding quote for clinic – This is for the outside of the clinic to replace the siding, and soffits. There were 2 bids, Carol moved to approve the lowest bid for \$9520 from TJs Improvements, Ruth second, motion carried.

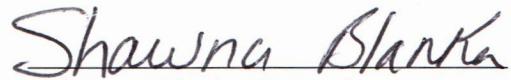
- c. Sidewalk ramp quote for clinic – The steps in front of the clinic are deteriorating. Jeremy said that we would like to put a ramp to the west to meet with the handicap parking spot. The steps would be removed and there would be the current ramp to the east and the new one to the west. He had a verbal bid for \$2000. Ruth moved to not exceed the \$5k cap, Ericka second, motion carried.

Announcements: Ruth reported that the board is to operate the thrift store this Saturday, and the money earned will go to the enhancement funds. Jeremy asked that the Bird City Clinic could be marketed during their time at the thrift store.

The next board meeting is Thursday, August 21 at 8:30 a.m.

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


Sondra Bracelin, VC/Secretary


Shawna Blanka, Recorder