

Cheyenne County Hospital Board Meeting

Thursday, January 16, 2025

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met in regular session on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the Clinic Conference room. Board members present were Sondra Bracelin, Ruth Milliken, Carol Partch and Ryan Murray. Others present were Jeremy Clingenpeel, CEO; Les Lacy, VP GPHA; Heidi Tice, CFO; Shawna Blanka, COO/recorder; Brooke Lohr, Lab manager and Connie Barnes Interim CNO.

Ryan Murray Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

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

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

Department Head report: Brooke Lohr, Laboratory Manager

Brooke shared that Brittany Lamb is going PRN and Jordan Trujillo will be starting next Monday. Jordan did a clinical rotation here.

They have replaced the blood gas analyzer this year with funds from the golf tournament and it went live yesterday. The flu and strep tests they are running the molecular method now which they feel is a better testing method. They also upgraded the ESR analyzer last year.

Looking at this year, the microbiology analyzer will need to be updated. She has been looking at machines over the past year. She said the more expensive one has the better service contract which is \$90k vs \$45k.

She reported that maintenance has painted the lab, and the original green wall is gone.

Board Treasurer Report – Ruth Milliken

The report was in the packet. The report shared for the month end of December 31, 2024 general account \$19,488.43; memorial account, \$22,606.83; The Bank, \$1,433,177.32. CD at The Bank \$600,000; Enhancement Fund \$20,000; FNB \$2,307.87. Total available funds as of December 31, 2024, are \$2,112,117.44.

Ruth said that the interest from the CD rolled into the CD. The interest from the foundation Enhancement fund was \$1000. She wrote a check from the memorial fund for \$500 from the Mike Antholz family and bariatric gowns and robes were purchased.

She said that Bankwest is changing hands, but she has not heard anything. Heidi said that she had a phone call from them and will be meeting with them in a couple of weeks. She said the website that they log-in on will be changing as of Feb. 10. The account numbers will stay the same.

Board member report: Carol reported that the Christmas party was very nice and a lot of fun!

Financials: Heidi Tice, CFO:

She reported that there are no December financials pending the audit. She reported that December had 52 acute days, bringing the year to date to 519 compared to 625 last year. The swing bed days were 50 bringing the year to date to 692 compared to 438 last year. Year to date expenses include 679k contract CRNA; \$656k contract nursing and \$235k contract providers. The auditors will be here the week of February 10.

Sara Houtman's last day is tomorrow, and Jared Cahoj was hired and has been training with her the past two weeks.

CNO report: Connie Barnes, RN Interim CNO

Connie reported that she has been here three months for her initial contract and Jeremy has extended it for another six months which will be through July. She will be out next month for a medical issue but will be working remotely.

Clinical competencies she is having the nurses do a peer review IV stick this year. They will also be implementing an intraosseous insertion gun. This gun allows nurses another option when they can't access an area for an IV. Jeffrey Parsons will be providing them education on how to use it on Jan. 21.

Some Colby Community College nursing students are here today for clinicals. She reported that staffing is still an issue. She said we have our core staffing but not much for backup when anyone is sick. OB staff is also a concern. She said that Shawna had visited with Swedish and they have where we can send nurses for more obstetric experience but also can get trauma too.

She gave the board a handout on infection prevention surveillance done last month. Working on reducing catheter days.

QAPI/Safety report: Shawna Blanka, COO

- a. 4th qtr. Quality Improvement report was in the packet. She shared that there are some departments that don't have a number in December, and they hadn't got their information in there yet. Will be encouraging departments to look at their QI and retire some and look at new projects.
- b. 4th qtr. Risk Management report: There were 26 SOC 1; 17 SOC 2; 0 SOC 3; 0 SOC 4; 3 NCI; 3 Near Miss and 5 Great Catches for a total of 52. Items addresses were equipment/supplies, infection control, procedures, medication events, complaints and falls.
- c. Quality department -She reported that she have hired a Quality Coordinator to work under her and help with the many quality items. Brenda Hays, RN was hired and will also be working a shift on the floor.
- d. Telehealth with HealthOne (Swedish) for a stroke camera/robot and for emergency neurology. The contract has been signed, and the kick-off call was yesterday. This robot/camera will be in the ER and images will be sent directly to that provider working with our provider on stroke symptom patients. This is very exciting and will be great for our patients.
- e. Clinical trials in Wound Care – Our Wound Care will be a clinical trial site. Rachel Doty, the program director was at training last week and a informational meeting was held yesterday. There will be criteria that patients have to meet to be in the Clinical trial but also will be a great service for the patients.

CEO Report – Jeremy Clingenpeel, CEO

Jeremy's report was in the packet and shared that Dr. Shrinazada's meet and greet is Jan. 22. The Critical Issues Summit is March 6-7 and if any board member is interested in attending to let him know.

The County Health Administration position has been filled and hired Mila Bandel back. He said that Dr. Bosen is also covering as a locum some weekends and was just here for a weekend.

Bird City Clinic update – he is sending the notes out from the calls that are held. They are seeking bids from local contractors and if it still comes in as high then will look at re-designing it. The Bird City Match Day check will be presented on Jan. 24th.

He attended the nursing meeting last night and it was shared that the nursing home is trying to recruit our nurses. He and Connie will work together to explain to them that this is not comparing apples to apples especially with our benefits.

Jessica has been working on bringing the physicals back in-house and will be done in the clinic. They will be done in May and then also in June/July at a discounted rate.

He said the GPHA annual meeting will be the same day as the scheduled board meeting in July, so asked if we could move the board meeting from July 17 to July 24 and board agreed.

Sondra said it had been reported to her that the insurance the employees have here is not that great and there is something to be looked into. Jeremy said he sits on the board for the insurance, and they have been looking at options. They are also doing a dependent audit this year and found that some still have dependents on their insurance that shouldn't be.

GPHA report – Les Lacy

Les presented Corporate Compliance education. Corporate Compliance is obeying laws, regulations, policies and procedures related to the way we bill for services and supplies we provide to our patients. It also means obeying laws and regulations, policies and procedures related to the way we deal with physicians and vendors. GPHA expects every GPHA employee and employees of leased hospitals, vendors, agents or contractor to follow all laws and regulations. Other compliance laws to know include the False Claims Act; Stark Law and Anti-Kickback Law.

Old Business:

- a. **CCKCF Enhancement fund** – The board needs to set guidelines on how to use the money. It was discussed prior that the interest money should be used each year, which could be put towards equipment for the hospital. Scholarships were another item and that will include current employees if they want to further their education. Ruth will put together some guidelines and bring them back to the meeting next month.
- b. **Board positions** – Shawna reported that the commissioners appointed Sondra to another term and Ericka Wieck to fill the vacancy left by Teresa Moore.
- c. **Bird City Clinic** – Was covered in the CEO report.


New Business:

- a. **Election of officers** – Carol moved to continue with the same slate of officers, Ruth second and motion carried
Ryan Murray – Chairman
Sondra Bracelin – Vice Chairman/Secretary
Ruth Milliken - Treasurer

Announcements:

The next board meeting is Thursday, February 20 at 8:30 a.m.

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


Sondra Bracelin, VC/Secretary


Shawna Blanka, Recorder