

Cheyenne County Hospital Board Meeting

Thursday, February 20, 2025

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met in regular session on Thursday, February 20, 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; Jessica Carson, Clinic Manager, Ericka Wieck and Sharissa Andrist, County Clerk.

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

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

Visitors: Sharissa Andrist, Cheyenne County Clerk swore in Ericka Wieck as a hospital board member.

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

Department Head report: Jessica Carson, Clinic Manager

Jessica shared that for 2024 Bird City did make productivity and was 190 positive and the St. Francis clinic was 1400 positive for the year. For this year 2025 it is not required to report the productivity visits, but she will continue to track. Dr. Shrinzada is doing good and starting to see an increase in his patient's volume.

Through the ACO they have been working on preventative measures for Medicare and one is the annual wellness visit. They only had 56 for 2024 so this year they have started calling patients and it is getting better. The sports physicals will be done at the clinic this year to allow more time with the provider. She reported that Marlo Parsons started at the clinic yesterday with Dr. Licke and Carrie will be the scribe. The virtual scribe that Dr. Licke used will be transferred to Dr. Shrinzada.

Through a grant Jesse Cahoj and Carrie Keithline at the clinic and Debbie Elliott at the hospital are getting trained for the SANE exam.

Board Treasurer Report – Ruth Milliken

The report was in the packet. The report shared for the month end of January 31, 2025 general account \$19,480.91; memorial account, \$22,109.69; The Bank, \$1,767,814.60. CD at The Bank \$600,000; Enhancement Fund \$20,000; FNB \$2,307.87. Total available funds as of January 31, 2025, are \$2,446,250.06.

Ruth said that Jessica did not have the funding documents for the enhancement fund. There is \$22k in the fund and need to decide how to utilize the interest. With The Bank taking over Bankwest, the only bank that the board does not have an account at Western State Bank. Sondra moved to table this until next month. Carol second, motion carried.

Board member report: Sondra asked about the grant that the PT department received from the county and asked whether Annette Schultz was working in that department as she was in the picture. It was reported that Annette is on the Cheyenne County Foundation board, and she was representing them in the picture.

Financials: Heidi Tice, CFO:

She reported that January had 85 acute days, compared to 26 last year. The swing bed days were 46 compared to 49 last year. Year-to-date expenses include \$58k contract CRNA; \$32k contract nursing and \$49k contract providers.

Forvis auditors were here last week, and it went well.

She reported that she had asked for \$300k from the board last year and did not need it but she does need it now for operations. It was May 2023 the last time the hospital had to request funds from the board for operations. The board asked if there would be payable this year for the cost report and she said yes, an \$800k payable, which a majority is due to wound care and hyperbaric therapy, but NexGen said they would help with the payable. If the hospital was overpaid by Medicare, then NexGen was also overpaid. She reported the total expenses in 2024 were \$688k in contract nursing, \$679k in contract CRNA and \$235k in providers. Sondra moved to give the hospital \$300k for operations, Carol second, motion carried.

QAPI/Safety report: Shawna Blanka, COO

a. HIPAA confidentiality and Conflict of Interest forms –Education to the board on the importance of confidentiality as they signed the annual HIPAA confidentiality form. The Conflict-of-Interest form is for them to list any connections of where they work to relation working for county entities. If there was ever a decision by the board that involved any of those entities, then that board member would excuse themselves from the discussion and decision.

b. 4th qtr. Qhi Dashboard – (in packet)

c. 4th qtr. HCAHPS report - (in packet)

d. Staff – She reported that Brenda Hays was hired as the Quality Improvement Coordinator and will be helping Shawna with quality improvement projects.

Matt Brown was hired as the IT Director and will start June 1. This will bring IT in-house full-time, which is needed as so many projects, equipment involve IT. Having Mack Elliott part-time has been a huge help, and the plan is to continue with him contract on an as needed basis. The contract with Nex-tech comes up this fall and the plan is to continue using them for the network, but the rest can be done by Matt and Mack.

CEO Report – Jeremy Clingenpeel, CEO

Jeremy's report was in the packet and shared that the Critical Issues Summit is March 6-7 and if any board member is interested to let him know. He shared that the economic impact came out and the health care sector contributes more than 325,000 jobs and nearly \$23 billion in labor income to the Kansas economy, including direct and indirect "multiplier effects". Every 100 hospital jobs support an additional 73 jobs in non-health care sectors.

He shared a nursing sustainability plan is being worked on which includes long-term staff sustainability and the goal is to get more in-depth training for staff on obstetrics, which will be done through the contract with Swedish. He reported that we are working to get Dr. Shrinzada more experience with c-sections and are working with Lakin. The hospital has added a nursing preceptor program which will bring nursing students including both LPN's and RN's. He has heard good reports from those that have been here so far and how much they have learned from their time at our facility.

Nursing will be doing the 'Back to Basics' of safe transfer of patients and have applied for a grant for a bariatric scale and lift. They will also use this scale for other patients.

He reported that we are working to get local bids for the Bird City Clinic project with the hopes it will bring down some costs. The next option will be to redesign and go from steel frame walls to 2x4 studs and bring the roof line down. This project received \$77k at the Bird City match day so it is close to \$500k total.

GPHA report – Les Lacy

Les shared questions with answers to the board for education. How does the money work? The board has its own account, and the hospital has an account. The board has these funds to support the hospital. Is it a breakeven business – no it is not. A hospital does not know what it is going to be paid. What can be done? Cut expenses or services are options. One thing to always remember is to watch the cash flow. The purpose of the board is to make sure the hospital meets the community needs and use the public funds for the future of the hospital. This hospital is a leased hospital which means the county has given the authority to operate the hospital to GPHA and their board. The advantage of leased vs managed is it takes the local board out of operations and the chance to be sued. A leased hospital has 2 bank accounts, a hospital account and a board where a managed all funds go into one account.

Old Business:

- a. **CCKCF Enhancement fund** – Ruth moved to table until she has the funding report next month. It was suggested to put together a committee to meet with Jessica with the foundation to establish guidelines. Ruth moved to appoint a committee to set up the guidelines for the enhancement fund, Sondra second, motion carried. The committee will be Ruth, Ericka and Jeremy.
- b. **Bird City Clinic** – Was covered in the CEO report.

New Business:


- a. **OR/CRNA medication dispensing cabinet (Omniceil) – funded depreciation** – Jeremy shared with the board a quote for a medication dispensing cabinet for the OR \$36,449.89, a software update for the main Omnicell \$14,943.16 and then added a refrigerator that would be compatible with the Omnicell, and it would be around \$5-7500. The total of the two quotes is \$51,393 and with the refrigerator it would be close to \$58k. After discussion, Ruth moved to approve up to \$58k for the OR cabinet, software update and refrigerator, to come from funded depreciation, Ericka second, motion carried.

Executive Session: Jeremy requested an executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel to include all present. Ericka moved that the board, J. Clingenpeel; L. Lacy; H. Tice and S. Blanka recess for an executive session for 10 minutes at 10:20 am. for non-elected personnel. Ruth second, motion carried. The board returned to the open session at 10:30 a.m. no decisions were made.

Announcements:

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

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


Sondra Bracelin, VC/Secretary


Shawna Blanka, Recorder