

The Deaf Smith County Hospital District Board of Directors met in a regular monthly meeting on Thursday August 22, 2024 at 5:30 pm in the Board Room of Hereford Regional Medical Center.

**Directors present:** Tanner Black, Kevin Bunch, Becky Bridwell, Tim Laws, and Chris Woodard.

**Other attendees:** Candice Smith, CEO; Paul Gafford, CFO; Kristin DeLosSantos, Interim CNO; Jodi Jordan, Admin Asst; Jim Steiert, Hereford Brand.

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**1. Call to Order, Pledge, and Invocation**

Kevin Bunch, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Mr. Bunch led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the invocation.

**2. Public Hearing on 2024-2025 Deaf Smith County Hospital District Budget**

No public comments.

**3. Action Item: Consider and approve the 2024-2025 Deaf Smith County Hospital District Budget**

A motion was made by Mr. Laws to approve the 2024-2025 Deaf Smith County Hospital District Budget as presented. Mrs. Bridwell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**4. Review and record vote on Deaf Smith County Hospital District proposed tax rate.**

Mr. Gafford presented the tax rates and the increase being proposed. There was discussion regarding the tax base and tax rates from last year compared the current year. Mr. Woodard made a motion to approve the proposed M&O tax rate of 0.230000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Laws. Mrs. Bridwell made a motion to approve the proposed I&S tax rate of 0.072715. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black. Voting for the proposed combined tax rate of 0.302715: Tanner Black, Kevin Bunch, Becky Bridwell, Tim Laws and Chris Woodard. Carla Purcella and Uriel Villa were absent. Motions carried.

**5. Chief Financial Officers Report – Mr. Gafford**

Mr. Gafford presented July financial information. The financial package included statistical data, balance sheets, and statements of revenue and expense with prior year comparisons and budget comparisons. The net income for the month is \$20k. Medicaid supplemental payments are up \$322k as the final DSH and UCC settlements are known, and the monthly estimates are adjusted accordingly. July is a slow month for operating revenues with a (\$120k) decrease in net patient service revenue compared with July 2023. Operating expenses increased \$214k over last July. The loss from operations is (\$665k) which is (\$39k) down from July 2023. Mr. Black made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Mr. Woodard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**6. Certification of Unopposed Candidates**

Mr. Laws made a motion to approve the certification of unopposed candidates. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bridwell. Motion carried.

**7. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Laws made a motion to approve the July 25, 2024, board minutes. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Bridwell. Motion carried.

**8. Interim Chief Executive Officers Report**

**Review and approve Opioid Settlement Funding Resolution from Texas Comptroller**

Mrs. Smith presented the Opioid settlement funding resolution from the Texas comptroller. The funds would help remediate the opioid crisis, including aiding in one or more of the following: treatment and coordination of care; prevention and public safety recovery support services; or workforce development and training. With the resolution approved now it will allow the district to hopefully get the lump sum of funding instead of installments. The full payment is \$335,500. Mrs. Bridwell approved the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Black. Motion carried.

**Physician Recruitment**

Mrs. Smith updated the board on physician recruitment. Dr. Ruiz, a FPOB candidate, visited the facility and met with the staff and her visit went well. She has a couple of facilities she will visit and interview with before deciding. Mrs. Smith informed the board of discontinuing our contract with Dr. Tran.

**9. Chief Nursing Officer Report**

Mrs. DeLosSantos gave a brief update on the implementation of Pyxis, the new RX station. She also informed the board that the hospital completed their annual competencies.

**10. Medical Staff Report**

Mrs. Smith gave an update on statistics for the clinic and the hospital. July has been busier than normal for the month. The clinic/outpatient has increased. For the summer months, we have seen increasing as in years past we have typically been slow across the district. We continue to increase our patient load for our Community Paramedicine Program and continue to see a low readmission rate due to the program. Mrs. Smith also informed the board of the training requirements of the providers and currently all providers are getting up to date. Also, we have modified the call schedule.

**Executive Session**

At 6:40 pm, Mr. Bunch announced that a closed meeting would be held pursuant to Tex. Gov Code 161.032, Tex. Gov Code 551.071 and Health and Safety Code 161.032. At 7:00 pm, Mr. Woodard made a motion to reconvene in open session. Motion was seconded by Mr. Black.

The following action was taken:

Mr. Black made a motion to reappoint, appoint and voluntary resignation the following the following providers:

**Physician Initial or Reappointment**

**Active Status**

Tabitha Davies, DO – OB/GYN – Family Medicine



**Consulting Status**

Cameron Manchester, MD – Radiology

**Voluntary Resignations**

Richard Beamon, MD – Emergency Medicine

James Grow, DO – Emergency Medicine

Espiridion Mendez, DO – Emergency Medicine

Robert Todd, MD – Pathology

Imran Haq, MD – Emergency Medicine

Julene Moore, MD – Pathology

**Allied Health Initial or Reappointment**

**Reappointment**

Jennifer Heiman, NP – Family Nurse Practitioner

Carolyn Jansa, NP – Family Nurse Practitioner

**Voluntary Resignations**

Tara Curtis, NP – Family Nurse Practitioner

Julia Johnson, ED. D – Psychology

William Sealey, CRNA – Nurse Anesthetist

Mrs. Bridwell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**11. Adjournment**

Mr. Black made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Woodard seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.



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Kevin Bunch, Board Chairman