

The Deaf Smith County Hospital District Board of Directors met in a regular monthly meeting on Thursday February 24, 2024 at 5:30 pm in the Board Room of Hereford Regional Medical Center.

Directors present: Becky Bridwell, Kevin Bunch, Carla Purcella, and Chris Woodard.

Other attendees: Candice Smith, CEO; Paul Gafford, CFO; Kristin Delossantos, Interim CNO; Jodi Jordan, Admin Asst.; Dr. Trevor Rohm; Jim Steiert, Hereford Brand.

1. Call to Order, Pledge, and Invocation

Kevin Bunch, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Mr. Bunch led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the Invocation.

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Woodard made a motion to approve the January 25, 2024 board minutes. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Purcella. Motion carried.

4. Chief Financial Officers Report

Review and approve financial statements and statistical reports for period ending January 31, 2023.

Mr. Gafford presented financial information for the period ending January 31, 2024. The financial package included statistical data, balance sheets, and statements of revenue and expense with prior year comparisons and budget comparisons. Stats show a continued declining inpatient census and an increasing outpatient volume. Financial indicators continue to show a strong days cash on hand and current ratio. The month ended January 31, 2023 was a net gain of \$140,930 and for the year a net gain of \$5,282. Mrs. Bridwell made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Mrs. Purcella seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Chief Executive Officers Report

TexBuy

Mrs. Smith gave a brief update on the cooperative purchasing program and the recommendation from HISD Superintendent, Sheri Blankenship. The interlocal agreement could be beneficial to our facility. Mr. Woodard made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Purcella. Motion carried.

Physician Recruitment

Mrs. Smith gave a brief update to the board on the recruitment of providers for our clinic. The district continues to search for an FPOB and possibly a surgeon. Texas Tech Surgeons continue to see patients. Our providers are busy. Mrs. Smith answered questions and concerns from the board.

Billboard Discussion

Mrs. Smith discussed with the board the option to use one of the available billboards right outside of town or in town. Mrs. Smith and the board discussed cost, availability and the positive option of investing in a billboard.

Partnership with Friona for a provider

Mrs. Smith informed the board of an option to partnership with Friona, Texas for a provider.

The provider would have OB coverage here in town and see patients in Friona. The board discussed the legal options and if it would be an issue. If the provider was in Hereford, they would be able to be on call for OB services. Mrs. Smith will set up a lunch with Gayle in Friona to discuss the partnership more.

Customer Learning Service (CLS) Discussion

Mrs. Smith along with Mrs. Delossantos and Mr. Gafford gave a brief update on the CLS program. We all enjoyed the visit and received some information to move forward but the cost to have the program is too much at this time. Mrs. Smith informed the board that a lot of the recommendations and information we received we can do on our own and for cheaper.

Chief Nursing Officers Report – Mrs. Delossantos

Hospital Clinical Department Update

Mrs. Delossantos gave a brief update on the starting date for our Chronic Care Management (CCM) that went live February 1, 2024. The response has been great, and the community has embraced the new program here in town. The CCM team continues to increase their patient volume and expects a good return for in-house CCM.

Medical Staff Report – Dr. Rohm

Dr. Rohm gave an update on statistics for the clinic and the hospital. We have slowed down over the last couple of weeks. The district has decreased inpatients and our clinic/outpatient has increased. Hopefully, our clinic will increase revenue. With the summer months approaching, it is typically slow across the district.

Executive Session

At 6:15 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 and Pursuant to Tex. Health & Safety Code 551.074. At 6:45 pm, Mrs. Bridwell made a motion to reconvene in open session. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Purcella.

Mrs. Purcella made a motion to reappoint, appoint and voluntary resignation the following providers:

Initial Appointment

Provisional Status

Mujahed Laswi, MD – General Surgery

Shelly Adams, MD – Emergency Medicine

Neetha Gandikota, MD – Radiology

Olena Romenska, MD – Emergency Medicine

Reappointment

Voluntary Resignation

Mansoor Ahmad, MD - Emergency Medicine

Nicholas Ballard, DO - Emergency Medicine

Benjamin Brown, MD - Emergency Medicine

Joshua Whitesides, MD - Emergency Medicine
Patrick Asay, MD - Emergency Medicine
Stewart Da Silva, DO - Emergency Medicine
Kristopher Faiss, DO - Emergency Medicine
Bill Hatch, DO - Emergency Medicine
James Murtagh, MD - Emergency Medicine
Brandon Pires, MD - Emergency Medicine
Alexander Sirney, DO - Emergency Medicine
Bogdan Chumak, MD - Emergency Medicine

Allied Health

Initial Appointment

Provisional

Joel Schop, CRNA – Nurse Anesthetist

Mrs. Bridwell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Woodard made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Purcella seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.



Kevin Bunch, Board Chairman