

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 30, 2025**

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The Deaf Smith County Hospital District Board of Directors met in a regular monthly meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 5:30pm in the Education Room of Hereford Regional Medical Center.

**Directors present:** Tanner Black, Becky Bridwell, Kevin Bunch, Robert Delacruz, Tim Laws, and Carla Purcella.

**Other attendees:** Candice Smith, CEO; Paul Gafford CFO; Kay Gudgell, CNO; Jodi Jordan, Admin Asst.; Dr. Trevor Rohm and Jim Steiert, Hereford Brand.

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

Kevin Bunch, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Kevin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Tim Laws offered the Invocation.

### **2. Public Comment**

Jim Steiert wanted to compliment all the staff at Hereford Regional Medical Center for the outstanding care his wife, Carrie received while in our facility. They appreciated professionalism and were highly impressed.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Becky Bridwell made a motion to approve November 21, 2024, board minutes. The motion was seconded by Tim Laws. Motion carried.

#### **Election of Board Officers for 2024-2025**

Kevin Bunch presented the 2023-2024 Board Officers and asked for changes. The board discussed the officers and decided to not change any of the officers from 2023-2024. Robert Delacruz made a motion to approve leaving the board officers in place and the motion was seconded by Tanner Black. The motion carried.

### **4. Chief Financial Officers Report**

#### **Presentation of financial statements**

Mr. Gafford presented two months of financial information (November 30, 2024, and December 31, 2024). The financial package included statistical data, balance sheets, and statements of revenue and expense with prior year comparisons and budget comparisons. The key statistical analysis shows a small increase for November and December's combined average daily census. There has been an increase in all facility services for both months. Stats show an increasing inpatient census and an increasing outpatient volume. Financial indicators continue to show a strong days cash on hand and current ratio. The month ended November 30, 2024, was a net gain of \$142,461 and the month ended December 31, 2024, was a net gain of \$162,656. Tanner Black made a motion to accept the November and December 2024 financials as presented. The motion was seconded by Becky Purcella. Motion carried.



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### 5. Chief Executive Officers Report

#### **Review and approve TRANE quote**

Candice Smith presented the board with a TRANE quote. The database communicator for our HVAC systems needs to be updated to support our cyber security and the new computer models. The communicator sends unit control information throughout the building, and it's all controlled on a computer. As of today, the computer is a Windows 10 model and it's very antiquated. The quote we originally received in November 2024 was \$250,000 but we were able to do some negotiating and got it down to \$229,000 and an extension on the warranty. Becky Bridwell made a motion to approve the quote as presented. The motion was seconded by Carla Purcella. Motion carried.

#### **DaVinci robot Discussion**

Candice gave the board an update on Plainview's surgical numbers with DaVinci robot. They have completed almost 300 procedures in their system. It equates to 70 to 75 per quarter, which is 20 to 25 per month. If we were to consider the robot, we would have to have a minimum of 14 surgeries to cover the monthly rental agreement. That was all good news. There are grants we can apply for again this year, but they may be on hold. Candice will continue to research and keep the board update.

#### **Review letter being sent to Tanner Myers – Aide to Congressman Ronny Jackson**

Candice wants to send an appreciation letter from the board to Tanner Myers, Aide to Congressman Ronny Jackson. Out of all the letters to legislators and senators asking for their help with the auditors and Novita's issues, Tanner turned out to be the most helpful in trying to get this expedited with Novita's. He was very invested in helping us out. The letter is written for the board to sign.

### 6. Chief Nursing Officer Report

#### **Review and approve the Rapid Response Team policy and the Placenta Accreta Spectrum Disorder Policy**

Kay Gudgell gave an update on two policies that were approved by our medical staff and need approval from the board. The rapid response team policy was modified to indicate any declining condition of a patient, physician is unavailable the staff can call a rapid response, and the ER physician steps up to activate the team. The second policy is the Placenta Accreta Spectrum Disorder policy. Kay explains this policy will be in place if we have a patient in OB and their placenta grows into either the uterus or in the surrounding organs. There's a few things that place a patient at risk for this disorder and if they notice this happening they have a protocol in place for immediate intervention. This policy is also a requirement for our maternal designation. Becky Bridwell made a motion to approve both policies as presented. The motion was seconded by Tanner Black. Motion carried.

#### **Discussion on grant opportunity through TWC**

Kay Gudgell gave a brief explanation on the opportunity to apply for a TWC grant for our RNEC program. At this time, we don't know if it is on hold, but we will complete the paperwork and send it for an apprenticeship program through the state and they have allocated several million dollars to be exhausted. More information to follow.



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**7. Medical Staff**

Dr. Rohm said from the medical staff perspective we haven't had any changes in our people. The big news to report is the increase in the number of clinic encounters. Samantha Dominguez is increasing her numbers and has helped with the increase. We will see her growth soon. Dr. Rohm informed the board we continue to do our Medicare wellness. This captures all our quality days that need to be turned in. And we are continuing to expand our chronic care management program. Our CCM works closely with our community paramedicine program. All that we offer covers a great source of resources for our patients. We continue to have our cardiologists coming and they see many patients. And lastly Texas Tech continues to see patients at the clinic and do procedures at the hospital. Our hospital continues to be steady but looks like we may see an increase in the coming days and months. All the hospital services have increased their numbers and that is fantastic. There has been a talk by our orthopedic, Dr. Rollins, coming back to see patients here at the clinic and the hospital for procedures. This will be fantastic for us.

**Executive Session**

At 6:45 pm, Kevin 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 Tex. Gov't Code 551.074. At 7:52 pm, Tanner Black made a motion to reconvened in open session. Motion was seconded by Becky Bridwell. The following action was taken:

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

**Reappointment: Courtesy Status**

Nathan Wright, MD – Emergency Medicine

**Consulting Status**

Daniel Schneider, MD – Pathology

Jason Schocker, MD – Pathology

Michael Senne, MD – Pathology

Branch Archer, MD – Radiology

Charles Brooks, MD – Radiology

Stanley Cook, MD – Radiology

Tully Currie, MD – Radiology

William Davis, MD – Radiology

Aaron Elliot, MD – Radiology

Alejandro Malacara, PA – Radiology

Paul Hakim, MD - Radiology

**Voluntary Resignations**

Andrew Hoot, MD – Pathology (Retired)

**Allied Health – Reappointment**

Elisa Flores, NP – Nurse Practitioner



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Ashley Hoelting, PA – Physician Assistant  
Susan Cruz, NP – Nurse Practitioner  
Jeremy Cachola, CRNA – Nurse Anesthetist  
Marka Dempsey, LD – Dietician  
Genaro Marquez, CRNA – Nurse Anesthetist  
George Gauamis, CRNA – Nurse Anesthetist

Becky Bridwell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Carla Purcella made a motion to approve annual review and pay in CEO contract. The motion was seconded by Tim Laws. Motion passed.

**8. Adjournment**

Robert Delacruz made a motion to adjourn. Becky Bridwell seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Bunch'.

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Kevin Bunch, Board Chairman