

The Deaf Smith County Hospital District Board of Directors met in a regular monthly meeting on Monday November 21, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Board Room of Hereford Regional Medical Center.

Directors present: Tanner Black, Becky Bridwell, Kevin Bunch, Robert DeLaCruz and Chris Woodard.

Other attendees: Candice Smith, CEO; Paul Gafford, CFO; Kay Gudgell, CNO; Jodi Jordan, Admin Asst.; Dr. Trevor Rohm, Medical Director.

1. Call to Order, Pledge and Invocation

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

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chris Woodard made a motion to approve the October 24, 2024, board minutes. Motion was seconded by Becky Bridwell. Motion carried.

4. Certificates of Election and Statement of Officers

Administration of the Oath of Office and the Statement of Officers to Tanner Black, Kevin Bunch, Chris Woodard and Robert DeLaCruz.

The board welcomed the new board member. Jodi Jordan, a Texas Notary Public, administered the Oath of Office and the Statement of Officers to Tanner Black, Kevin Bunch, Chris Woodard and Robert DeLaCruz. All took their oaths and signed their forms.

Election of Board Officers for 2024-2025

Tabled till January 2025.

5. Chief Financial Officers Report

Presentation of financial statements for October 2024.

Paul Gafford presented the financial statements and statistical reports related to income, expenses, and budgeted operations for the period ending October 31, 2024. The key financial indicators remain strong. The key statistical analysis shows a decrease in the combined average daily census and rehab therapy visits. There is an increase in Clinic visits and emergency room visits compared with last October. The net income for the month end is \$222,000. This month is a record outpatient revenue month with a gross of \$4.6 million. The total operating revenue is \$2.3 million and total operating expenses of \$2.7 million. The operating loss is (\$461,000). Property tax revenue and interest income total \$683,000. Tanner Black made a motion to approve the financials are presented. The motion was seconded by Becky Bridwell. Motion carried.

6. Chief Executive Officers Report

Review quotes on lawn care

Candice Smith presented another quote for our facility's lawn care from Grounds Guy. This quote was more expensive than Lonestar Home and Gardens. Candice explained the difficulties in getting companies to come to the facility for a quote. The board asked questions and discussed options.

Recruitment Update

Candice Smith gave a brief update to the board on the recruitment of providers. We have two recruitment agencies working with us. We also have Texas Tech Medical School coming in and it could be a possibility to recruit from them. Dr Rollins wants to come back here. He will not be coming initially, it will be their nurse practitioner that's been trained to identify surgical needs, also can do some ortho injections, and when they have the new orthopedic surgeon on board and established their plan is to send Rollins to do some minor surgical procedures, even if we don't ever get those surgical procedures from them. The downstream revenue was great and will be great. As you all know, Texas Tech is coming right now, and they're doing surgery once a week. They are discussing increasing that to twice a week, because the volume is growing.

Discussion on surgical robot

Candice Smith wanted to start a discussion on purchasing a surgical robot. The discussion to expand our surgical procedures and identify new revenue growth for our facility. If we were to consider the robot, it would require a remodel of our sterilization room that would cost \$196,000 because the sterilizers we have now are not deep enough for the surgical arms. They must be a deeper sterilizer. Intuitive is, who owns the Da Vinci robots, and they have sent us some information to consider buying a robot outright. The cost to buy outright is \$1,000,955 but they do have a rental agreement option or a leasing agreement. If we agree to the one-year lease agreement, they will allow 50% of our monthly payment to go towards equity. So, a \$45,000 a month payment is what it would cost, and \$22,500 would go towards equity. So, if we performed 14 surgeries a month that would cover our monthly rental fee and Texas Tech has verbally committed, but not in writing, that they would come at least three times a week if we had the robot. Dr. McCullough is interested and willing to train to use the robot for his OB GYN cases. The robot will not only increase our surgeries it will also help recruitment of providers for our facility.

UCC platform go live

Candice updated the board that our UCC platform is up and running. It was supposed to go live by the 14th of November, and it went live on the 12th. This is our texting platform for the clinic.

Patients can now call the clinic, or they can text for an appointment, and they will receive text notifications and text reminders and physicians can communicate through text now. We also have Cerner's HealtheLife app, this app is for patients to get on and view their medical records. In HealtheLife there is an option to create an appointment.

7. Chief Nursing Officers Report

Maternal Designation updated and effective until 1/1/28

Kay Gudgell informed the board of the completion of our maternal designation through the stat at the beginning of October. The designation is the standards of requirements of participation for us to be able to bill Medicaid for care. We also sent them supporting documentation through a survey process that shows we meet the minimum requirements for participation, policies, members, statistics. We received level one maternal designation, and it will be effective until January 1, 2028.

Neonatal Designation application

Kay also submitted our neonatal designation application and the self-survey shortly after we submitted our maternal designation self-survey and supporting documentation. We should be hearing something shortly from the reviewers as to whether they accept our supporting documentation as estimating the minimum requirements of participation. If the reviewers accept the documentation, then we will be designated as a level one well baby nursery and that will be through November 1, 2027.

8. Medical Staff Report

Dr. Rohm said from a 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. 3099 encounters for the month of October, that's the most we've had in almost two years. 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 cardiologist coming and they are seeing many patients. And last Texas Tech continue 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 talk of 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 7:00 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. At 7:09 pm, Tanner Black made a motion to reconvene in open session. Motion was seconded by Becky Bridwell. The following action was taken:

Chris Woodard made a motion to reappoint, appoint and voluntary resignation the following providers:

Initial Appointment: Provisional Status

Timothy Jones, MD – Emergency Medicine

Tyler Enos, MD – Dermatopathology

Voluntary Resignations

Richard Archer, MD – Radiologist

Elijah Trout, MD – Radiologist

Allied Health Initial or Reappointment

Reappointment

Provisional

Stephen "Mark" Green, CRNA – Nurse Anesthesia

Voluntary Resignations

Tina Leasure, CRNA – Nurse Anesthesia

Tanner Black seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment

Robert Delacruz made a motion to adjourn. Becky Bridwell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.



Kevin Bunch, Board Chairman