

The Deaf Smith County Hospital District Board of Directors met in a regular monthly meeting on Thursday September 19, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Education Room of Hereford Regional Medical Center.

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

**Other attendees:** Candice Smith, CEO; Paul Gafford, CFO; Kay Gudgeon, CNO; Jodi Jordan, Admin Asst.; Dr. Trevor Rohm, Chief Medical Officer; Robert DeLaCruz; 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. Kevin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Tim Laws offered the Invocation.

**2. Public Hearing regarding 2024-2025 Tax Rate**

Kevin Bunch presented the 2024–2025 proposed tax rate and explained the purpose of the meeting was for the public to be able to comment to the board regarding the proposed budget. During public comments, we welcomed Robert DeLaCruz for coming and look forward to Robert being on board in November 2024.

**3. 2024-2025 M&O and I&S Tax Rate**

**Action Item: Consider and approve the 2024-2025 Deaf Smith County Hospital District M&O tax rate.**

A motion was made to approve the M&O tax rate of 0.230000/\$100 of valuation by Tim Laws. Chris Woodard seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Action Item: Consider and approve the 2024-2025 Deaf Smith County Hospital District I&S tax rate.**

A motion was made to approve the I&S tax rate of 0.072715/\$100 of valuation by Tim Laws. Chris Woodard seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Becky Bridwell made a motion to approve the August 22, 2024, board minutes. Motion was seconded by Tanner Black. Motion carried.

**5. Chief Financial Officers Report**

Paul Gafford presented August financial information. The financial package included statistical data, balance sheets, and statements of revenue and expense with prior year comparisons and budget comparisons. August had a net loss of (\$80k). Medicaid supplemental payments are up \$213k as the final DSH and UCC settlements are known, and the monthly estimates are adjusted accordingly. August is a slow month for operating revenues with a (\$332k) decrease in net patient service revenue. Operating expenses decreased (\$29k) over last August. The loss from operations is (\$763k). Tanner Black made a motion to approve the financials as presented. The motion was seconded by Chris Woodard. Motion carried.

**6. Chief Executive Officers Report**

**Review Lone Star Home & Garden Proposal**

Candice Smith presented and reviewed the proposal from Lone Star Home & Garden along with blueprints and photos. With the increasing water bill, Lone Star and Candice have been looking at different options to reduce the use of water. The option that was presented to the board is transitioning to xeriscape that will need less water. Xeriscape is a style that uses gravel, dirt and very few plants. This design requires little water and maintenance. The board discussed these options and recommended getting a second proposal and will research Xeriscape. Lone Star will continue to maintain the yard.

**Report of Physician Recruitment**

Candice Smith gave a brief physician recruitment report. She heard from Dr. Ruiz, and she is still interested. Dr. Ruiz is waiting for her husband to decide on his opportunities. Candice gave her a deadline of October 1. The recruiters presented a new FPOB that needs more C-Section, so she gave the information to Dr. Davies and Dr. McCullough for their recommendation.

**7. Chief Nursing Officer Report**

**Action item: Review and approve HRMC departmental policies and procedures**

Kay Gudgell presented the board an authority and approval for the therapy department. Becky Bridwell made a motion on the recommendation of Kay to approve the policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Tanner Black. Motion carried.

**8. Medical Staff Report**

Dr. Rohm gave an update on statistics for the clinic and the hospital. August has been the slowest month for us in 12 months. In all areas, we have decreased in services due to summer months and providers out on vacation. We continue to increase our patient load for our Community Paramedicine Program and increasing services with Texas Tech and Cardiology. Dr. Rohm was able to answer all questions from the board.

**Executive Session**

At 6:16 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 along with 551.074. At 6:35 pm, Becky Bridwell made a motion to reconvene in open session. Motion was seconded by Chris Woodard. The following action was taken:

Becky Bridwell made a motion to reappoint, appoint and voluntary resignation the following providers:

**Initial Appointment:**

Antoine Egbe Bessong Tabot, MD – Emergency Medicine – (Red Flag) placed on corrective action plan. He has not completed his DOP.

**Voluntary Resignations**

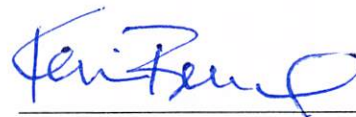
James Speed, MD – Emergency Medicine

Jeffrey Sterling, MD - Emergency Medicine

Chris Woodard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. Adjournment**

Tanner Black made a motion to adjourn. Becky Bridwell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.  
The meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.



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Kevin Bunch, Board Chairman