

The Deaf Smith County Hospital District Board of Directors met in a regular monthly meeting on Thursday March 27, 2025, at 5:30 pm in the Board Room of Hereford Regional Medical Center.

Directors present: Tanner Black, Kevin Bunch, Carla Purcella, and Chris Woodard

Other attendees: Candice Smith, CEO; Paul Gafford, CFO; 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 5:29 p.m. Kevin led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the invocation.

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

Carla Purcella made a motion to approve February 27, 2025, board minutes. Motion was seconded by Chris Woodard. Motion carried.

4. Chief Financial Officers Report

Review and approve financial statements and statistical reports for the period ending February 28, 2025.

Mr. Gafford presented February's financial information. The financial package included statistical data, balance sheets, and statements of revenue and expense with prior year comparisons and budget comparisons. This month the financial indicators remain strong for both days cash on hand and current ratio. Acute patient days are up for February while the combined average daily census is comparable. Rural health clinic visits continue to exceed the prior year. Cash is up \$1.1 million from last month with large property tax deposits. Also, the annual bond payment of \$1.3 million was made. The net income for the month of February was \$28,770 and for the year an increase of \$1,100,652. This is the fifth straight month for a positive net income. Total revenue was \$2,261,986, total expenses were \$2,917,673, and non-operating revenue was \$684,457. Tanner Black made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Carla Purcella seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Chief Executive Officers Report

Molecular machine proposal for laboratory

Mrs. Smith presented the proposal for the molecular machine for the laboratory. Back in 2020, the district purchased a machine called the Bio Fire Lab panel and with this panel we test 26 varying viruses and bacteria. The cost is \$200 for each test but our reimbursement is zero. With this new molecular machine, we will have a panel of the top 7 treatable illnesses and insurance reimburses. The cost per test is \$70 and the reimbursement is \$212. The proposed cost is \$85,000 and there will be ongoing expenses to include an annual service charge, reagent and controls for a total of \$141,708 but with it being a molecular lab machine that could be reimbursed over time to make up that expense. The board asked a few questions and all were answered. Chris Woodard

made a motion to approve the molecular machine as presented. The motion was seconded by Tanner Black. By a show of hands, the motion passed unanimously.

Hemodialysis service

Candice Smith presented a new service for tele nephrology (hemodialysis). This is a service that has been pushed multiple times with Fresenius but there was no movement. We have another opportunity to look at different tele nephrology company. The cost of the machine is \$50,000 and we will have a service contract in place. With the contract and the implementation, it will be \$58,000. Carla Purcella made a motion to approve the new service as presented. The motion was seconded by Chris Woodard. By a show of hands, the motion passed unanimously.

Just Culture survey Review

Candice presented a PowerPoint over our Just Culture Survey review. The district had an opportunity with Texas A&M to implement the Just Culture improvement training. This training helps improve quality, safety measures, practices by the staff, practices for patient improvement, and its all-surrounding customer service and patient safety. After implementation we had 35.4% participation in the survey out of 195 employees. The overall review shows positive and/or above average scores. Candice went over the slides and answered questions from the board.

Physician Recruitment

Mrs. Smith gave a brief update on the recruitment of providers for our clinic. The district continues to search for an FPOB and a family practitioner. We still have two interested in coming for family practice. We have an FPOB that will be coming for tour and discussion.

6. Medical Staff Report – Dr. Rohm

Dr. Rohm gave an update on statistics for the clinic and the hospital. We adjusted the physicians' call schedules for the hospital and that will be ongoing for the next couple of months so the hospital will be covered. We had a good month in the hospital, but swing beds have decreased. Our clinic remains steady with all our services. We have a couple of good candidates interested and a couple more lined up for tours and interviews. With the summer months approaching, it is typically slow across the district. Dr. Rohm answered all questions

7. Executive Session

At 5:34pm, 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 6:47 pm, Tanner Black made a motion to reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded by Carla Purcella. The board did not reconvene in open session, the meeting adjourned.



Kevin Bunch, Board Chairman