

**Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes  
May 22, 2025**

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The Deaf Smith County Hospital District Board of Directors met in a regular monthly meeting on Thursday May 22, 2025, at 5:30 pm in the Board Room of Hereford Regional Medical Center.

**Directors present:** Tanner Black, Kevin Bunch, Robert DeLaCruz, Tim Law, Troyce Sturgess and Chris Woodard.

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

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**1. Therapy Tour**

Our Therapy Department asked our board members to tour their department to try out our new equipment, discussing all the treatments and options available to our community. The board asked questions, and they answered.

**2. Call to Order**

Kevin Bunch, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Kevin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Tim offered the invocation.

**3. Public Comment**

No public comments.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Tim Laws made a motion to approve the April 24, 2025, board minutes. The motion was seconded by Tanner Black. Motion carried.

**5. Chief Financial Officers Report**

**Review and approve financial statements and statistical reports for the period ending April 30, 2025.**

Paul Gafford presented April 2025 financial information. The financial package included statistical data, balance sheets, and statements of revenue and expense with prior year comparisons and budget comparisons. The key financial indicators continue to show a strong days cash on hand and current ratio. April 30, 2025, ended with a net gain of \$2,478,218 and a year-to-date net gain of \$3,744,331. Cash increased \$1,950,228 from last month and increased \$4,730,580 over last year. The district received \$2.29 million this month for the Employee Retention Tax Credit. The ERC is a refundable tax credit against the employer's payroll taxes. The net income without the ERC is \$492k. This is \$346k over last April and \$234k over budgeted net income. Overall, April was a good month. Tanner Black made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Chris Woodard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**6. Chief Executive Officers Report**

**Oracle Clinical AI Agent**

Candice Smith presented the board Oracle's clinical AI Agent Platform. The platform is AI technology that will optimize our clinical providers. The AI will be able to document the discussions, orders and interaction in a patient's room and document the encounter in the patient's chart in Oracle. The provider will review the note and sign off. The technology will decrease

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documentation time by 51.5% in the EHR. The platform will cost \$44,000 to add to our EHR. Tim Laws made a motion to approve the platform as presented. The motion was seconded by Tanner Black. By a show of hands, the motion carried.

### **Provider Recruitment**

The district continues to search for an FPOB and a family practitioner. We still have two interested in coming for family practice. We had an FPOB visit and tour the town a couple of weeks ago. He is very interested in coming and joining our team. A contract was emailed to him for review. We also have a candidate interest and is looking forward to coming for an interview at the end of June. She has a J1 visa and will not be available until next year. We continue to recruit for family practice OB. Also, we have an orthopedic surgeon interested in coming once a week and toured the facility and is very interested. Candice discussed timelines and answered questions relating to recruitment.

### **7. Chief Nursing Officers Report**

Kay Gudgeon presented the board an authority and approval for the ICU. Chris Woodard 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 a brief update on statistics for the clinic and the hospital. Our hospital has slowed down due to the summer months and low numbers of illnesses such as flu, pneumonia, etc. Our swing bed service has been good along with opening our ICU. We've already had 2 patients in ICU which could be good. Our clinical statistics are also lower than in previous months. Our weekend clinic, counseling services and Texas Tech surgeons are performing well along with Cardiology that is coming in a full day to accommodate all the patients. All our services have been beneficial.

### **9. Executive Session**

At 6:27 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 personal matters. At 6:37 pm, Tanner Black made a motion to reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded by Robert DeLaCruz. Motion carried.

The following action was taken:

Tim Laws made a motion to reappoint, appoint and voluntary resignation the following providers:

#### **Physician Initial or Reappointment**

##### **Provisional Status:**

Caraleigh Buxie, MD – General Surgery – Red Flag

William Crowley, DI – Emergency Medicine

##### **Reappointment – Active Status**

Larry McCullough, MD

Advancement

Andrew Tatah, MD – Emergency Medicine

Matthew Turney, MD - Emergency Medicine

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Rigo Palomarez, MD - Emergency Medicine  
Alexandra Arce, DM – Emergency Medicine  
**Voluntary Resignations/Do No Return**  
Joel Osborn, MD – Cardiology (Retired)

**Allied Health Initial or Reappointment  
Provisional  
Advancement**

Sharleen Gammon, NP – Nurse Practitioner  
August Klohn, CRNA – Nurse Anesthetist  
Linda White, CRNA – Nurse Anesthetist

Robert DeLaCruz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**10. Adjournment**

Chris Woodard made a motion to adjourn. Tim Laws seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm.



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Kevin Bunch, Board Chairman