Hereford
Regional Medical Center
DEAF SMITH COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes May 28, 2026

The Deaf Smith County Hospital District Board of Directors met in a regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 5:30pm in the Board Room of Hereford Regional Medical Center.

Directors present: Tanner Black, Kevin Bunch, Robert Delacruz, Tim Laws, Carla Purcella, Troyce Sturgess and Chris Woodard
Other attendees: Candice Smith, CEO; Paul Gafford CFO; Jodi Jordan, Admin Asst.; Dr. Trevor Rohm; and Jim Steiert, Hereford Brand.

1. **Call to Order, Pledge and Invocation**
   Kevin Bunch, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Kevin led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the Invocation.

2. **Public Comment**
   Jim Steiert provided public comment on water conservation and irrigation practices, emphasizing responsible water use as groundwater resources decline.

3. **Approval of Minutes**
   Chris Woodard made a motion to approve April 23, 2026 board minutes. The motion was seconded by Carla Purcella. Motion carried.

4. **Chief Financial Officers Report**
   Paul Gafford presented the financial statements and statistical reports for the period ending April 30, 2026. The hospital reported 331.2 days cash on hand and 42.9 days in net accounts receivable. Cash and cash equivalents totaled approximately $30.7 million. The hospital reported a net gain of approximately $72,809 for the month and year-to-date net income of approximately $1,489,815. Paul reviewed inpatient and outpatient revenues, clinic revenues, Medicaid supplemental payments, operating expenses, labor costs, and statistical utilization reports. Discussion was held regarding patient volumes, taxes receivable, employee benefits, and service contract expenses. Tanner Black made a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. Carla Purcella seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. **Chief Executive Officer Report**
   Community Health Needs Assessment
   Candice Smith presented the Community Health Needs Assessment completed in partnership with Texas A&M, West Texas A&M, and the Texas Hospital Association. The assessment reviewed community demographics, healthcare access, social determinants of health, economic indicators, survey results, and community health priorities. Discussions included access to healthcare providers, mental health services, obesity, chronic disease management, preventive services, and community education opportunities. Survey results reflected strong community support for Hereford Regional Medical Center and identified opportunities for additional specialty services and expanded healthcare resources.
   Critical Access Hospital Preparedness
   Candice continued discussion regarding preparation for a future Critical Access Hospital designation opportunity. Information gathered from peer hospitals was reviewed, including architectural review

requirements, survey processes, reimbursement impacts, billing considerations, and community communication strategies. Discussion included potential financial benefits, swing bed reimbursement, staffing flexibility, Medicare reimbursement considerations, and the process required to decommission beds to meet Critical Access Hospital requirements. Tim Laws made a motion to proceed with the Critical Access Hospital preparedness process and authorized administration to begin discussions with Architectural Review regarding bed decommissioning requirements. Robert de la Cruz seconded the motion. The motion unanimously with a show of hands.

Physician Recruitment
Candice reported that physician recruitment efforts remain ongoing. Dr. Okelue Okobi is scheduled to begin employment on July 6, 2026.

6. **Medical Staff Report**
Dr. Rohm reviewed hospital and clinic statistics for April 2026, including inpatient census, emergency department visits, EMS activity, surgical services, rehabilitation services, laboratory utilization, and clinic operations. Additional discussion included orthopedic outreach services, cardiology services, counseling and mental health resources, chronic care management, remote patient monitoring, and physician recruitment efforts. Dr. Rohm reported that Dr. Rollins continues to provide orthopedic services and that Dr. Okobi is expected to begin practice in July. Griselda Garza, NP, will be joining the clinic and is pursuing additional mental health certification training.

Executive Session
At 6:38 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 6:43 pm, Tanner Black made a motion to reconvene in open session. Motion was seconded by Carla Purcella. The following action was taken:

Chris Woodard made a motion to approve the reappointment, appointment, and voluntary resignation of the following providers:

Initial Appointment – Provisional
Hays, Johnathan, MD – Radiology
Okobi, Okelue, MD – Family Medicine

Troyce Sturgess seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **Adjournment**
Troyce Sturgess made a motion to adjourn. Chris Woodard seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Kevin Bunch

Kevin Bunch, Board Chairman