Hereford Regional Medical Center
DEAF SMITH COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 24, 2026

The Deaf Smith County Hospital District Board of Directors met in a regular monthly meeting on Thursday September 24, 2026, at 5:30 pm in the Board Room of Hereford Regional Medical Center.

Directors present: Tanner Black, Kevin Bunch, Robert de la Cruz, Troyce Sturgess, and Chris Woodard.
Other attendees: Candice Smith, CEO; Paul Gafford, Jodi Jordan, Admin Asst.; Dr. Trevor Rohm, Medical Director; Jim Steiert, Hereford Brand

1. **Call to Order**
   Kevin Bunch, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. Kevin led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the invocation.

2. **Approval of 2026-2027 Budget**
   Paul Gafford reviewed the 2026-2027 budget and summarized the tax-rate scenarios. He reported that the combined net taxable value decreased from the prior year. The proposed voter-approval rates were 0.263285 for Maintenance and Operations (M&O) and 0.074521 for Interest and Sinking (I&S). At the proposed rates, the budget projects net income of approximately $1,384,505 for fiscal year 2027. Robert de la Cruz made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 budget as presented. The motion was seconded Troyce Sturgess and by a show of hands the motion carried unanimously.

3. **Approval of 2026-2027 M&O and I&S Tax Rates**
   Maintenance and Operations (M&O). The Board considered the voter-approval M&O tax rate of 0.263285. Tanner Black made a motion to approve the M&O rate as presented. Chris Woodard seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.
   Interest and Sinking (I&S). Chris Woodard made a motion to adopt the I&S tax rate of 0.074521. The motion was seconded by Troyce Sturgess. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of Minutes**
   Robert de la Cruz motion was made to approve August 20, 2026 board minutes as presented. Tanner Black seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **CFO Report**
   Mr. Gafford presented the August 2026 month-end financial statements and comparative statistical information. Days cash on hand remained strong at 309.8 days, with net patient accounts receivable at 41 days. Rural Health Clinic visits totaled 2,542 for the month, and emergency room visits totaled 679. Cash and cash equivalents were approximately $28.3 million at month end. The District also made its scheduled bond interest payment of approximately $428,000 during the month. August resulted in a net loss of ($316,000), with year-to-date net income of approximately $857,000. A motion was made to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. **Chief Executive Officer Report**

Capital Purchases

Mrs. Smith reported that there were no capital purchases requiring Board approval at this meeting. The item will remain on future agendas due to the timing of grant-related and other capital expenditures.

Review and Approve Nutritional Services Policies and Procedures

Mrs. Smith advised that the District is preparing for its upcoming CIHQ survey and departments are reviewing and updating policies and procedures. The Board reviewed the Nutritional Services Policies and Procedures and the related approval documentation. Chris Woodard made a motion to approve the policies and procedures as presented. The motion was seconded by Troyce Sturgess. The motion carried unanimously.

Long-Range Planning Committee Update

Mrs. Smith reported that the Long-Range Planning Committee met on September 14 to review the 2026–2027 long-range plan. The District expects to receive Rural Texas Strong grant funding for community diabetes care and is awaiting a decision on capital and infrastructure funding that could support the purchase of a surgical robot. The District also continues to pursue Critical Access Hospital designation. It received notice that the application may proceed, beds may be decommissioned, and a survey scheduled for November 9. Before the survey, staff are disconnecting call and code lights, removing curtain rails, completing required medical-gas shutoffs, and making other facility changes. The Committee also discussed potential changes to EMS coverage in Oldham County and Vega, including the operational and fiscal impact of responding outside Deaf Smith County. The District plans to meet with Oldham County officials to discuss response costs and arrangements. The Committee also considered a remote clinic in Vega and a multi-year replacement plan for major building systems and infrastructure. Beginning next year, the Committee plans to meet in August so the long-range plan can be reviewed before the annual operating, and capital budgets are presented.

7. **Medical Staff and Clinic Report**

Dr. Rohm reported that there were no medical staff changes requiring Board action. Dr. Okobi is seeing patients in the hospital and clinic and is working toward full obstetrical services, including C-sections. Dr. McCullough has returned to clinic practice and will resume call coverage over time. Dr. Jansen continues to see patients in the hospital and clinic.

Cardiology services continue while the District monitors contractual changes following the acquisition of the cardiology group by BSA. Dr. Rollins continues to provide orthopedic services, and Dr. Solomon continues to provide specialty services through Texas Tech. Pain management services, chronic care management, remote patient monitoring, and wellness visits remain active. Dr. Rohm reported that August was an average month for volumes. Swing-bed utilization improved, emergency room and ambulance activity remained steady to busy, Rural Health Clinic encounters were approximately 2,500, and laboratory activity increased. The clinic has also seen an increase in patients from surrounding communities.

Executive Session
At 6:30 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 6:31 pm, Troyce Sturgess made a motion to reconvene in open session. Tanner Black seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The following action was taken:
Troyce Sturgess made a motion to reappoint, appoint and voluntary resignation the following providers:

Physician Initial or Reappointment Advancement
Al Deen, Mohammed, MD – Hospitalist
Bella, Gasim, DO – Hospitalist
Estes, Brooke, MD – Family Medicine
Voluntary Resignations
Baiomy, Ali, MD -Radiology
Taussig, Pedro, MD - Radiology

Chris Woodard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

11. **Adjournment**
Troyce Sturgess made a motion to adjourn. Chris Woodard seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Kevin Bunch, Board Chairman