

HUNT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS EMERGENCY MEETING

August 7, 2021

The Hunt Memorial Hospital District Board of Directors conducted an emergency meeting on Saturday, August 7, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. at Hunt Regional Medical Center, sixth floor Homer Horton, Jr. Boardroom, 4215 Joe Ramsey Blvd., E., Greenville, Texas.

Dr. Pierce, Chairman, called the emergency meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Sarah Alderman
Dr. James Barr
Mrs. Deborah Clack
Mr. John C. Nelson, Jr.
Mrs. Janet Peek
Dr. Scott Pierce
Mr. William Rutherford (Absent)
Mr. Michael Taylor
Mrs. Julia Wensel

comprising a quorum of the Board; also,

Mr. Richard Carter, President/CEO
Mr. Reese Hurley, MSN-Adm., RN, Vice President/CNO
Ms. Emily Sundeen, DNP, FNP-BC, Vice President Quality & Clinical Integration
Mr. Stuart B. O'Neil, Legal Counsel
Ms. Lisa Hill, Foundation Development Marketing Communications Director
Ms. Stacey Lane, Human Resources Director
Ms. Katie McKenna, Assistant Director Hunt Regional Healthcare Foundation
The Honorable Bobby W. Stovall, Hunt County Judge
Mr. Steven Harrison, Hunt County Commissioners Precinct 4
Mr. Wyman Williams, Mayor, City of Commerce
Mr. Teddy Reel, Councilman, City of Commerce
Ralph Baine, MD, Senior Vice President, TeamHealth West Division
Ms. Lynsi Bowles, RRT, Hunt Regional Emergency Medical Center - Commerce

**Temporary
Closure of
HREMC-
Commerce**

Dr. Pierce thanked everyone for attending the meeting this morning to discuss the temporary closure of the Hunt Regional Emergency Medical Center-Commerce. He feels this is an important issue and with concern expressed by several, he wants to be sure there is a consensus and a plan of what is best for the community. Ms. Sundeen reported as of August 6, there were 44 COVID positive inpatients, 27 COVID positive employees, there are ten medical/surgical patients being held in the Emergency Department with two of them waiting for an ICU bed. The hospital is having to seek

tertiary transfers outside of the Metroplex, i.e. San Antonio and El Paso and in turn we are receiving requests from Arkansas and Houston to transfer patients to us because of their bed holds. The July inpatient summary was that we admitted 117 COVID patients with the average age of 59; 39% were female and 61% were male. Twelve patients admitted to the hospital were vaccinated (10%) and there were six deaths with an average age of 58. There was one vaccinated death with an immunocompromising condition. She reported the trend in January and now is that the most patients held in the Emergency Department for a bed is 23 with the most holds on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. She reviewed the TSA-E Regional update COVID hospital seven day averages, the hospital occupancy data, last 24 hours for COVID admits and ED visits, pediatric data and that Hunt County has 30.6% hospitalized patients with lab confirmed COVID-19 which is the second highest in our TSA-E region. It was noted eligible 12 and above are 40% vaccinated, 65 and over are 60% vaccinated, employees are 70% vaccinated and over 90% of the medical staff are vaccinated. Mr. Hurley reviewed the national travel nursing demand, noting the demand has increased 40% over the last 30 days with 30,668 open jobs as of August 2, 2021 and that the open nursing crisis needs have increased 122% over the last 30 days. He reported the agency market is very competitive and those who initially committed to working in Greenville may not come and go somewhere else for more money. Ms. Sundeen reported we are working with agencies to receive Respiratory Therapy staff and have had difficulty with hiring and retaining housekeeping staff. A job fair is being organized by Human Resources for ancillary and support staff. Mr. Carter reported over the past two to three weeks the swell took a significant toll on the staff, and Safe Harbors were being filed and with the nursing shortage it was determined the skill set of the EMC personnel involving radiology, laboratory, cardiopulmonary, housekeeping, registration and nursing would sufficiently cover the open gaps at the Greenville Medical Center. Mr. Carter reported as time was of the essence, he made an executive decision to temporarily close the Commerce EMC and apologized for not contacting Chairman Pierce on Thursday evening before the temporary closure on Friday. He reported the Metroplex is also experiencing similar difficulties and Dr. Baine reported the nursing shortage is being experienced in all of the hospitals TeamHealth is involved in. He reported they expanded the Quinlan EMC to three eight-hour shifts and will be moving physicians throughout the system to keep them working until we reopen the

Commerce EMC. Dr. Barr inquired as to what staff was brought over from Commerce and Mr. Carter reported there are two to three nurses, one respiratory therapist, two laboratory technicians, housekeeping staff, and registrars and all will be working in Greenville. The security staff will remain on site. Mr. Carter reported elective surgical cases are being canceled due to lack of beds, Emergency Department registration will be done in the outside tent and on Monday it is hoped that the Day Surgery area will serve as an alternative care site for inpatients. There was discussion regarding the manner in which the community was notified of the closure and Mrs. Peek and Mr. Harrison discussed the temporary closure of the EMC could have been communicated to reflect that the temporary closure was benefitting the Greenville Medical Center staffing issue. There was discussion on various methods of effective communication including placing information on the City of Commerce and Hospital websites, newspaper, radio and Dr. Barr recommended a telephone notification through the city's emergency broadcast system would be a quick and easy way to communicate with the citizens. Following discussion, Dr. Pierce reported the purpose of the meeting this morning was because of the lack of effective communication and before shutting down a facility in the future, it is to go through the Board and the Chairman should be notified first. Dr. Barr expressed his appreciation of the hospital staff taking the time to resolve this situation even though some might think it was done without a lot of input from the public. He stated the hospital is to serve the medical needs of all the citizens and if it takes temporarily closing down one facility for everyone else to have access, we have to do that.

Dr. Pierce thanked everyone for attending and providing their input.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.



James Barr, PhD

Secretary