

HUNT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 23, 2021

The Hunt Memorial Hospital District Board of Directors conducted a meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Hunt Regional Medical Center, sixth floor Homer Horton, Jr. Boardroom, 4215 Joe Ramsey Blvd., E., Greenville, Texas.

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

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Sarah Alderman (Absent)

Mrs. Deborah Clack

Mr. John C. Nelson, Jr.

Mrs. Janet Peek

Dr. Scott Pierce

Mr. Michael Taylor

Mrs. Julia Wensel

comprising a quorum of the Board; also,

Mr. Lee Boles, President/CEO

Mr. Reese Hurley, MSN-Adm., RN, Vice President/CNO

Mr. John Heatherly, Vice President Operations/Support Services

Robert Deuell, MD, Vice President Medical Staff Affairs

Mr. Stuart O'Neil, General Counsel

Mrs. Leslie Killgore, Board Member Candidate ~ Commissioner's Precinct 3

Mr. Josh Whittle, Robins & Morton

Mr. Jeffrey Constantino, Facilities Management Director

Mr. Pete Harrell, Assistant Facilities Management Director

Mr. John Ervin, Diagnostic Imaging Director

Ms. Lisa Hill, Foundation Development Marketing Communications Director

Ms. Stacey Lane, Human Resources Director

Ms. Katie McKenna, Assistant Director Hunt Regional Healthcare Foundation

Mr. Chad Martin, Hunt Regional Medical Partners Director

Ms. Jamie Morgan, Accountant

Ms. Mary Pattberg, Decision Support Director

Ms. Kathy Price, Laboratory Director

Mr. Richard Carter, Consultant

**Medical Staff
Report**

Dr. Deuell reported COVID admissions are declining and elective surgeries are beginning back. Two Family Practice physicians have interviewed for Hunt Regional Medical Partners and recruitment is ongoing for a second GI.

**Appointment
Of New Board
Member**

Dr. Pierce introduced Mrs. Leslie Killgore as a candidate to fill the open unexpired term of Mr. Rutherford from Commissioner's Precinct 3. Mrs. Killgore has been interviewed and has met the Board members. Mr. Taylor nominated Leslie Killgore to fill the unexpired Board of Director term in Commissioner's Precinct 3. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Nelson and the vote carried unanimously.

**Pre-Oath
Statement of**

A Pre-Oath Statement was administered to Mrs. Killgore.

**Administer
Oath of
Office**

The Oath of Office was administered to Mrs. Killgore.

**Election of
Board
Secretary**

Dr. Pierce reported with the passing of Dr. Barr last month, the Board Secretary position is open. The floor was opened and Mrs. Peek volunteered for the position. Mrs. Wensel moved, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to appoint Mrs. Peek as Secretary. There being no further nominations, the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of
Minutes**

Mrs. Clack moved, seconded by Mrs. Wensel, to approve the October 26, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Citizens To
Be Heard**

There were no citizens to be heard on non-agenda items.

**Public
Testimony**

There were no members of the public present to address the Board of Directors regarding any item on the agenda before or during the Board's consideration of said items.

**Unfinished
Business**

There was no unfinished business.

**New
Business
Expansion
Report**

Mr. Whittle reported the project is on schedule. The air and weather barrier is complete and the curtain wall is approximately 50% complete. The cementitious fireproofing and intumescent paint are complete and the interior wall framing is substantially complete in the expansion. Work continues on the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire sprinkler. The level 2 in wall electrical and the level 2 drain/waste/vent passed city inspections. Prep is underway for expansion

joints and tie-in to existing PT and Surgery Waiting. Masonry is complete at chiller/generator enclosure and upgrades to the central utility plant continues with the electrical and heating water shutdowns completed. Coordination meetings continue with architect and engineers. Items to be completed this week include plumbing for domestic water and med gas on level 2; mechanical electrical and plumbing will continue on level 3; third party testing of medical gas piping on level 2 can be scheduled; fire sprinkler piping moves to level 3; roof curbs will be set with crane on Wednesday; roof insulation and base layer can begin; MEP demolition and make-safe finalized at expansion tie-in locations; Prep for demolition of existing walls at PT and surgical waiting and upgrades will continue on the central utility plant and it is planned to have the new boilers on line in December. A structural problem was identified with the in bracing on the east side of the elevation, inside a wall within the existing structure, thus the design will be modified and Jacobs is finalizing.

**Consent
Agenda**

Mr. Taylor moved, seconded by Mrs. Clack, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

To approve the recommendations for appointments, requests to change staff status, reappointments, and resignations for the Hunt Regional Medical Center Medical Staff and the Allied Health Professional Staff upon recommendation of the Board Credentials Review Committee.

To approve \$579,563.12 to replace the patient monitoring system for TeleWest upon recommendation of the Facilities Planning Committee and the Finance/Budget Committee.

To approve \$7,800 to replace the air conditioning system for the Annex upon recommendation of the Facilities Planning Committee and the Finance/Budget Committee.

To approve \$663,000 to purchase a new mobile coach and new 3D Mammography unit upon recommendation of the Facilities Planning Committee and the Finance/Budget Committee.

To approve \$9,220 as an emergency purchase to replace the LINAC machine quality management package upon recommendation of the Finance/Budget Committee.

To approve \$11,750 to purchase Meditech interface for the arterial blood gas machine upon recommendation of the Facilities Planning Committee and the Finance/Budget Committee.

To approve \$6,253.97 to upgrade the Laboratory Informatics Systems to HL7 upon recommendation of the Finance/Budget Committee.

To approve \$18,964.35 as additional capital funding for server storage previously approved in October for the IS/Data Processing Department upon recommendation of the Finance/Budget Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

Open HMHD Board of Director Seat Precinct 1

Dr. Pierce reported there is an open Board of Director seat for the unexpired term in Commissioner's Precinct 1. He reported the county redistricting is not final thus Board members should be mindful of potential changes to existing boundaries. Candidates for consideration should be brought to him to be interviewed and to meet the other Board members.

COVID Vaccine Plan to Meet CMS Requirements

Ms. Lane presented an update on the COVID-19 CMS requirements for health care providers and suppliers. She reported CMS requires the first dose or one-dose vaccine be administered by December 6, 2021 and all shots for full vaccination be completed by January 4, 2022. She reported the requirement will be enforced by onsite survey reviews that will review the plan for vaccinating all eligible staff to meet the vaccinations by the dates provided, there must be a plan to accommodate those who are exempt, plan for tracking and documenting staff vaccinations. If the facility is out of compliance they are subject to citations if these requirements are not met. She reported a policy was created based on the requirements, began staff communication on what staff has been vaccinated, and if not, would they be interested in filing an

exemption. The accommodation forms were updated to match the EEOC regulations and reviewed by legal counsel. In October the hospital began tracking vaccination progress to CMS as required for first/second/booster doses on employees, contractors, volunteers, students, and physicians. She reviewed the policy outlining the CMS mandatory guidelines pointing out the COVID-19 Vaccination Policy mirrors the district's current Flu Immunization Policy except for the requirements specific to COVID. She reported the only exemption is approximately eight telework coders who are not on site. She noted there is a statement that failing to comply with the policy during the two week grace period may result in termination; or in a manner in which medical staff will address. Texas and 24 other states have filed lawsuits against this CMS mandate and this week Florida and Louisiana supreme courts have placed a temporary injunction on the mandate. Vaccination statistics for the hospital are as follows: 1,035 are fully vaccinated with Pfizer; 29 fully vaccinated with Johnson & Johnson and 109 fully vaccinated with Moderna. To date we have seven medical exemptions, five provisional exemptions, 313 religious exemptions; 118 first doses, eight telehealth staff who are exempt, and 280 staff with unknown status. Next steps will be to provide department directors with weekly updates on those employees who have not made a decision to file an exemption or to be vaccinated; provide talking points for management by educating staff on exemption options and to assure staff we do not want to lose a single employee. She reported there have been two staff resign alleging their resignation was due to the COVID vaccine mandate.

**Moving
Forward
With
Litigation**

The agenda item, "Discussion on moving forward with litigation" may be considered following the Executive Session.

**Medicaid
Days DSH
Appeal**

The agenda item, "Legal Agreement with Law Firm on Medicaid Days DSH Appeal" may be considered following the Executive Session.

**Royse
City
Easement**

The agenda item, "Royse City Easement" may be considered following the Executive Session.

**Financial
Statements**

Ms. Morgan presented the September 2021 (year-end) financial statements noting the preliminary September financials were discussed last month. Following the review, Mr. Taylor moved, seconded by Mrs. Wensel, to accept the September 30th financial statements, subject to audit. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Morgan presented and discussed the October 2021 financial statements and statistical data. Mr. Hurley discussed our short and long term plans to restore our staffing to levels that will allow us to eliminate the need for agency staffing. Following the review and discussion, Mr. Taylor moved, seconded by Mrs. Peek, to accept the October 31st financial statements, subject to audit. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Strategic Initiatives

Mr. Boles reported BKD is expecting to provide a financial plan for a south location next Tuesday and will be discussed during the December meeting as well as the renovation of the fifth floor.

Chairman's Report

Dr. Pierce reported the Board received a thank you note from Mrs. Barr for the flowers sent for Dr. Barr.

Dr. Pierce reported the Board Committee roster has been distributed and there are openings on several committees and if members are interested in serving on specific committees, to please let him know.

President/CEO Report

Mr. Boles reported the following:

Travis Potter has been the "heartbeat" of our annual Thanksgiving food drive for the past two years and this year the hospital was asked to provide 210 food boxes for needy families and the staff put together 500 food boxes that were distributed throughout the community. He reported Coordinated Care, ICU, Medical Partners, our Specialty Clinics, Dr. Deuell and Dr. Deaton's office, IT Department, Patient Financial Services and the Emergency Department all contributed over 30 food boxes each.

The District received \$5,088,329 today from the American Rescue Act which is money that was earmarked for rural providers, specifically, heavy Medicaid utilization rural providers. The money may be used until December of next year for COVID related costs.

Employee Christmas parties are as follows: the night Employee Christmas party is Thursday, December 9 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and the day Employee Christmas party is Friday, December 10 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

The Greenville Business After Hours will be held Thursday, December 9 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm in the Atrium celebrating Mr. Carter's retirement and announcing Mr. Boles as the new President/CEO.

The Cerner contract was signed November 4 and all contract items were agreed upon with the exception of the co-management of the work plan as Cerner believes since this is their expertise they should manage. The project will begin in February 2022.

The CFO search continues and two individuals are scheduled to interview following the Thanksgiving holiday and a female candidate from Arkansas is scheduled to interview tomorrow.

The second CT was delivered on November 15 and is on schedule to be installed. There was an issue with the location of the medical gases thus causing a small change order to be approved next month. This will not delay the implementation of the project and even with this change order, the renovation costs continue to be well under budget.

An automated workflow process for our Accounts Payable Department will be implemented mid-December and will be a tremendous productivity improvement for the department and for those involved.

A management company taking over the VA Clinic in Greenville has reached out requesting to purchase services from us and on December 15 the VA Clinic will be using the MDSave tool to purchase vouchers for our services.

An overview of the second Core attempt was provided and due to issues identified in "Leaf 4", the expanded time to complete the project and communication with the server infrastructure not working as it did in "test", the decision was made to abort the project. Before attempting the Core outage again, the hospital will have established Cloud environments for the telephone system, Vocera and Meditech. There are no additional

costs associated with the Core conversion and even though the engineers did a great job, there were too many unforeseen issues that could not be corrected within the timeframe scheduled.

**Quality
Performance
Report**

There was no report.

**Customer
Service
Report**

There was no report.

**Compliance
Report**

There was no report.

**Executive
Session**

An Executive Session was held under Texas Government Code §551.071 and §551.072. Following the Executive Session, the following action was taken.

**Medicaid
Days DSH
Appeal**

Mr. Taylor moved, seconded by Mrs. Clack, to employ King & Spalding for \$45,000 to continue working on our Medicaid reimbursement. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Pierce wished everyone a "Happy Thanksgiving"

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.


Janet Peek
Secretary