



COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
BOARD MINUTES FOR APRIL 20, 2023

Call to Order – Kay Olson called the meeting of the Cook County Hospital District Board of Directors to order on April 20, 2023 at 9:15 a.m. on Zoom and in the Board Room.

Adjourn to Closed Session – Mary Sanders made a motion to adjourn into closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. §144.581, subd. 5 which permits closure to discuss marketing activity and contracts related to the Hospital's competitive position with other health care providers that offer similar services; and Closed Session pursuant to Minn. Stat. §145.64 subd. 1(d) to discuss decisions, recommendations, deliberations or documentation of a Review Organization and Closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. sec. 13D.05, subdivision 3 (a), to evaluate the performance of the hospital district's CEO/Administrator Kimber L. Wraalstad. Patty Winchell-Dahl seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session Summary - The Quality Improvement/Peer Review Report from March 15, 2023 and the Medical Staff Report from March 15, 2023 were discussed. Also discussed was inpatient/swing bed hospital services and the Administrator's Evaluation.

Reconvene - The North Shore Health Board reconvened in regular session at 9:31 a.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: Steve Frykman, Kay Olson, Mary Sanders, Randy Wiitala and Patty Winchell-Dahl

Members Absent:

Others Present: Kimber Wraalstad; Doug Montgomery; Greg Ruberg; Kurt Farchmin, MD (p); David Mills; Doug Sanders (p)

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic members of the Board (Steve Frykman, Kay Olson Randy Wiitala and Patty Winchell-Dahl), Doug Montgomery, Greg Ruberg, Kurt Farchmin, David Mills, and Doug Sanders attended the meeting via Zoom technology with the ability to hear and see the other participants. Mary Sanders and Kimber Wraalstad attended the meeting at North Shore Health.

Approval of Agenda: Mary Sanders made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented; it was seconded by Randy Wiitala. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: Ms. Winchell-Dahl commented there is misinformation about the continuation of Emergency Department services. It was reiterated that Emergency Department services will not change and will still be available at North Shore Health after July 1, 2023. This will be included in future public communication.

Approval of Minutes for March 23, 2023 – Patty Winchell-Dahl made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2023 meeting as presented and the motion was seconded by Steve Frykman. The motion carried unanimously.

Updates:

- a. **Clinic Board:** Kate Surbaugh's written summary of activities at Sawtooth Mountain Clinic (SMC) was reviewed. The SMC masking policy aligns closely with the new North Shore Health policy. The HRSA Rural Community Opioid Response grant continues to move forward. SMC has provided Medication Assistant Treatment (MAT) services since 2018. As of June 2023, the DEA will no longer require special DEA certification for providing MAT, which is now considered to be part of primary and preventive care. With this change, two more providers are expected to be added to the MAT team this year. The change will expand services to the Grand Portage clinic as well.
- b. **County Board:** Commissioner Mills shared the log rolling issue is a focus of discussion with the YMCA. Plans for the future development of the Taconite Harbor site are beginning to be considered. Cook County Public Health and Human Services is addressing food support with the end of the additional COVID SNAP benefits. Child care continues to be an emphasis. The housing development supported by the HRA will be presented at the Grand Marais Planning Commission for a Conditional Use Permit. Commissioner Mills noted that the average Cook County home sales price for the first quarter 2023 was \$450,000.
- c. **Board Members:** Ms. Olson reviewed the discussion from the Community Leadership Committee held on April 13. Much of the discussion centered on substance abuse information with discussion about opioid use, naloxone education and availability.
- d. **Correspondence:** None.

Financial Reports: Mr. Montgomery presented the March 2023 financial statements. The Statement of Net Position was reviewed together with the cash/cash equivalent and Days Cash on Hand were highlighted. Gross Patient Service Revenue for the month of \$2,045M is 21.65% more than budget. Inpatient, Swing Bed and Care Center revenue is less than budget. However, Outpatient revenue of \$1,611M is \$426K or 14.6% more than budget. Mr. Montgomery discussed the Provision for Bad Debts account and noted North Shore Health's use of the Revenue Recapture program. Total Operating Revenue for the month of \$1,679M is 10.27% more than budget. Total Operating Expenses of \$1,893M are 4.5% more than budget. Pharmacy drugs are higher than budget but this does correlates with the increase in outpatient revenue. Salaries, Wages, Benefits and Contract Labor were reviewed. The Net Loss from Operations for March 2023 of \$214K is \$82K less than budget. Mary Sanders made a motion to accept the March 2023 financial statements. The motion was seconded by Steve Frykman and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- a) **Other:** None.

New Business:

- a) **Unbudgeted Capital Purchase – Employee Serenity Room:** A donation from the family of Shirley and Don Hewitt was received in March 2023. During a conversation with the family, it was suggested that the donation be used toward employees. The idea of the massage chair was suggested and enthusiastically accepted. Even though the massage chair was not budgeted in 2023, approval was requested to purchase a Luraco i9 MAX massage chair at a cost of \$12,490, fully covered by the donation from the family of Shirley and Don Hewitt. Mary Sanders made a motion to approve the unbudgeted capital purchase of a Luraco i9 MAX massage chair. The motion was seconded by Steve Frykman and the motion carried unanimously.

Management Report:

The Management Report for April 2023 included in the Board materials was reviewed.

As of April 14, 2023, there have been one thousand six hundred fifty-six (1,656) confirmed cases of COVID-19 affiliated with Cook County. Cook County has been able to stay out of the High level for two weeks, so as of April 7, 2023, Mask Use for North Shore Health employees has changed *in non-patient/non-resident care areas*. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) was questioned regarding the required use of masks by visitors/patients entering the building because the CDC guidance is unclear. MDH referred back to the vague CDC guidance so North Shore Health is modifying expectations of mask use by visitors/patients: Visitors/Patients do not need to wear masks when they enter the building. Mask use by visitors is required in the Care Center unless in the Resident's room only with the Resident's permission. Masks use by all may change depending upon CDC transmission level. The community transmission level will continue to be monitored and updates provided as needed.

North Shore Health received a grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust for the purchase of two ultrasound systems and the initiative also include education. The Helmsley Charitable Trust has supported rural organizations and North Shore Health has been the recipient of grant from the Trust. With the announcement from Sawtooth Mountain Clinic that they are no longer able to cover inpatient/swing bed and observation services, the possibility of virtual hospitalist's services is being considered. Several companies have been contacted and provided information about their services and how they might be of service to North Shore Health. How a virtual model might work is being evaluated and other Critical Access Hospitals using this model have been contacted to share their experience. The Minnesota Hospital Association's has selected Jon Moe for the Pipelines and Partnerships Leadership Workforce Innovation Award. These workforce innovation awards celebrate achievements in workforce development, despite a difficult and changing landscape. Jon has been the lead on two major education initiatives at North Shore Health that has a direct impact on bringing individuals into the workforce: Emergency Medical Services education and Nursing Assistant testing. An employment offer was made earlier this year to a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) candidate. After several months, the candidate was not able to secure housing so declined the offer. Recruitment efforts for this opportunity have begun once again. As part of the routine audit trails completed by Kathy Bernier, HIPAA Privacy Officer, a possible HIPAA breach was identified. The investigation is ongoing. North Shore Health participated in the Job Fair and Career Expo held at Cook County Schools ISD-166 on Friday, April 14. The

audit team from Clifton Larson Allen (CLA) is finalizing the virtual audit fieldwork for our 2022 Financial Audit. CLA is planning to virtually present the audited financial report during the May 2023 Board Meeting. North Shore Living received a complaint inspection of the Nursing Home. The Surveyors investigated two complaints and both were unsubstantiated. A Legislative Update from both LeadingAge Minnesota and the Minnesota Hospital Association were discussed.

Adjourn:

Steve Frykman moved to reconvene to a closed session for the purpose of discussing hospital services and Administrators evaluation. Randy Wiitala seconded the motion and the meeting returned to closed session at 10:33 a.m.

The closed session adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Patty Winchell-Dahl seconded by Steve Frykman. The motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held on May 18, 2023.

The regular meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Kay Olson
Chair

Maya Sandave
Clerk