



COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
BOARD MINUTES FOR APRIL 22, 2021

Call to Order – Kay Olson called the meeting of the Cook County Hospital District Board of Directors to order on April 22, 2021 at 9:16 a.m. on Zoom and in the Board Room.

Adjourn to Closed Session – Mary Sanders made a motion to adjourn into closed session for the Medical Staff and Credentials Committee Reports. The motion was seconded by Steve Nielsen and the motion carried with all ayes.

Closed Session Summary - The Quality Improvement/Peer Review Report from March 17, 2021, the March 17, 2021 Medical Staff Report and the April 21, 2021 Credentials Committee information were reviewed and discussed.

Reconvene - The North Shore Health Board reconvened in regular session at 9:30 a.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: Steve Nielsen, Mary Sanders, Kay Olson, and Patty Winchell-Dahl

Members Absent: Randy Wiitala

Others Present: Kimber Wraalstad; Paul Goettl; Greg Ruberg; Milan Schmidt, MD (p); Dave Mills (p); Nick Cusick (p)

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the members of the Board (Kay Olson, Steve Nielsen, Mary Sanders, and Patty Winchell-Dahl); Mr. Ruberg; Dr. Schmidt; Mr. Mills and Mr. Cusick attended the meeting via Zoom technology with the ability to hear and see the other participants. Ms. Wraalstad and Mr. Goettl attended in the Board Room of North Shore Health.

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

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2021 – Steve Nielsen made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2021 meeting as presented and the motion was seconded by Mary Sanders. The motion carried unanimously.

Updates:

- a. **Clinic Board:** Kate Surbaugh is attending the Breakwater Network Board so Dr. Schmidt provided a report on her behalf. Sawtooth Mountain Clinic (SMC) is experiencing some staff turnover with the planned retirements of several long-term employees: Judy Olson, Nick Vavrichek and Patty Daugherty. SMC is having discussions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine as a vital sign during patient visits. Cook County continues to have very good vaccination rates.
- b. **County Board:** Commissioner Mills shared that Cook County will also have staff transition later this summer with the retirements of Diane Booth and Rena Rogers. The County Board has completed a facilities tour to evaluate buildings operated by the County and to develop a facility plan. The County is waiting to receive more guidance regarding the federal dollars that are expected from the American Rescue Plan. It has been reported that individuals providing mental health service through Accend will be leaving the community. It will continue to be a challenge to access mental/behavioral health. Public Health and Human Services is evaluating options to expand the mental health services.
- c. **Board Members:** Ms. Sanders participated in a State Legislative Update presented by Mary Krinkie with the Minnesota Hospital Association. The proposed legislation currently in the Minnesota Legislature and the impact to health care was discussed. Should opportunity arise to speak with Representative Ecklund and Senator Bakk, specific advocacy positions were discussed.
- d. **Correspondence:** Shared the correspondence received from Mark Glasnapp and Jennifer Schultz thanking North Shore Health for the addition of the shades to the parking lot lights. It was commented the shades made "a huge positive difference".

Board Presentation – Education and Communication Campaigns – Nick Cusick, NSH Public Information Coordinator

Mr. Cusick was welcomed to North Shore Health and Cook County. He took the opportunity to share his background and discuss plans for the communication program at North Shore Health. The first projects being addressed by Mr. Cusick are the required migration of the facility website, evaluating a major website enhancement, and COVID-19 information including ongoing education about vaccination. The initial work being done on the local Vaccination Voices was described. Mr. Cusick discussed how the communication process will be used even as the topics change.

Financial Reports: Mr. Goetti presented the March 2021 financial statements. Patient days in the Acute Hospital were 5 days or 71.4% more than budget with inpatient revenue for the month being \$55K more than budget. Swing Bed days were 60 less than budget with revenue \$18K less than budget. Care Center days were 14 more than budget and revenue \$12K less than budget. Outpatient revenue of \$1,032K is \$345K or 35% less than budget. Net Operating Revenue of \$1,582K is 8% more than budget. Deductions from Revenue are \$241K more than budget. Total Operating Expenses of \$1,651K are 1% less than budget. The employee benefits timing issue from March corrected itself. The Net Loss for the month of March 2021 of \$65K is \$137K less than budget. The year-to-date Loss from Operations is \$387K, which is \$126K worse than budget. Gross Patient Revenue is up \$367K from budget. The year-to-date Net Loss is \$253K, \$144K less than budget. Year-to-date FTEs are 104.8, 8.9 less than budget. Days' cash on hand remains strong at 301 days. The 2021 forecast using the first quarter actual numbers and nine months of budgeted numbers was reviewed

by Mr. Goettl. He noted that no COVID-19 adjustments have been made to the forecast. Mary Sanders made a motion to accept the March 2021 financial statements. The motion was seconded by Patty Winchell-Dahl and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- a) **Other:** None.

New Business:

- a) **Investment Policy:** Mr. Goettl reviewed the proposed revisions to the Investment Policy. The revisions include the following: 1) reference to Minnesota Statute 144.581, 2) specific guidelines regarding management's responsibilities and 3) specifies the two investment funds – operation and capital. Steve Nielsen made a motion to accept the revised Investment Policy as presented and recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Mary Sanders and the motion carried unanimously.
- b) **Resolution Certificate:** A Resolution Certificate authorizing Kimber Wraalstad and/or Paul Goettl to execute, acknowledge and deliver information necessary to purchase products with New York Life Insurance Company. Steve Nielsen made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented and recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Patty Winchell-Dahl and the motion carried unanimously.
- c) **Other:** None.

Management Report:

The Management Report for April 2021 included in the Board materials was reviewed. COVID-19 activity continues to consume much time. As of April 13, 2021, 86% of our employees and 97% of our Care Center residents have been fully vaccinated. This compares very favorably with other elder service organizations where the vaccinated employees range between 47% and 55%. With the expanded eligibility of vaccine to anyone over 16 years old, North Shore Health is again providing vaccination in our facility. By working with the Northeast Healthcare Preparedness Coalition, North Shore Health is able to obtain Pfizer vaccine. There continues to be COVID-19 cases in Cook County but all have occurred in individuals under 60. There has not been updated guidance from the CDC and CMS regarding activities in nursing homes. Fred (Andy) Andrews, Hospital Director of Nursing, has announced his resignation from North Shore Health effective April 23, 2021. Rather than rush the recruitment process, an interim Director of Nursing has been hired. Carolyn Olson, MA, MSN, RN, APRN, FNP-BC from Pathway Health Services will serve in the interim role and will begin her affiliation with North Shore Health on April 19, 2021. Amy James, RN, Resident Care Manager, has announced her retirement from North Shore Living on July 9, 2021. LeadingAge Minnesota is holding their 2021 Virtual Institute from May 18 – 21. LeadingAge Minnesota has created an outstanding virtual event. Employees who are participating can attend the Institute in real time or the recorded classes can be accessed until the end of July. North Shore Health has over 40 employees who are registered to participate. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (BCBS) has developed a new reimbursement model for Critical Access Hospitals. While BCBS states their goal is for this payment model to be revenue neutral, the impact to North Shore Health is anticipated to be a reduction of reimbursement between \$125,000 and \$250,000. North Shore Health has declined to participate in this new model. The employee health insurance benefit plan for North Shore Health is with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota through the Northeast Service Cooperative (NESC) and the Minnesota Healthcare Consortium (MHC). During 2020, the NESC and MHC conducted a comprehensive request for proposal (RFP) process. The decision was made to award the medical and pharmacy benefits management

administrator to Medica, effective with plans renewed in 2022. North Shore Health currently contracts with Medica as a provider. The transition planning process will begin this summer.

Board Planning Update:

The North Shore Health Board of Directors continued the discussions to assist in the development of the strategic plan. The Care Center Reimbursement/Cost Report was reviewed. It was noted the information was provided to share the complexity and the government determination of the reimbursement structure.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Patty Winchell-Dahl and seconded by Mary Sanders. The motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held on May 27, 2021.

The regular meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Kay Olson

Chair

Mary L Sanders

Clerk