



COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
BOARD MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 16, 2023

Call to Order – Kay Olson called the meeting of the Cook County Hospital District Board of Directors to order on November 16, 2023 at 8:56 a.m. in the Board Room.

Adjourn to Closed Session – Patty Winchell-Dahl made a motion to adjourn into closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. §145.64 subd. 1(d) to discuss decisions, recommendations, deliberations or documentation of a Review Organization. Randy Wiitala seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session Summary – Representatives from Wapiti Medical Group were present to provide a review relating to Dr. Bruce Dahlman for purposes of quality improvement. The Board also discussed the Quality Improvement/Peer Review Report from October 18, 2023 and the Medical Staff Report from October 18, 2023.

Reconvene - The North Shore Health Board reconvened in regular session at 9:35 a.m.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Kimber Wraalstad, Lori Ericson, Troy Batchelor, Michelle Silence, Greg Ruberg. Many community members attended the meeting during public comment. Several individuals then stayed for the entire meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Steve Frykman made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented; the motion was seconded by Patty Winchell-Dahl. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: Wapiti Medical Group exercised their contractual right to end their relationship with Dr. Bruce Dahlman. As a result of that decision, Dr. Dahlman is no longer able to staff the Emergency Department at North Shore Health. The following individuals spoke to that decision and in addition shared their thoughts about the North Shore Health Administrator: Mark Laky, Julia Larsen, Michele Miller, Bob Evans, Doug Sanders, Renee Benson, Kate Dahlman, and Bruce Dahlman. Bob Evans presented a petition to the North

Shore Health Board regarding the termination of Dr. Dahlman and requesting that Dr. Dahlman's contract be reinstated.

Approval of Minutes for October 19, 2023 – Mary Sanders made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2023 meeting as presented and the motion was seconded by Randy Wiitala. The motion carried unanimously.

Updates:

- a. **Clinic Board:** Kate Surbaugh was unable to attend the meeting however provided a written report. It was shared that Sawtooth Mountain Clinic has received a National Health Quality Leader – Silver award and was recognized as a COVID-19 Public Health Champion.
- b. **County Board:** Commissioner Mills was unable to attend the meeting.
- c. **Board Members:** Ms. Olson shared information from Minnesota Hospital Association's Trustee Council. The Winter Trustee conference will be held in Minneapolis and the Summer Trustee Conference will be held at Breezy Point.

Board Presentation – Budget Update Presentation – Lori Ericson, Chief Financial Officer Ms. Ericson shared that the Operating Budget is still being developed and is not ready for review. She is still in the process of meeting with department leaders to incorporate their information in the budgets. The draft 2024 Capital Budget with the five year projected needs was reviewed in detail. The initial draft of the proposed 2024 Capital Budget is \$1.705M. The finalized draft of the 2024 proposed Capital and Operating Budgets will be presented at the December Board meeting.

Financial Reports: Ms. Ericson presented the October 2023 financial statements. There was a Loss from Operations for the month of \$92K. The Statements of Net Position, Statements of Revenue and Expenses and Change in Net Position were reviewed. Gross Patient Service Revenue for the month of \$2.122M is 3.94% more than budget and remains above budget YTD by 5.93%. Inpatient, Home Care and Care Center revenues are less than budget with Swing Bed and Outpatient revenues above budget. Contractual Adjustments are \$237K compared to the budget of \$292K. Total Operating Revenue for the month of \$1.892M is 7.52% more than budget with YTD revenue of \$17.505M, 5.96% greater than budget. Total Operating Expenses of \$1.984M are 9.93% more than budget. The days cash on hand, debt service coverage ratio, current ratio and payer mix were reviewed by Ms. Ericson. The Financial Forecast for the remainder of 2023 was also reviewed. At this time, it is forecasted that Operating Revenue will be 5% greater than budget, Operating Expenses will be 6% greater than budget and Loss from Operations will be 13% greater than budget. The Net Loss of \$1.352M is projected to be 24% greater than the budgeted loss. Steve Frykman made a motion to accept the October 2023 financial statements. The motion was seconded by Randy Wiitala and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- a) **Other:** None

New Business:

- a) **Other:** None

Management Report:

The Management Report for November 2023 included in the Board materials was reviewed. The Nursing Facility Workforce Incentive Grant Program established by the 2023 Minnesota Legislature has been modified by the Department of Human Services. Much of the North Shore Health distribution plan will remain the same; however, the maximum incentive payment has been reduced to \$2,630. Robert McGregor, RN, has announced his decision to step down as the Director of Nursing for the Care Center effective December 4, 2023. The Board Members thanked Robert for his service as the Care Center Director of Nursing and his continued service to North Shore Health as Registered Nurse at the Care Center. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) announced on October 9, 2023, that MDH-regulated healthcare providers will be responsible for paying the Department of Human Services (DHS) directly for all background studies initiated for current or prospective employees. Providers will be responsible for paying the study initiation fee (currently \$44 per initiated study) and this cost will occur for any initiated background study even if the background study is not completed. North Shore Health submitted our intention to participate in the Equitable Cost-Sharing for Publicly Owned Nursing Facilities (ECPN) Program for 2023. The ECPN Program was established to allow publicly owned nursing facilities to contribute funds and receive the federal match for those contributions. This program increases the room rates for all residents, including private pay. The rate adjustment in 2022 was \$43.91 per day and the 2024 rate adjustment is \$23.27. The feedback regarding the 2023 Strategic Planning/Annual Program Review was very positive. The presentations by the industry experts were excellent and Ms. Kvenvold was an excellent facilitator, allowing time for discussion and summarizing key points. The meeting with the Collaboration Committee for Sawtooth Mountain Clinic and the North Shore Health Board is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5 from 11:30 to 1:00 in the Multi-Purpose Room at North Shore Health. The meeting will allow for continued discussion on the recommendations provided in the report by Darrold Bertsch, transition facilitator. The proposed 2024 meeting dates were reviewed. The meeting date in September will not be on the routine schedule due to the Minnesota Hospital Association and LeadingAge Minnesota Annual meetings. It was agreed the September meeting date would be held on Thursday, September 26, 2024. The final agreed upon meeting dates will be included in December's management report.


Adjourn:

Patty Winchell-Dahl moved to reconvene to a closed session to review the Quality Improvement and Medical Staff reports. Steve Frykman seconded the motion and the meeting returned to closed session at 11:48 a.m.

The closed session adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Randy Wiitala and seconded by Patty Winchell-Dahl. The motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held on December 21, 2023.

The regular meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.


Chair


Clerk