



COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

BOARD MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2023

Call to Order – Kay Olson called the meeting of the Cook County Hospital District Board of Directors to order on February 16, 2023 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 Quality Improvement, Medical Staff and Credentials report. Steve Frykman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session Summary - The Quality Improvement/Peer Review Report from January 18, 2023; the Medical Staff Report from January 18, 2023 and the February 15, 2023 Credentials Committee Report were discussed.

Reconvene - The North Shore Health Board reconvened in regular session at 9:30 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; Cassandra Beardsley (p); Alexius Singer (p); Doug Sanders (p)

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

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

Public Comments: None.

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

Updates:

- a. **Clinic Board:** While she was not in attendance at the meeting, Kate Surbaugh shared a written summary of activities at Sawtooth Mountain Clinic (SMC). The RCORP (Rural Communities Opioid Response Program) grant coalition had hired the part-time Treatment Coordinator required by the grant. Liv Thompson, most recently the SMC COVID Education has been chosen for this position. The HRSA required reporting for 2022 has been completed. Ms. Surbaugh is participating in advocacy at both a state and federal level. A copy of Ms. Surbaugh's report has been forwarded to the Board Members.
- b. **County Board:** Commissioner Mills shared that the Cook County Highway Department is submitting a grant to support work being done on the Gunflint Trail. The HRA is requesting rezoning of land in the Creechville area. Commissioner Mills discussed ideas being explored by the HRA to address housing concerns in Cook County. Work continues on the Capital Improvement Plan and Commissioner Mills commented on meetings with Senator Hauschild to identify possible bonding opportunities.
- c. **Board Members:** None.
- d. **Correspondence:** None.

Board Presentation – Wilderness Health Update – Cassandra Beardsley, Executive Director of Wilderness Health

Ms. Beardsley reviewed the Wilderness Health members, service area, structure of the organization core values and network philosophy. The strategic objectives for Wilderness Health for 2022 – 2023 were reviewed: 1) Establish a Payer Strategy, 2) Develop a Telehealth Program to enhance access and capacity within the network and 3) Cultivate a Talent Pool Strategy to support staffing needs and mitigate network leakage. Each of the strategic objectives were reviewed in detail. Ms. Beardsley specifically reviewed the Mental Health Telehealth strategic plan that has been developed for the HRSA grant. It includes the development and implementation of a toolkit to support needs and infrastructure and addresses how to mitigate technology issues and launching pilot programs. Lake View is serving as the lead for the Ambulatory pilot project involving ADHD vs Anxiety assessments. North Shore Health is serving as the lead for an Emergency Department pilot project that will provide support for patients while in ED while waiting for transfer.

Financial Reports: Mr. Montgomery presented the January 2023 financial statements. Patient days and admission for the Acute Hospital reviewed with inpatient revenue \$27K less than budget. Swing Bed days were above budget with revenue \$42K more than budget. Care Center occupancy was 70.1% and revenue was \$30K less than budget. Outpatient revenue of \$1,381M is \$197K or 16.7% more than budget. Net Operating Revenue for the month of \$1,616M is 9% more than budget. Total Operating Expenses of \$1,867M are 3% more than budget. The Net Loss for January 2023 of \$252K is \$59K better than budget. Deductions from Revenue are \$47K less than budget. Days' cash on hand remains strong at 273, days in net accounts receivable is 41.3, the current ratio is 4.48 with the debt service coverage being 2.25. Mary Sanders made a motion to accept the January 2023 financial statements. The motion was seconded by Steve Frykman and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- a) **Other:** None.

New Business:

- a) **Pay Equity Report:** The Pay Equity report completed by North Shore Health was reviewed. The report indicates that North Shore Health is in compliance and pay equity has been maintained. Patty Winchell-Dahl made a motion to approve the submission of the pay equity report and authorized the signing of the implementation report. The motion was seconded by Steve Frykman and the motion carried unanimously.
- b) **Other:** None.

Management Report:

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

As of February 17, 2023, there have been one thousand six hundred twenty six (1,626) confirmed cases of COVID-19 affiliated with Cook County; including self-reported positive antigen tests and Lab PCR reported tests. CMS requires facilities to use community transmission level as a trigger for various regulations in health care and the current transmission rate for Cook County is in the Moderate category or Yellow Classification. If this level can be maintained, it may be possible for reduced mask by employees when not providing direct care. President Biden has announced that he will end the Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023. Questions remain about regulations, flexibilities and resources surrounding COVID-19. As more information is available from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Hospital Association, LeadingAge National, and LeadingAge Minnesota we will share and provide detailed analysis so we are best able to prepare. There have been no changes to Care Center Dining. Families/visitors may share beverages, snacks and/or meals in the resident's room only. We continue to ask those who are feeling ill to please not visit. Mask use is still required at North Shore Health.

In early 2022, Bryann Bockovich, a member of our team in Lab, shared an idea about an electric bike for two. Lisa Bloomquist, Activities Director, was excited about the possibility for this bicycle to "allow our residents to get fresh air, a change of scenery and have a little fun". Work then began to raise funds to purchase the bike and Lisa included this project in her Senior News articles. We are pleased to share that we received a large anonymous donation that will allow us to purchase the bike. The order has been placed and we are excited for spring to arrive so we can try out the new bike.

LeadingAge Minnesota has developed the following legislative priorities for 2023:

- Pay caregivers the wages they deserve
- Reduce the payment delay
- Invest in elderly waiver

The first legislative priorities that will directly impact North Shore Health, residents and employees were reviewed.

The American Hospital Association (AHA) released their 2023 Advocacy Agenda. The AHA Advocacy Agenda is focused on the following:

- Ensuring Access to Care and Providing Financial Relief
- Strengthening the Health Care Workforce
- Advancing Quality, Equity and Transformation
- Enacting Regulatory and Administrative Relief

Ms. Wraalstad will continue to share the initiatives within each of these areas that will directly affect North Shore Health.

The North Shore Health Care Foundation is announcing a significant investment in health care training technology never previously available in Cook County at a media event on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. This investment is one project in the Health Care Foundation's 'Investing in Workforce Solutions' initiative being announced, along with a community matching campaign, to recognize the NSHCF's 30th anniversary and role in Cook County.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Patty Winchell-Dahl and seconded by Steve Frykman. The motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held on March 23, 2023.

The regular meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Chair Kay Olson

Clerk Mary Sanders