



COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

BOARD MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 17, 2022

**Call to Order** – Kay Olson, Chair, called the meeting of the Cook County Hospital District Board of Directors to order on February 17, 2022 at 9:18 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 with Credentials Committee Reports, Litigation update and Administrator evaluation. Steve Nielsen seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**Closed Session Summary** - The Quality Improvement/Peer Review Report from January 19, 2022, the January 19, 2022 Medical Staff Report, the February 16, 2022 Credentials Committee information, negotiation update and the Administrator's Evaluation 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, Kay Olson, Mary Sanders, Randy Wiitala, and Patty Winchell-Dahl

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Kimber Wraalstad; Paul Goettl; Greg Ruberg; Milan Schmidt, MD (p); David Mills (p); Katherine Taylor, PharmD (p)

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic members of the Board (Steve Nielsen, Kay Olson, Mary Sanders and Randy Wiitala); Greg Ruberg, and Dave Mills attended the meeting via Zoom technology with the ability to hear and see the other participants. Patty Winchell-Dahl, Kimber Wraalstad, Paul Goettl, and Katherine Taylor attended the meeting at North Shore Health.

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

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2022 – Steve Nielsen made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2022 meeting as presented and the motion was seconded by Mary Sanders. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Updates:**

- a. **Clinic Board:** Kate Surbaugh provided a written update about Sawtooth Mountain Clinic (SMC) activities. Preparation for the Omicron surge was reviewed. Vaccination events continue at the Community Center in partnership with public health. It is likely vaccination events will move back to the SMC building in March. SMC kicked off two on-the-job training programs last month. The Medical Assistant (MA) apprenticeship program currently has five MAs working the floor while training for certification under the preceptorship of our veteran LPNs. This program was developed in partnership with the Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers and is supported by the North Shore Health Care Foundation. It is reporting season in the FQHC world and reviewing data from the past year is interesting. SMCs utilization numbers showed the impact of COVID-19, but increased behavioral health visits and increased dental visits through the Oral Health Task Force program were seen. Due to the impact of the Omicron variant, SMC Strategic Planning sessions were postponed until April.
- b. **County Board:** Commissioner Mills discussed the redistricting process. District 1 will need to shrink and District 2 will grow. Commissioner Mills requested comments when the recommendation from the Committee (Commissioner Mills, Commissioner Hawkins and Auditor Braidy Powers) is released. The Cook County Hospital District Board mirror the same districts as the County Commissioners. The County is in the process of hiring a number of positions. Commissioner Mills shared information from the Children’s Mental Health Summit he recently attended. He also discussed the importance of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and his recent use of the service.
- c. **Board Members:** No individual reports were provided.
- d. **Correspondence:** None.

**Board Presentation – Monoclonal Antibody and Antivirals Therapy – Katherine Taylor, PharmD, Pharmacy**

Katherine Taylor, North Shore Health Pharmacist, discussed the current practices for monoclonal antibody therapy. The Pharmacy currently stocks Casirivimab/Indevimab, Bamlanivimab with Etesevimab, Sotrovimab and Remdesivir. Another monoclonal antibody treatment, Bebtelovimab, is expected to arrive within the next week. In addition to these medications, North Shore Health is expected to receive Evusheld, given as a pre-exposure prophylaxis for immune compromised patients every six months. The North Shore Health Pharmacist in Charge, DeeDee LaRock-Muggley, has developed Meditech orders set, consent sheet, fact sheet etc. for these treatments. Dr. Taylor has been participating on the weekly Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Minnesota Resource Allocation Platform (MNRAP) calls to remain up-to date with the trends and myriad of changes being made. For example, MNRAP used a lottery system for referring patients for monoclonal antibody therapy based upon their Monoclonal Antibody Screening Score. For local patients, the Pharmacist receive the referral from the SMC Physicians and enters the patient’s information into the MNRAP system. If authorized, then they coordinate with nursing to schedule the patient. In addition to ordering the medication, the Pharmacists also order the IV supplies,

and emergency medications, and mix the medications for use. Since monoclonal antibody treatments have been available, North Shore Health has administered over 100 doses.

### **Financial Reports:**

**January 2022 Financial Report:** Mr. Goettl presented the January 2022 financial statements. Patient days in the Acute Hospital were 110days or 42.9% more than budget with inpatient revenue for the month being \$17K less than budget. Swing Bed days were 8 less than budget with revenue \$6K less than budget. Care Center days were 18 more than budget and revenue was \$7K less than budget. Mr. Goettl reminded that there is a temporary pause on admissions to the Care Center and this was incorporated into the budget. Outpatient revenue of \$1,160K is \$49K or 4% less than budget. Gross Patient Revenue is \$82K less than budget. Deductions from Revenue are \$286K less than budget; as a percent of Gross Patient Revenue, Contractual Adjustments are -1.0%. Deductions are calculated using a modeling tool from our Auditor which looks at our current volume (low for January), our expenses (relatively stable), and the current Medicare rates from CMS. Net Operating Revenue of \$1,620K is 15.0% more than budget. Total Operating Expenses of \$1,830K are 3.0% more than budget. The Net Income for the month of January 2022 of \$114K is \$99K more than budget. FTEs are 98.7 and days' cash on hand is 287 days. The current ratio is 4.01 compared to our benchmark of 2.5. Adjustments will occur as the audit is being completed.

Randy Wiitala made a motion to accept the January 2022 financial statements. The motion was seconded by Steve Nielsen and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

- a) **Other:** None.

### **New Business:**

- a) **Governing Board Resolution – Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Grant:** North Shore Health is submitting a Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Grant to replace the current endoscopy system and purchase a gastroscope, Steve Nielsen made a motion to adopt the Governing Board Resolution and it was seconded by Mary Sanders. Motion carried unanimously.
- b) **Other:** None.

**Management Report:** The Management Report for February 2022 included in the Board materials was reviewed.

As of February 3, 2022, there have been seven hundred thirty-six (736) confirmed cases of COVID-19 affiliated with Cook County; this includes self-reported positive antigen tests in addition to the Lab PCR reported tests. The increased positives are slowing but still remain high with the CDC transmission rate for Cook County remaining in the High category. There has been a death of a third Cook County resident and condolences were offered to the family.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has provided surveyor training about surveying for the vaccine mandate. The survey entrance form, vaccine calculator, and staff COVID-19 matrix have been provided to organizations. It is anticipated surveyors will interview employees who are not vaccinated. Questions may include:

- What were the extra precautions put into place for you because you're not vaccinated?
- Was a deadline to receive the first dose of a vaccine given to you? Surveyors will confirm this date with leadership.
- What were you told would happen (what actions would be taken) if the deadline passed and you were not vaccinated?
- What actions did the facility take to educate you and offer COVID-19 vaccines?

Legislation that will allow North Shore Health to increase our bed capacity has been introduced in the Minnesota House by Representative Rob Ecklund and is HF 2812. As this legislation could be used by ten other Minnesota Critical Access Hospitals, information has been shared with those organizations. This legislation does not require any action by a facility, it just provides an option if it is determined to be both financially and operationally beneficial for the facility. Ms. Wraalstad has spoken with Senator Paul Utke, Chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee. Senator Utke was receptive to hearing the bill.

LeadingAge Minnesota held their 2022 Institute from February 9 – 11, with rigorous COVID protocols. Jon Moe, Kristi Silence, and Kimber Wraalstad attended the Institute. Because of the ongoing pandemic and because of requests from the membership, LeadingAge Minnesota has also added a virtual Institute. This will allow more employees to experience this exceptional learning opportunity. There will be three days of live virtual education from February 22 – 24 with different sessions, topics, and speakers. The keynote presentations and virtual sessions will also be recorded and available on-demand through April 30, 2022. The legislative priorities from LeadingAge Minnesota have been identified with the workforce shortage as the number one issue. The 2022 legislative priorities handout was reviewed. The legislative activities of the Minnesota Hospital Association were also reviewed and discussed.

**Adjourn:**

Steve Nielsen moved to adjourn to a closed session for the purpose of discussing the Administrator's evaluation. The regular meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The closed session adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on March 24, 2022.

  
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 Chair

  
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 Clerk