



COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
BOARD MINUTES FOR JULY 21, 2022

**Call to Order** – Kay Olson, Chair, called the meeting of the Cook County Hospital District Board of Directors to order on July 21, 2022 at 9:17 a.m. on Zoom and in the Board Room.

**Adjourn to Closed Session** – Steve Nielsen made a motion to adjourn into closed session for the Quality Improvement, Medical Staff and Credentials Committee report. Patty Winchell-Dahl seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**Closed Session Summary** - The Quality Improvement/Peer Review Report from June 15, 2022; the June 15, 2022 Medical Staff Report; and the July 20, 2022 Credentials Committee recommendations were reviewed.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Kimber Wraalstad; Paul Goettl; Greg Ruberg (p); Kurt Farchmin, MD (p); David Mills (p); Jason Hale (p)

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic members of the Board (Kay Olson, Steve Nielsen, Mary Sanders and Randy Wiitala); Dr. Farchmin, Dave Mills, Greg Ruberg, Jason Hale attended the meeting via Zoom technology with the ability to hear and see the other participants. Kimber Wraalstad, Paul Goettl and Patty Winchell-Dahl 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:** None

**Approval of Minutes from June 23, 2022** – Steve Nielsen made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2022 meeting as presented and the motion was seconded by Mary Sanders. The motion carried unanimously.

## Updates:

- a. **Clinic Board:** Due to a conflicting meeting, Kate Surbaugh was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Surbaugh forwarded a written report shared by Ms. Wraalstad. Vaccinations for 6 months – 5-year-olds are underway and going well. Sawtooth Mountain Clinic (SMC) and Cook County Public Health and Human Services are turning their attention to vaccination outreach. While the overall vaccination rates in Cook County are high, there is room for improvement. There has been no substantial changes to SMC COVID-19 response since last month's update. The screening table at the Clinic has moved from the atrium to the regular front desk. The SMC Pharmacy has a second full-time pharmacist! Rachel Theissen, PharmD, has passed her Boards and is fully licensed. It is expected that the hours of operation will be expanded and pharmacy workflows will be refined. SMC has seen patients seeking primary care in greater numbers than the last two years, but still below 2019 numbers. They are monitoring those numbers and will outreach to patients who are due for preventative care such as screenings, immunizations and follow-up visits. Ms. Surbaugh shared that SMC appreciates the ongoing support of the NSH staff and Board.
- b. **County Board:** Commissioner Mills shared that the Cook County HRA Board has been meeting. The Short-term Rental Steering Committee is also meeting. The Highway Department is evaluating an alternative to sodium chloride to treat the roadways in the winter. Commissioner Mills provided an update about the Labor Management Committee training involving the Management and Unions/Association in Cook County. Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) has put a \$70,000 placeholder in their budget to respond to childcare issues. These funds will come from PHHS reserves. A brief discussion was held about the upcoming elections for County Commissioners and Commissioner Mills stated he has not heard any concerns over the recent redistricting.
- c. **Board Members:** Patty Winchell-Dahl provided a brief overview about the Minnesota Hospital Association Summer Trustee Conference held the previous week. The Conference was held virtually and Ms. Winchell-Dahl commented she found the sessions very informative.
- d. **Correspondence:** None.

## **Board Presentation – Cook County Housing – Jason Hale, Executive Director of the Cook County HRA**

Jason Hale, Executive Director of the Cook County HRA joined the meeting and was welcomed as the new and first Executive Director of the Cook County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA). The HRA for Cook County was established earlier this year to address the housing issues in Cook County. Mr. Hale briefly reviewed the recently completed housing study commissioned by the Cook County Economic Development Authority. The lack of affordable housing impacts workforce for many different businesses throughout Cook County. Mr. Hale discussed the challenges in developing the various types of housing needed in Cook County including limited available land, the cost of construction, limited construction workforce and the lack of availability among local developers. The importance of housing to North Shore Health was discussed and Mr. Hale discussed some of the housing opportunities he is pursuing.

**Financial Reports:** Paul Goettl presented the June 2022 financial statements. Patient days in the Acute Hospital were 18 days or 94.7% more than budget with inpatient revenue for the month being \$43K more than budget. Swing Bed days were 14 more than budget with revenue \$16K more than budget. Care Center days were 63 less than budget and revenue \$53K less than budget. The temporary pause on admissions due to staffing continues at the Care Center with the current census being 31 residents. Staffing issues have not resolved as anticipated on the budget and it is likely resident days and revenue will continue to be below budget. Outpatient revenue of \$1,590K was \$31K more than budget. CT, Emergency Department and Lab are above budget while Rehab, Home Care and Ambulance were less than budget. Gross Patient Revenue was \$30K less than budget. Deductions from Revenue were \$204K more than budget. Based upon our current increase in volume with stable expenses, reimbursement from Medicare is too high resulting in the higher Medicare contractual adjustment. Net Operating Revenue of \$1,679K was 13.0% less than budget. Total Operating Expenses of \$1,788K were 5.0% more than budget. The Net Loss from Operations for the month of June 2022 of -\$109K was \$323K more than budget. Year-to-Date Gross Patient Revenue of \$10,561K was \$47K above budget with Deductions from Revenue Year-to-Date being \$119K or 9% less than budget. Year-to-Date Operating Expenses were \$8K below budget with the Net Loss from Operations Year-to-Date being \$991K, \$200K or 17% less than budget. The Year-to-Date Net Loss of \$541K was \$89K less than budgeted. FTEs are 96.2 and days' cash on hand was 294 days. The current ratio was 4.01 compared to our benchmark of 2.5.

Steve Nielsen made a motion to accept the June 2022 financial statements. The motion was seconded by Patty Winchell-Dahl and the motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

- a) **Other:** None.

**New Business:**

- a) **Other:** None.

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

As of July 14, 2022, there have been one thousand one hundred thirty (1,130) confirmed cases of COVID-19 affiliated with Cook County; including self-reported positive antigen tests and Lab PCR reported tests. The CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker transmission rate has generally remained at the high (red) transmission category, with a few days when Cook County was in the substantial (orange) category. The CDC COVID-19 Community Transmission Level used for the general community has ranged from the high (orange) level category to low (green) level category. As of July 14, the Community Transmission Level is low (green). Required routine testing continues on a twice a week basis for those employees/Essential Caregivers who are not vaccinated or "up-to-date" with their COVID-19 vaccination. Over the Counter Antigen COVID-19 Tests and N-95 masks continue to be available at the North Shore Health screening table thanks to Sawtooth Mountain Clinic.

A meeting with the Collaboration Committee for Sawtooth Mountain Clinic and the North Shore Health Board was held on June 30, 2022, and there was a review of the meeting. Another meeting is being arranged for the beginning of September 2022.

During the week of July 11, 2022, North Shore Living received our annual Medicare inspection of the Nursing Home. The four members of the survey team arrived on Monday evening and left Grand Marais on Thursday afternoon. The Survey Team identified multiple areas of concern, however; they did not identify specific deficiency tags at this time. We anticipate receiving the Statement of Deficiencies sometime around August 1. In June 2022, Paul Goettl had the opportunity to attend the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) Annual Conference held in Denver. He also was offered the opportunity to participate in a roundtable discussion regarding how the pandemic impacted our capital planning process. The results of this roundtable discussion will be published in an upcoming issue of the HFMA magazine. As work begins on the preparation of the 2023 budget, we are also reviewing the process for the levy request. North Shore Health must submit the tax levy request to Cook County Auditor by Thursday, September 15, 2022. The September Board meeting is actually scheduled for September 15, 2022. Therefore, the discussion and decision about the 2023 levy request will occur during the September Board meeting. Work is beginning on the 2023 operating and capital budgets. The preliminary budget will be presented to the Board on November 17, 2022, with the final budget being presented for adoption on December 22, 2022. A table top exercise to use the newly revised Emergency Management Plan is scheduled for Thursday, August 25, to allow us to identify areas where the Plan can be improved. The filing period for the District 1, District 3 and District 5 Hospital Board Members begins on Tuesday, August 2 and ends at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 16, 2022. Mr. Nielsen stated he is not running for re-election.

**Adjourn:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Nielsen and seconded by Patty Winchell-Dahl. The motion carried unanimously. The regular meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on August 18, 2022.

  
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Chair

  
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Clerk