



COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
BOARD MINUTES FOR JUNE 23, 2022

**Call to Order** – Kay Olson, Chair, called the meeting of the Cook County Hospital District Board of Directors to order on June 23, 2022 at 9:16 a.m. on Zoom and in the Board Room.

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

**Closed Session Summary** - The Quality Improvement/Peer Review Report from May 18, 2022; the May 18, 2022 Medical Staff Report; and the June 15, 2022 Credentials Committee recommendations were reviewed. Labor negotiation and the settlement with MNA was also 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; Milan Schmidt, MD (p); David Mills (p); Bruce Meade (p)

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic members of the Board (Kay Olson, Steve Nielsen, Mary Sanders and Randy Wiitala); Dr. Schmidt, Dave Mills, Greg Ruberg, Bruce Meade 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:** Mary Sanders 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 May 19, 2022** – Randy Wiitala made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2022 meeting as presented and the motion was seconded by Steve Nielsen. The motion carried unanimously.

## Updates:

- a. **Clinic Board:** Kate Surbaugh was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflicting meeting. Ms. Surbaugh forwarded a written report that was reviewed including the ongoing COVID-19 response, proposed changes that will be occurring at SMC, the increase in patient volume and the addition of Melissa Brooks, Nurse Practitioner, who is now seeing patients. The SMC strategic planning process is ongoing and additional information will be shared in later meetings.
- b. **County Board:** Commissioner Mills shared the Board of Appeals has meetings scheduled to hear appeals to the property valuations. There are a number of requested appeals. The Pike Lake Road project is proceeding. Commissioner Mills noted that he is participating in the compensation study workgroup. Cook County has staff transitions and has welcomed Jason Hale as the new director of the Cook County HRA.
- c. **Board Members:** None.
- d. **Correspondence:** None.

## Board Presentation – Investment Program – Bruce Meade, Edward Jones

Bruce Meade, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones joined the meeting and provided a brief overview of the current investment portfolio for North Shore Health. Public hospitals may be invested in any security that has been recommended by an investment adviser within the limitations under Minnesota Chapter 118A regarding investments. Mr. Meade discussed the current market conditions and provided thoughts about future market directions.

**Financial Reports:** Paul Goettl presented the May 2022 financial statements. Patient days in the Acute Hospital were 17 days or 57.5% less than budget with inpatient revenue for the month being \$36K less than budget. Swing Bed days were 40 more than budget with revenue \$65K more than budget. Care Center days were 89 more than budget and revenue \$40K less than budget. The temporary pause on admissions due to staffing continues at the Care Center with the current census being 31 residents. Outpatient revenue of \$1,316K was \$87K more than budget. CT, Rehab, Emergency Department are above budget while Lab, Home Care and Ambulance were less than budget. Gross Patient Revenue was \$73K more than budget. Deductions from Revenue were \$145K less than budget with the adjustment due to the submitted 2021 Medicare Cost Report. Net Operating Revenue of \$1,785K was 14.0% more than budget. Total Operating Expenses of \$1,737K were 1.0% less than budget. The Net Income from Operations for the month of May 2022 of \$49K was \$237K more than budget. Year-to-Date Gross Patient Revenue of \$8,455K was \$78K above budget with Deductions from Revenue Year-to-Date being \$322K or 30% less than budget. Year-to-Date Operating Expenses were \$88K below budget with the Net Loss from Operations Year-to-Date being \$882K, \$523K or 37% less than budget. The Year-to-Date Net Loss of \$560K was \$494K less than budgeted. FTEs are 99.2 and days' cash on hand was 278 days. The current ratio was 3.94 compared to our benchmark of 2.5.

Patty Winchell-Dahl made a motion to accept the May 2022 financial statements. The motion was seconded by Mary Sanders and the motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

- a) **Other:** None.

**New Business:**

- a) **Other:** None.

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

As of June 16, 2022, there have been one thousand seventy (1,070) confirmed cases of COVID-19 affiliated with Cook County. The CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker transmission rate has remained at the high (red) transmission category. When the Community Transmission Level drops to moderate (yellow) and/or low (blue) for two weeks, North Shore Health will be able to reduce some of our COVID-19 requirements. The second booster doses were administered to Care Center residents on May 13; 29 of 31 residents have received first and second COVID-19 booster vaccination doses. The definition of up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccination now includes a second booster for those over the age of 50. Beginning the week of June 27, employees over 50 will need to be up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccination (two booster doses) or participate in the required routine testing. The Food and Drug Administration has authorized a COVID-19 vaccine for children under 5. Cook County Public Health, Sawtooth Mountain Clinic and Grand Portage Health Services are developing plans to make this vaccine available. North Shore Health has obtained Paxlovid, the Anti-Viral medication, which is available for patients seen in the Emergency Room. Sawtooth Mountain Clinic continues to make Over the Counter Antigen COVID-19 Tests and N-95 masks available at the North Shore Health screening table.

North Shore Living had an on-site audit of our Minnesota Case Mix Classifications from March 28 through April 1. The audit included a review of residents' records, observations of residents, and interviews with residents, staff, and families. Only one change was made to the case mix rate and several minor changes were made to the Minimum Data Set (MDS). North Shore Living also had a complaint inspection of the Nursing Home as a result of a Facility Initiated Report. The surveyor investigated three complaints from incidents that occurred during 2022. None of the incidents was substantiated, therefore no deficiencies were identified. Since this was the first survey since the vaccine mandate, North Shore Health was surveyed for that requirement. The vaccination records of employees, residents, contractors, and essential caregivers were reviewed. Also reviewed were exemption requests, routine COVID-19 testing schedules and results, and policies and procedures. No deficiencies were identified with this survey.

The General/Professional Liability and Cyber Insurance renewal proposals were reviewed. The expiring premium for the General/Professional Liability and Umbrella was \$22,166 and the renewal rate is \$24,190, an increase of \$2,024 or 9%. The Cyber insurance is with CFC Underwriters, a Lloyds of London Syndicate and is renewing with an annual premium of \$16,980.99. This is an increase of \$6,198.65 or 59% from the current premium of \$10,782.34. The average premium increase industry wide is 138%.

North Shore Health has decided to begin the process of immigration petitions for Dietary and Housekeeping positions. A prevailing wage request has been submitted to the Department of Labor to begin that process. Joint Elected Boards Meeting: The Joint Elected Boards (also known as the Community Leadership Committee) met June 9, 2022. The next meeting of the Community Leadership Committee is scheduled for Thursday, August 11 at 5:30 p.m. A

meeting with the Collaboration Committee for Sawtooth Mountain Clinic and the North Shore Health Board has been scheduled for Thursday, June 30, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. using Zoom. The legislation to exempt North Shore Health and the Hospital in Mahanomen from the bed moratorium and the state public interest review was adopted. A week after the Legislature adjourned, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) issued a finding for the North Shore Health Public Interest Review to add nine licensed beds. Based upon their review, MDH found that the hospital bed expansion is in the public interest. The findings letter and final report was reviewed. Other items of interest included Front Line Worker Pay, Fingerprinting Studies, and Permanent LTC Caregiver Wage Increase. 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.

**Adjourn:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Randy Wiitala and seconded by Patty Winchell-Dahl. The motion carried unanimously. The regular meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on July 21, 2022.

*Kay Olson*  
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Chair

*Maryl Sanders*  
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Clerk