



COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
BOARD MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 5, 2023

Call to Order – Kay Olson called the special meeting of the Cook County Hospital District Board of Directors to order on December 5, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room.

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, Todd Ford, Community Members

Strategic Planning Follow-Up:

Ms. Olson shared that the North Shore Health Board Members and Administration Team recently engaged in a strategic planning process. The focus of the strategic plan has broadened as a result of the community discussion about medical staff issues, administration and facility culture. It was suggested a third party review of North Shore Health should be contemplated. This could include evaluating everything from operations, financials, medical staff structure, governance, facility culture, human resources, technology and long-term survivability. The biggest barriers North Shore Health will be facing in the future and ideas to future proof services are additional topics that could be included in the review. Based on the areas to review, it was suggested that several organizations might be required. Organizations should have knowledge of rural health care. Ms. Wraalstad reported that initial inquiries have been sent to the National Rural Health Resource Center, National Rural Health Association, Stroudwater and Associates and Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative. Ms. Sanders commented that she spoke with a potential partner who offered to perform an organizational/cultural review free of charge. While Board Members have heard comments about using St. Luke's for this review, Mr. Wiitala stated it is important to receive objective analyses from independent third party firms. It was also suggested that grant opportunities should be explored to address the expense of these reviews. A timeline with sequencing of the analyses will be helpful. It is hoped to have proposals by the January Board meeting with the reviews being completed within four to six months.

The Board Members agreed that while the cultural and administrative components of the review are parts of the strategic plan, they need to be the initial focus. Ms. Sanders commented that she would like a thorough investigation before any decisions are made about the CEO. Ms. Winchell Dahl suggested setting a meeting devoted to addressing cultural and administrative concerns – one that is thoughtful and well-informed, based on objective facts, not subjective opinions. A meeting date will be arranged.

The consensus of the Board Members directed Kimber Wraalstad and the Administrative Team to compile a list of organizations with rural health experience and obtain proposals to complete an analysis of North Shore Health. The proposals would include a timeline, prioritization/sequencing and cost for review.

Adjourn to Closed Session:

Patty Winchell-Dahl made a motion to adjourn into closed session as permitted by the attorney-client privilege. (section 13D.05, subdivision 3 (b)) to discuss litigation regarding defamatory statements made against the Hospital. The motion was seconded and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into closed session.

Closed Session Summary:

Attorney James Hogan of Hall Render attended the meeting via electronically and provided legal advice to the Board relating to recent defamatory statements made against the Hospital. The attorney also provided legal advice to the Board about the Board's legal options and strategies relating to such statements and any future defamatory statements against the hospital. The attorney also provided legal advice to the Board relating to the letter from Dr. Bruce Dahlman's attorney threatening litigation related to Wapiti's termination of the physician.

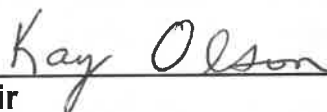
Reconvene:

The North Shore Health Board reconvened in regular session at 12:44 p.m.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mary Sanders and seconded by Steve Frykman. The motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held on December 21, 2023.

The regular meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.


Chair


Clerk