

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEDINA COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT**

September 25, 2023

TIME AND PLACE: The Medina County Hospital District Board of Directors met in regular session on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Medina Regional Hospital Boardroom, 3100 Avenue E, Hondo, Texas.

PRESENT: Tim Hardt, President
Tony Johnson, Secretary
Carlton “Corky” E. Young, DVM, Vice President
William “Bill” Bain, Director
Mary Mangold, Director

Billie Bell, Chief Executive Officer
Kevin Frosch, Chief Financial Officer
Rebecca Deen, Chief Nursing Officer
Ashley Lowe, Chief Operating Officer
Marc Strode, Methodist Healthcare System (via teleconference)
Louisa Cuellar, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Judy Winkler, Director
Zachary Windrow, MD, Director

GUEST: Brandon Haby, MHS Facilities Superintendent

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND RECORD OF ATTENDANCE** Mr. Hardt called the meeting of the Medina County Hospital District Board of Directors to order at 6:30 p.m. He stated for the record that the Board of Directors has seven members with five members being present at that time and representing a quorum.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** There were no members of the public present.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **Regular Session of August 28, 2023** The Minutes from the Board Meeting of August 28, 2023, were approved as presented in the Board Packet.
 - B. **Special Session of September 5, 2023** The Minutes from the Special Session Board Meeting of September 5, 2023, were approved as presented in the Board Packet.
 - C. **Board Education of September 5, 2023** The Minutes from the Board Education of September 5, 2023, were approved as presented in the Board Packet.
 - D. **Special Session of September 18, 2023** The Minutes from the Special Session Board Meeting of September 18, 2023, were approved as presented in the Board Packet.

4. **BOARD EDUCATION
MRI PROJECT
UPDATE** Mr. Haby presented an MRI Project update. He reported on the deramping of the magnet and that the equipment will be disconnected, September 29th.

5. **CONSIDER
APPROVAL OF CNO
REPORT** Ms. Deen informed the Board, Mel Fitzpatrick, Medical Surgical Director, resigned. Ms. Deen will oversee the department until a new Med Surg Director is hired. Ms. Deen mentioned the Methodist Children’s Hospital provided S.T.A.B.L.E program neonatal education for the OB/Med Surg staff. Ms. Deen reported that on average, OB has eleven deliveries per month. Currently, OB is facing staffing challenges, therefore, agency staff utilization has increased by 34%. Ms. Deen mentioned she met with Medina County Sexual Assault Response Team to discuss initiatives to increase reporting of sexual assault.

6. **CONSIDER
APPROVAL OF COO
REPORT** Ms. Lowe informed the Board that Dr. Benjamin McCollum will be on contract through Discovery Medical and under an income guarantee for one year. His projected start date will be January 2024. Ms. Lowe reported that recruitment is in progress for Dr. Michael Zhao, a prospective Family Practitioner. He visited the medical team on August 11th and would be a new provider for the Devine Clinic. Ms. Lowe noted that openings have been posted for full and part time nurse practitioners and/or physician assistants. Kaleigh Pruetz, NP candidate, has been extended an offer to join the Medina team as a full-time Nurse Practitioner. Her start date would be January 2024. Ms. Lowe reported that Medina continues to search for GI candidates. She reported that Dr. Kalife Kuri, Cardiologist, who is currently seeing patients in Hondo, will begin seeing patients in Castroville too. Manuel Garcia, Cardiologist, is interested in growing his presence in Medina County. The Beltone team will be moving to Specialty Clinic #2. Ms. Lowe reported she will meet with NVision to discuss volume, both in surgery and in the clinic. Ms. Lowe mentioned she would be meeting with Dr. Brandon Stein, Orthopedic Surgeon, September 29th. He is a local resident and has moved back to the area. He is presently leasing temporary space in the Little Alsace awaiting completion of the Christus clinic, to be located next to Momentum Physical Therapy in Castroville. Ms. Lowe reported the TORCH CIN program is currently 50% toward the year end goal. Ms. Lowe reported lab is on track to hit another record year in terms of volume. Ms. Lowe mentioned the Café is open to the community, with many of our frequent diners returning. Social Media presence and engagement has increased and improved drastically. Ms. Lowe announced the Auxiliary awarded Phyllis French the Volunteer of the Year award. The Medina Healthcare Fund will meet October 5th. Ms. Lowe reported the Call Center has three new employees, including a lunch float, to ensure staff can take staggered lunches to avoid call dropping during this time. The Call Center Director rescinded acceptance of the offer just a few days prior to her start date. The position posted again. Ms. Lowe reported the MRI project remains on schedule.

7. **CONSIDER MEDICAL
STAFF REPORT** Ms. Bell reported the physicians are doing the best they can to maintain volume. They continue to work through issues with Meditech. Dr. Hansen has returned, and Dr. Zach Windrow will return October 2nd.

8. **CONSIDER PUBLIC
CORRESPONDENCE
REPORT** Mr. Johnson presented the public correspondence report for the month of September. There were 23 questionnaires returned from patients after receiving care at MHS. All were positive except for one negative comment for the month.

MOTION

Dr. Young made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Mangold seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

9. **CONSIDER CHIEF
EXECUTIVE
OFFICER’S REPORT** Ms. Bell reported the contract for Dr. Benjamin McCollum is being finalized, with a projected start date of early 2024. Dr. McCollum will work in the Castroville RHC. Contract negotiations continue with Dr. Zhao; however, a mutual agreement may not be reached and physician recruitment for the Devine RHC continues. Dr. Zach Windrow will maintain a lower patient

volume upon his return, therefore, another full-time physician in the Devine RHC is a priority. Patient volume is rapidly increasing in all RHC locations and aggressive recruitment is underway for physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Ms. Bell mentioned a new monument sign was built at the Castroville RHC and Specialty Clinic complex and the outpatient door signage was updated to help patients seeking outpatient services. Ms. Bell reported the Senior Leadership team continues bi-weekly meetings with O'Connell Robertson on the Campus Master Plan project. Currently, priorities include signage, enhancing the front entrance of the hospital, eliminating patient congestion in registration, remodeling the former WIC building, and preparing for rehabilitation department expansion. Once schematic designs and priorities are fully identified, the architectural team will present the plan to the Board of Directors for review and approval. Ms. Bell informed the Board that Christus Santa Rosa will open a specialty physician office in Castroville by the end of 2023. The office is in the Dollar Tree building next to Momentum Physical Therapy. The move is strategic as Baptist Healthcare and Methodist Healthcare will open hospitals in the Westover Hills area by summer 2024. Ms. Bell reported the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) approved proposed adjustments to Medicaid rates on September 1. HHSC is required by House Bill 1, Article II, Rider 8(c), 88th Legislature, to allocate certain funds appropriated to provide an increase to outpatient reimbursement rates for rural hospitals. The increase approved in September increases outpatient services reimbursement applying a percentage increase to the cost of charge ratios for rural hospitals. Medina County Hospital District's outpatient rate will increase from 39% to 47%. HHSC approved a \$1,000 increase to each Medicaid delivery payment effective September 1, 2023. Ms. Bell mentioned that Medina Healthcare System submitted the annual HCA Audit on September 15, 2023. Ms. Bell reported the Board approved the FY2023 Budget during a Special Session, September 18, 2023. Ms. Bell reported she, Marc Strode and Greg Seiler, CEO of Methodist Metropolitan and Methodist Hospital Atascosa, met with John Speakerman, COO of GI Alliance, to discuss leveraging GI coverage between both rural facilities. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was clear that GI Alliance has no plans to continue to support rural markets with GI physicians. Ms. Bell reported Senior Leadership completed a project with HCA compensation specialists to assess, analyze and improve Medina Healthcare System's compensation and job classification structures. Ms. Bell mentioned the Imaging Department will be open Saturday, October 7th for screening mammogram appointments to highlight breast cancer awareness month. Ms. Bell reported annual employee evaluations will migrate to the new electronic payroll and human resources platform. Ms. Bell provided a handout published by the American Hospital Association, "How Boards Contribute to a Safe Workplace and Community." Ms. Bell reported the Medina Healthcare System now has security guard coverage seven days a week from 4:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. Banners will be placed at main entrances to alert patients and visitors that verbal or physical violence against healthcare workers will not be tolerated. This is one of the requirements of SB 240, Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Facility Employees. Ms. Bell announced that for the seventh year in a row, Medina Healthcare System has been named a Top Workplace in the Greater San Antonio area for a medium size business. The award will be announced to the staff and public the week of October 16th. Ms. Bell announced that Molly Crisp joined the MHS Human Resources team as the new Communications and Engagement Specialist. Ms. Bell reported she and Marc Strode met with the new CEO of Methodist Texsan, Esther Kwon. Most Medina Healthcare System Emergency Department patients requiring cardiology intervention are transferred to Methodist Texsan. Ms. Bell reported the Vital Voices employee engagement survey is scheduled for October 9-23. Ms. Bell reported on the following legislative updates: TORCH announced for the first time since its inception, all 158 Texas rural hospitals are members. In a letter submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) last week, the Texas Hospital Association echoed the sentiments of the American Hospital Association in support of proposed 340B lump-sum payment remedies – but staunchly opposed the "budget neutrality adjustment" included in the rulemaking, which would generate estimated losses of nearly \$300 million for Texas hospitals through 2040. Ms. Bell presented a graph with colonoscopy and endoscopy volumes by provider for the period January – August 2023.

MOTION

Mr. Bain made a motion to approve the CEO report as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Johnson seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

10. CONSIDER FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Consider approval of the August Financial Report

Dr. Young asked if any of the Board members had any questions or concerns from the Finance Committee Meeting. There were no changes to the finance report presented by Mr. Frosch.

MOTION

Dr. Young made a motion to approve the Financial Report for August 2023 as presented during the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

11. CONSIDER AND APPROVE FY2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Ms. Bell presented the FY2024-2026 Strategic Plan.

MOTION

Dr. Young made a motion to approve FY2024-2026 Strategic Plan as presented in the Board packet. Ms. Mangold seconded the motion.

VOTE

The motion passed

12. CONSIDER AND APPROVE FY2024-2026 CAPITAL EQUIPMENT LIST

Ms. Bell presented the FY2024-2026 capital equipment list.

MOTION

Ms. Mangold made a motion to approve the FY2024-2026 capital equipment list as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Johnson seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

13. REVIEW, CONSIDER, AND APPROVE CONTRACT LIST

Ms. Lowe presented the contract list.

MOTION

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the contract list as presented in the Board packet. Ms. Mangold seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Directors of Medina Regional Hospital District did not go into Closed Session, this date of September 25, 2023.

15. CONSIDER ANY NECESSARY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION INCLUDING APPROVAL OF THE CREDENTIALING COMMITTEES APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS MADE BY THE MEDICAL STAFF

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



Tim Hardt, President



Tony Johnson, Secretary