

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

January 22, 2024

TIME AND PLACE: The Medina County Hospital District Board of Directors met in regular session on Monday, January 22, 2024, 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
Judy Winkler, Director
Zachary Windrow, MD, 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
Louisa Cuellar, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

ABSENT:

GUEST: Eli Lainhart, VP of Information Technology

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 seven members being present at that time and representing a quorum.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** There were no members of the public present.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. **BOARD EDUCATION – ONBOARD RESOURCE DOCUMENT RETRIEVAL & ANNUAL HIPAA TRAINING – ELI LAINHART, VP OF IT** Mr. Lainhart presented a brief overview of the OnBoard Resource Document Retrieval process and a HIPAA Training PowerPoint.
4. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
A. Regular Session of December 18, 2023 The Minutes from the Board Meeting of December 18, 2023, were approved as presented in the Board Packet.

5. **CONSIDER
APPROVAL OF CHIEF
NURSING OFFICER'S
REPORT**

Ms. Deen reported that Medina Healthcare System case managers will implement a strategic plan to provide information and resources about MHS swingbed services to all Methodist facilities and the community. The Swingbed Coordinator, ED Case Manager, and CNO met with Methodist Metropolitan Case Management team to discuss Medina's swingbed program and answer any questions about the program. In February, the case management team will meet with Methodist case management leadership team to help build relationships and improve collaboration between facilities. Ms. Deen reported the Rehabilitation Department continues to increase in volume, year after year. The department has made minor improvements to increase treatment space. In addition, MHS plans to expand the department in the near future. Ms. Deen reported that in 2023, there was a 13% decrease in the total number of annual deliveries and a 23% increase in agency staff utilization. Ms. Deen mentioned that the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a neonatal follow up visit within three to five days after birth to monitor the baby's growth and development. MHS has continuously worked through processes to ensure we are meeting best practice guidelines and have seen significant improvement in achieving follow up visits within 5 days of birth. Ms. Deen informed the Board that MHS is promoting the CNA program with local schools to provide students with an opportunity to start their healthcare career. The certified nursing assistant (CNA) is an entry level position that provides vital support to both patients and nurses.

6. **CONSIDER
APPROVAL OF CHIEF
OPERATING
OFFICER'S REPORT**

Ms. Lowe reported that part-time practitioners, Beth Andres, NP, and Jane Champion, NP, have been contracted and will provide weekend coverage at the Hondo RHC Weekend Clinic. Ms. Lowe reported Dr. Zhao will complete his orientation and begin at the Devine Clinic, February 1st. Dr. Zhao is also being certified as a workman's comp and DOT provider. Kaleigh Pruett, NP, will complete orientation and begin at the Hondo Clinic, February 1st. Ms. Lowe mentioned that Dr. Benjamin McCollum will be completing his military service January 31, 2024, and will be moving to Medina County. He will begin his orientation during the month of February, to build EMR templates so that he can start seeing patients in March. Ms. Lowe reported there has been a decrease in GI clinic visits and cases since Dr. Botla's retirement. Ms. Lowe continues to work within the contract to ensure a schedule is set each month with GI Alliance for providers. The search continues for a full time GI provider. Ms. Lowe reported Dr. Garcia and Dr. Movahed met with the MHS providers January 12, 2024, to discuss growth potential. Opportunities exist for telecardiology, imaging (with addition of a CT with the ability to perform angiograms) and management of low risk cardiac patients that are currently being transferred. Ms. Lowe reported Dr. Ian Thompson, III, Urologist, has expressed interest in providing urology services within the area. He toured the facility on January 4, 2024, and has been in continuous conversation with Ms. Lowe regarding opportunities to work together, both in the clinic and in the OR, to provide more services locally. Dr. Kyle Altman with Sports Medicine Associates of San Antonio works with Dr. Bud Curtis. He has expressed potential interest in a specialty clinic presence. Orthopedics is an opportunity for Medina, especially for small ortho procedures. This will remain a focus area. Ms. Lowe reported that in January 2024, Dr. Syed Rizvi and his partners (Dr. Hartsell for Medina) moved into a formal agreement with Tenet; this group will roll over to the Tenet agreement alongside Dr. Kuri, Cardiology (Hondo and Castrovilla), Dr. Sedlak, Urology (Hondo), and Dr. Rizvi, Vascular (Hondo). Ms. Lowe provided an update on the TORCH Clinically Integrated Network (CIN). Ms. Lowe reported Lab hit another record year in terms of volume. Outpatient services are primarily driven by the RHCs. There was a 5% decrease from November to December in total laboratory tests and an 8% growth from this year to last year. Ms. Lowe mentioned that the Hondo ISD has partnered with the Medina Healthcare System (MHS) through the Patient Care Technician (PCT) program available to juniors and seniors enrolled at Hondo ISD. MHS has hired and is training three students this month. Ms. Lowe informed the Board that a donor portal, utilizing DonorPerfect, has been initiated and is being built within the Medina Healthcare System's website. This system will also be used to publish and send out marketing information to the community. Ms. Lowe reported the MRI project hit a few hurdles this month during testing. The new target completion and training date is set for January 31, 2024. Ms. Lowe reported that due to staff absences, January has been a tough month in the call center. Mr. Campos, Call Center Director, will also take an active role in working with Mitel to ensure we are utilizing the phone system as designed. Ms. Lowe reported that looking at statistics, the past month (12/11/2023-01/17/2024) the center received 18,108 calls and handled 15,346. Ms. Lowe mentioned the Medina Healthcare Fund's Big Event will be in part a celebration of Medina Healthcare System's 60th Anniversary.

7. **CONSIDER MEDICAL STAFF REPORT** No Medical Staff Report.
8. **CONSIDER PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE REPORT** Mr. Johnson presented the public correspondence report for the month of January. There were 17 questionnaires returned from patients after receiving care at MHS. There was one comment from an email. There were no negative comments.

MOTION

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

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

9. **CONSIDER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT** Ms. Bell reported that Dr. Michael Zhao, Family Practice and Kaleigh Pruitt, NP, joined the Medina Healthcare System early January 2024. Ms. Bell reported final preparations are being made for the arrival of Dr. Benjamin McCollum in March. Ms. Bell mentioned the Hondo RHC will open for extended hours on February 3rd, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and February 4th, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.; walk in acute and scheduled appointments will be available. Ms. Bell reported that with the completion of the Medina Healthcare System's Master Plan, the system will identify an architectural firm to obtain a formal set of construction plans for renovations to the WIC building. Once completed, the project will be put out for bid. Ms. Bell reported that with continued growth in the Rehabilitation Department, it is recommended that expansion to the department move forward in 2024. This will meet the growing demand and prevent a loss in volume as more competition moves into the area. The number of patient and community complaints have increased as treatment space is cramped and wait times for new patients extend. Ms. Bell mentioned that the system is selecting signage options for the Board's review with the goal of presenting them at a future Board meeting. Ms. Bell reported that the Comprehensive Hospital Increase Reimbursement Program (CHIRP) will be replaced with a new supplemental payment program, 438.6B (ATLIS). TORCH supports the change. If CHIRP continued, 22 hospitals in Texas would have experienced no financial benefit. TORCH estimates \$100M will be gained statewide for rural hospitals versus CHIRP. TORCH estimates an average rural benefit of \$735,000 in gross funds prior to IGT. The new program is not fully structured at this time, but will consist of stages, like the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program. Ms. Bell reported that Dr. Garcia and Dr. Movahed, cardiologists with the Methodist Healthcare System, met with administration, physicians, and mid-level providers to discuss the possibility of expanding cardiology services at Medina Healthcare System. Dr. Garcia's intention is to have a full-time presence in Hondo and bring a cardiac service line to the hospital. The data confirms there are significant numbers of patients with non-life threatening cardiac conditions that would be appropriate for care at Medina Regional if a new cardiac service line was launched. Services would include diagnostics such as CT cardiac angiograms, echocardiogram studies, possible stress testing, a cardiac rehabilitation program and telecardiology for emergency and hospitalized patients. The physicians would like to pursue further and confirmed the demand is there for this specialized service line in Hondo. Ms. Bell mentioned that to launch a new cardiac service line, capital investments would be necessary. Items include a new CT scanner to perform CT cardiac angiograms, which is now the preferred non-invasive cardiac diagnostic study. A new CT scanner would also provide the imaging resolution that is the current standard of care. Medina Healthcare System's CT 64-slice scanner was purchased ten years ago from Baptist grant funds. Modern CT scanners provide 256, 320 and 640 CT slice counts. Expansion of the Rehabilitation Department is also necessary to accommodate a Cardiac Rehabilitation Program. Post surgical rehabilitation would begin after the patient is discharged from Texsan or another tertiary hospital and admitted to Medina Regional as a swingbed patient. Cardiac rehabilitation would begin in the hospital and transition to outpatient rehab post-discharge. More discussion is necessary before a formal proposal is ready for presentation to the Board; however, this opportunity could be a wonderful addition to the services offered by Medina Healthcare System. Ms. Bell reported that internal discussions involving the possibility of discontinuing hospital obstetrical services were accidentally leaked to the public and as such, the information is circulating within the community, causing anxiety for expectant mothers. The physicians will discuss at the January 19th formal Medical Staff Committee meeting to make a final decision so Administration can work with Methodist on a transition agreement if necessary and develop a public communications

strategy. Ms. Bell reported that the IT analyst position has been filled. Ms. Bell mentioned that Daily Operations and Safety Huddles, led by the Administrator On-Call, started January 8th. The attendees have expressed the meetings have improved communication and collaboration between departments. Ms. Bell informed the Board she was appointed to the Texas Hospital Association (THA) Rural Hospital Council for a two year term. Ms. Bell commented that the hospital responded to the recent winter weather without significant issues. Ms. Bell reported that the Information Technology Department will begin several Meditech integration projects in February, including Smart Pumps, Pathology, and bedside vital sign monitors. Ms. Bell provided the following legislative and industry updates: At the Federal Level, as of January 17th, lawmakers continue to race the clock to avert a partial shutdown with just four days left until funding for key government agencies expires. If an agreement is not reached, Medicaid and DSH payments will be impacted. The 340B Program is under additional scrutiny after Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), a long-time critic of the program, launched an inquiry into hospital use of the 340B program. Cassidy cited front-page reports in the New York Times and Wall Street Journal that raised questions about whether hospitals were good stewards of the program. Telehealth flexibility waivers for rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers will expire at the end of 2024. It is yet to be seen what a permanent solution for rural telemedicine would look like. At the State Level, the amendment to the Texas Medicaid Program for moms to receive care for 12 months versus 3 months post-delivery goes into effect on March 1st. TORCH received a \$7.4M grant to pilot telepsychiatry programs in rural hospitals based on the Texas Tech model. The pilot covers an 18-month timeframe with a small cohort of TORCH hospital selected for Cohort 1. Texas is expecting to receive funds over the next 18 years from settlement agreements with, and court judgements against, companies related to their role in the opioid crisis. Of the \$1.6B in settlement proceeds that the state received, the Texas Comptroller approved \$166.7M in opioid settlement payments for hospital districts. \$50M in healthcare grants appropriated during the last legislative session are now with committees to decide where the money will go. There are three primary “buckets” for grant appropriations including alternative payment models, rural hospital stabilization, and OB sustainability. TORCH anticipates most of the funding to be allocated to various rural hospital stabilization initiatives. Ms. Bell reported there is a new primary care office in Castroville, Carefront Medical Group. Ms. Bell mentioned that in December, departments decorated and participated in the Medina Healthcare System’s shopping cart contest and food drive. A total of 2,195 pounds of food was collected for the Medina County Food Pantry.

MOTION

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

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

10. CONSIDER FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Consider approval of the December 2023 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 December 2023 as presented during the Finance Committee meeting. Ms. Mangold seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

11. CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING 2024 BOARD MEMBER NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Mr. Hardt announced that there are four Board of Directors up for re-election in November 2024. The application and forms will be available in July 2024. Please contact Ms. Cuellar for assistance.

No action was taken

12. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING CERTIFIED HEALTHCARE TRUSTEE (CHT) INITIAL CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION** Ms. Bell announced that Mr. Johnson and Ms. Winkler are due for re-certification in April 2024. Please contact Ms. Cuellar for assistance.
No action was taken
13. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL PROGRAM EVALUATION FOR FY2023** Ms. Bell presented a brief summary of the Critical Access Hospital Program Evaluation for FY2023.
MOTION
Ms. Winkler made a motion to approve the Critical Access Hospital Program Evaluation for FY2023 as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Johnson seconded.
VOTE
The motion passed unanimously.
14. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING ANNUAL PROGRAM EVALUATIONS FOR MEDICAL CLINIC OF DEVINE, HONDO, AND CASTROVILLE** Ms. Lowe presented a brief summary of the Annual Program Evaluations for Medical Clinic of Devine, Hondo, and Castroville.
MOTION
Dr. Young made a motion to approve the Annual Program Evaluations for Medical Clinic of Devine, Hondo, and Castroville as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Bain seconded.
VOTE
The motion passed unanimously.
15. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM** Ms. Deen presented a brief summary of the Antibiotic Stewardship Program.
MOTION
Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the Antibiotic Stewardship Program as presented in the Board packet. Ms. Winkler seconded the motion.
VOTE
The motion passed unanimously.
16. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FOR MEDINA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM WITH AND WITHOUT NAMES** Ms. Bell presented the MHS organizational chart and noted it has been restructured to include the new Vice-President of Information Technology and other newly created positions.
MOTION
Dr. Young made a motion to approve the Organizational Chart for the Medina Healthcare System. Dr. Windrow seconded.
VOTE
The motion passed unanimously.
17. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING 2023 Q4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXPENSE REPORT** There were no changes made to the 2023 Q4 Board of Directors Expense Report.
MOTION
Ms. Mangold made a motion to approve the 2023 Q4 Board of Directors Expense Report as presented in the board packet. Mr. Johnson seconded.
VOTE
The motion passed unanimously.

18. CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING OB RN MEDICAL SCREENING AUTHORIZATION

Ms. Deen reviewed the changes to the OB RN Medical Screening Authorization, which included removing one nurse and adding two nurses.

MOTION

Mr. Bain made a motion to approve the OB RN Medical Screening Authorization as presented in the Board packet. Ms. Winkler seconded the motion.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

19. CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING CREDENTIALING OF BOTH ALLIED AND COURTESY STAFF

Ms. Bell presented the Allied and Courtesy Staff members that are due for appointment, reappointment, or retirement of privileges from the Medina Healthcare System.

MOTION

Ms. Winkler made a motion to approve the credentialing of both Allied and Courtesy Staff as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Bain seconded the motion.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Directors of Medina Regional Hospital District went into Closed Session, at 7:36 p.m., this date January 22, 2024. The Closed Session is being held pursuant to Section 551.074 of Texas Government Code.

CONSIDER PERSONNEL MATTERS – SECTION 551.074

The Board of Directors of Medina Regional Hospital District adjourned Closed Session at 7:41 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 7:43 p.m.

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

No action was taken.

22. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.



Tim Hardt, President



Tony Johnson, Secretary