

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEDINA COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

June 28, 2021

TIME AND PLACE:

The Medina County Hospital District Board of Directors met in regular session on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. at the Medina Regional Hospital Boardroom, 3100 Avenue E, Hondo, Texas.

PRESENT:

Tim Hardt, President
William "Bill" Bain, Director
Judy Winkler, Director
Dr. Carlton "Corky" E. Young, Vice President
Lori Krieger, Director
Tony Johnson, Secretary

Janice Simons, Chief Executive Officer
Kevin Frosch, Chief Financial Officer
Billie Bell, Chief Nursing Officer
Geoff Crabtree, Methodist Healthcare System
Randi Davis, Executive Administrative Assistant

ABSENT:

Zachary Windrow, MD, Director

GUESTS:

None

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 6:45 p.m. He stated for the record that the Board of Directors has seven members with six members being present at that time and representing a quorum.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** There were two members of the public present. No public comments were made.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA** The Minutes from the Regular Session of May 24, 2021 were approved as presented in the Board packet.
Consider Approval of Minutes
A. **Regular session**
May 24, 2021
4. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CNO REPORT** Ms. Bell discussed the Nurse Advisory Committee and praised the committee for their hard work. The group meets at least four times per year to discuss improvements to patient care and the nursing environment at the hospital. Ms. Bell also noted that the Laboratory Department experienced the busiest day on record on June 2, 2021, processing 369 specimens. Ms. Bell discussed the STRAC criteria and scores for the month of June. Medina Regional Hospital received a perfect score for meeting <30 minute transfer times for red criteria major traumas. Finally, Ms. Bell reported that the Labor and Delivery Department will resume offering Childbirth classes to the public in late summer. These classes had been halted due to COVID. On June 2' 2021, the Medical/Surgical Department celebrated 30 days without a patient fall.
5. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RURAL HEALTH CLINICS REPORT** Mr. Frosch reported that the Finance Department reclassified clinic charges this month to more accurately reflect the charges associated with each individual clinic. This was in response to some confusion in the values recorded by the clinics each month. He reported that all three clinic locations saw volumes that were above budget for the month, including telemedicine visits. Due to the reclassification process, Hondo reported a loss of \$680.5K for the month, Devine reported a gain of \$178.1K, and Castroville reported a gain of \$436.6K for the month. There were a total of 4,634 clinic visits for the month of May, including telemedicine appointments, which was greater than the budgeted amount of 4,325 visits.

6. CONSIDER MEDICAL STAFF REPORT

Ms. Simons noted that the current ENT that provides services to Medina County will no longer be providing services to our area. Medina Regional Hospital is in the process of locating an additional ENT provider.

MOTION

Ms. Winkler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Bain seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

7. CONSIDER PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Mr. Johnson presented the public correspondence report for the month of June. There were 42 total questionnaires returned from patients, including an online review. There were 2 negative comments for the month, one regarding cleanliness of the clinic restrooms and one for food that was not hot. Both problems have been addressed by hospital administration.

MOTION

Dr. Young made a motion to approve the Public Correspondence Report as presented. Mr. Bain seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSIDER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Simons started by thanking Mr. Hardt for attending the Directors Retreat for Department Managers at the hospital. The event went very well and had high attendance from hospital staff. Additionally, Mr. Hardt also attended Dr. Hanna McGehee's presentation to the Castroville Chamber of Commerce alongside Ashley Lowe, VP of Clinical Operations.

Ms. Simons reviewed updates to the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) guidelines regarding the 340B Program. The HRSA recently began cracking down on pharmaceutical companies who restrict covered entity access to medications because of their use of contract pharmacies. This is a huge win for hospitals like Medina Regional Hospital.

Ms. Simons noted that the hospital is looking for a speech therapist to work full-time. In other employee news, Peg Nester has officially retired and will be replaced by Amanda Zavala as the new Infection Preventionist.

Ms. Simons reviewed COVID-19 updates. The National Institute of Health announced recently that they are starting trials for COVID-19 booster vaccines to increase resistance to the virus. Ms. Simons reviewed the statistics for Medina County, noting that the percentage of the population 65 and older who had received at least one dose was 72.05% and slowly increasing. Methodist only had 34 COVID-19 positive patients reported, whereas they had upwards of 500 during the peak of the pandemic. The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) recently ruled that hospitals cannot require buttons, stickers, or the like to identify staff members who had received the COVID-19 vaccine, citing violations to the confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Finally, Ms. Simons reviewed legislative updates from the 87th session of the Texas Legislature. Notable outcomes included the passing of HB4 and other broadband bills, which opened the door for clinics to expand telehealth services. HB1616 also passed which allows Texas to participate in an interstate compact for physicians to practice in states other than their state of licensure. Ms. Simons also discussed the approval of an additional \$123.5 million dollars across the next two years for rural hospitals providing Medicaid services to bring hospitals nearer to their cost with Medicaid payments.

MOTION

Ms. Winkler made a motion to approve the CEO report as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

**9. CONSIDER FINANCIAL REPORT
A. Consider approval of the May 2021 Financial Report**

Mr. Frosch stated that this month was a positive month for the hospital overall. Dr. Young asked if any of the Board members had lingering questions from the Finance Committee Meeting.

There were no changes to the report presented in the board packet.

MOTION

Dr. Young made a motion to approve the Financial Report for May 2021 as presented during the Finance Committee meeting. Ms. Winkler seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

10. REVIEW, CONSIDER, AND APPROVE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR END 09/30/2022

Ms. Simons noted that there are four areas of major improvement that hospital administration highlighted for the year. The first is to increase the overall patient experience in the Rural Health Clinics by improving phone capabilities, recruiting additional staff members, and selecting a new Electronic Health Record system. The second area of improvement is to increase the volume of outpatient visits by expanding telehealth options to patients, increasing clinic space and providers, enhancing outreach efforts, and expanding the Rehabilitation Department reach within the community. The third major area was improving Information Technology (IT) Operations by installing a new phone system, installing a new camera system to increase safety, and updating existing IT infrastructure. Finally, hospital administration aims to increase gross revenue for the fiscal year by implementing Clinically Integrated Network (CIN) capabilities, increasing radiology visits, and partnering with a third-party company to increase swing bed admissions. Ms. Simons noted that the biggest priority at the moment is updating the phone system. The plan is attached.

MOTION

Mr. Bain made a motion to approve the Medina Healthcare System Strategic Plan for Fiscal year end 09/30/2022 as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Johnson seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

11. REVIEW, CONSIDER, AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF TWO CHEMISTRY ANALYZER MACHINES FOR THE LABORATORY DEPARTMENT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$287,800

Ms. Bell discussed the need for the two new chemistry analyzers. The current machines are over 10 years old and have passed their level of optimal use. The new analyzers will allow the Laboratory Department to increase their efficiency while decreasing their turnaround time for many tests. Additionally, these machines will allow the lab to offer additional COVID-19 antibody testing in-house that was previously not available, which may be particularly relevant when COVID-19 booster vaccines become available to the public. Each machine has extra upgrades for future years that could allow the hospital to increase the menu of tests offered to patients to bring at least 5 additional lab tests in-house.

MOTION

Ms. Winkler made a motion to approve the purchase of two chemistry analyzer machines for the Laboratory Department in the total amount of \$287,800 as presented in the Board packet. Dr. Young seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

12. REVIEW METHODIST HEALTHCARE SYSTEM UPDATES

Mr. Crabtree officially announced his retirement from rural healthcare and thanked the Board of Directors profusely for allowing him to attend meetings and provide guidance to hospital administration. Mr. Crabtree noted that Marc Strode, the current CEO at Methodist Stone Oak, will be replacing his role. Mr. Strode will make his first appearance at the July Board meeting, which will be Mr. Crabtree's final meeting with the Board. Board members and hospital administration expressed gratitude to Mr. Crabtree for his continued help throughout the years and his constant friendship.

MOTION

There was no motion taken on this item

13. REVIEW, CONSIDER, AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$85,000

Mr. Frosch explained that the Board of Directors had approved \$992,500.00 in February 2020 for Information Technology (IT) Department upgrades. The IT Department was able to save money on the purchase of Windows 10 software and is requesting a reallocation of those funds toward the purchase of access control systems in the total amount of \$85,000.

MOTION

Mr. Bain made a motion to approve the purchase of access control systems in the total amount of \$85,000 as presented in the board packet. Ms. Winkler seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

14. REVIEW, CONSIDER, AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A VIDEO SECURITY SYSTEM IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$82,000

Mr. Frosch explained that the Board of Directors had approved \$992,500.00 in February 2020 for Information Technology (IT) Department upgrades. The IT Department was able to save money on the purchase of Windows 10 software and is requesting a reallocation of those funds toward the purchase of a video security system in the total amount of \$82,000.

MOTION

Ms. Krieger made a motion to approve the purchase of a video security system in the total amount of \$82,000 as presented in the board packet. Mr. Johnson seconded.

VOTE


The motion passed unanimously.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Directors of Medina Regional Hospital District did not go into Closed Session, this date of June 28, 2021.

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