

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

August 28, 2023

TIME AND PLACE:

The Medina County Hospital District Board of Directors met in regular session on Monday, August 28, 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
Judy Winkler, 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

ABSENT:

Zachary Windrow, MD, Director

GUEST:

Brandon Haby, MHS Facilities Superintendent
Keith Lutz, Medina County Judge

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 six members being present at that time and representing a quorum.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** There were no members of the public present.
3. **REVIEW, CONSIDER,
AND APPROVE
APPOINTMENT OF A
NEW BOARD
MEMBER** Mr. Hardt recommended appointing Mary Mangold as the new Board Member.

MOTION

Mr. Bain made a motion to approve the appointment of Mary Mangold as the new Board Member. Ms. Winkler seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. **CONSIDER
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES** The Minutes from the Board Meeting of July 24, 2023, were approved as presented in the Board Packet.
 - A. Regular Session
July 24, 2023

5. **BOARD EDUCATION
MRI PROJECT
UPDATE** Mr. Haby presented an MRI Project update. Mr. Haby informed the Board the bid notice was posted and published in the Hondo Anvil newspaper. Sealed bids will be accepted until 5:00pm, August 29, 2023. Mr. Haby reported the mobile MRI will be in the parking lot in front of the cafeteria, with the tentative arrival date of September 17th. The mobile MRI has the capabilities to perform all services.

6. **CONSIDER
APPROVAL OF CNO
REPORT** Ms. Deen reported she met with Dr. Margie Liek, Director of the SWTJC Nursing Program to discuss the Fall 2023 Clinical Rotations for nursing students. Ms. Deen mentioned that contracts are being reviewed to evaluate performance and the necessity for services. Ms. Deen reported agency utilization has been reduced, with the ED currently having no agency staff. Ms. Deen reported since the Meditech transition, MHS has continued to improve and implement processes to ensure patient safety when administering medications. Ms. Deen mentioned she and ED Director, McKenzi Cox, will meet with Medina County officials, September 15th, to discuss how to better meet the needs of the community and implement a Mental Health Restoration initiative.

7. **CONSIDER
APPROVAL OF COO
REPORT** Ms. Lowe reported a letter of interest was sent to Dr. Benjamin McCollum, a prospective FP/OB physician, on August 15th. The search for an additional Family Practitioner continues. Ms. Lowe reported she and Ms. Bell will be interviewing Dr. Andrew Hild, a prospective FP/OB candidate. Ms. Lowe mentioned job postings for a full-time and part-time Nurse Practitioner and/or Physician Assistant have been posted. There are three candidates interested. Ms. Lowe reported that there is a major need for GI specialists in the area; connection with the current group has become very difficult. Eye Associates/NVision will meet with Ms. Lowe to discuss volume both in surgery and clinic, and opportunities to add an additional surgeon to the team in Hondo. Ms. Lowe informed the Board that Lab is on track to hit another record year in terms of volume. Outpatient services are primarily driven by the clinics and there is an 18% growth in July from this year to last year. Ms. Lowe reported the TORCH Clinically Integrated Network program has seen significant strides in the month of July and the trend remains in August. Ms. Lowe invited the Board to the Grand Reopening of the Café on September 6, at 11:00 a.m. Ms. Lowe reported social media and website traffic has increased due to a more frequent presence online. Ms. Lowe mentioned the Call Center Director is expected to start September 18th. Ms. Lowe reiterated the MRI project is on schedule and the mobile unit has been identified and the contract signed. The mobile unit will be placed in front of the hospital on the south side of the front parking lot. This is the optimal space for patient access and power.

8. **CONSIDER MEDICAL
STAFF REPORT** Ms. Bell reported the physicians are getting acclimated to the Meditech electronic medical system.

9. **CONSIDER PUBLIC
CORRESPONDENCE
REPORT** Mr. Johnson presented the public correspondence report for the month of August. There were 23 questionnaires returned from patients after receiving care at MHS. There was one positive comment submitted online. There was one negative comment for the month.

MOTION

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

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

10. **CONSIDER CHIEF
EXECUTIVE
OFFICER'S REPORT** Ms. Bell reported that if Dr. Benjamin McCollum accepts the letter of intent he will transition from the army into civilian practice and anticipates a start date by the end of 2023. Ms. Bell mentioned Senior Leaders and the Facilities Superintendent met with O'Connell Robertson on August 9th. Priorities include correcting and improving signage, enhancing the front entrances of the hospital and Emergency Department, and remodeling the former WIC Building. Ms. Bell informed the

Board that reporting for Tier 2 COVID-19 in Healthcare Relief Grant for Rural Hospitals was completed August 16 as a requirement of Texas Senate Bill 8, signed in 2021, which allocated \$75M to support Rural Hospitals impacted by COVID-19. Ms. Bell reported that Medina Healthcare System, in collaboration with Methodist Healthcare, is completing the annual budget process to finalize the FY2024 budget. Ms. Bell announced that Medina Healthcare System was awarded a \$75,000 grant from the State Office of Rural Health to purchase 20 computer workstations for nurses and other patient care staff. There is a 25% match required for the grant. The purchase is planned for September 2023. Ms. Bell reported that HR and Senior Leadership are working with HCA to review our compensation and job classification model. To maintain competitiveness and alignment with the current market, we anticipate necessary increases in most classifications. Ms. Bell reported the 340B drug discount program for safety-net providers is facing renewed scrutiny. Ms. Bell reported on July ED transfer destinations, with 70% going to Methodist; Trauma patients are generally transferred to University Hospital. Ms. Bell mentioned a Pump Room has been created to provide a calm and private space to support breastfeeding employees as a dedicated location for pumping. Ms. Bell reported that with the EMR change to Meditech, blood administration is now documented electronically using barcode scanning. The process for conducting routine blood transfusion compliance audits was revamped to correspond with the enhanced patient safety technology. Ms. Bell mentioned she met with Medina County Judge Lutz to discuss emergency management coordination between the county and hospital. The county now can launch the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). IPAWS is the Federal Emergency Management Agency's national system for local alerting that provides authenticating emergency and life-saving information to the public through mobile phones. This will be beneficial to Medina Healthcare System as immediate notification will occur when there are emergency events, such as active shootings, chemical spills, disasters, etc. that may impact the hospital, giving staff valuable time to prepare for a response. Ms. Bell informed the Board that Employee Service Awards will be reinstated in early 2024, after ceasing the celebrations during the pandemic. Ms. Bell reported that the CMS transition from DSRIP to Directed Payment Programs has resulted in a Medicaid formula calculation change that will exclude several Texas rural hospitals from continuing to qualify for DSH funds in 2024. 19 of 70 rural hospitals, including Medina Regional, will no longer be eligible for DSH funding in 2024. This will result in a revenue loss of approximately \$666,000 per year. Ms. Bell reported the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan is a new program required under the Inflation Reduction Act in which Part D sponsors must provide enrollees the option to pay out-of-pocket prescription drug costs in the form of capped monthly payments over the course of the plan year, instead of all at once at the pharmacy, beginning in 2025. Ms. Bell presented volume graphs for the last 5 years of Obstetrics, Emergency Department, and Surgical Services. Totals for 2023 are projected and therefore, final volumes may change by the end of the year. These reports give a visual representation of areas of opportunity for services. Ms. Bell mentioned the Medina Healthcare System will participate in an Active Shooter Civilian Training Class on August 29 at Dimmit Regional Hospital in Carrizo Springs.

MOTION

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

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

**11. CONSIDER
FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discuss Tax and Budget Calendar and Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Frosch presented and discussed the no-new revenue and voter approval rates. The 2022 adopted rate was 0.0937. The 2023 No-New Tax Rate is 0.0825, and the 2023 Voter-Approval Rate is 0.0898. It was noted that the Tax District Maximum rate is 0.1000, but that any proposal exceeding the 0.0898 Voter-Approval Rate would require an election. Mr. Frosch provided an information sheet showing several different possible rates that could be proposed, along with the expected collections associated with each rate and the tax impact to the average Medina County household. Mr. Frosch also presented the annual cost of charity & indigent programs, noting that there was a deficit in the gross cost of those programs relative to the annual tax support, which has to be subsidized by hospital operations. Mr. Frosch also noted that the gross tax levy is important for the district in the District's participation in the 1115 waiver. In this state-federal arrangement, local district tax levies are a primary source of funding for the state's funding to draw down federal match dollars associated with quality programs that help close the Medicaid funding shortfall. Mr. Frosch and the administration recommended that the Board adopt a new rate of 0.0898 for the upcoming fiscal year. It was noted that following the proposal at tonight's meeting, the Board will need to hold a formal public hearing to allow Medina County citizens to make comments on the proposed rate. The public hearing is planned for September 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the hospital Boardroom. The Board will have the option to approve the tax rate at that meeting if so desired.

Mr. Frosch asked if any Board members had any additional questions regarding the proposed tax rate of 0.0898 or any of the calculations.

12. CONSIDER, APPROVE, AND RECORD VOTE ON TAX RATE PROPOSAL

MOTION

Ms. Winkler made a motion to propose a new tax rate of 0.0898 for the upcoming fiscal year as recommended by Mr. Frosch and the hospital administration. Mr. Bain seconded the motion.

Mr. Hardt voted yes. Dr. Young voted no. Mr. Bain voted yes. Ms. Winkler voted yes. Mr. Johnson voted yes. Mary Mangold voted yes. Dr. Windrow was absent.

VOTE

The motion passed

13. REVIEW, CONSIDER, AND APPROVE COMPLIANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S QUARTERLY REPORT (2ND QUARTER)

Ms. Lowe reviewed the quarterly report for the Compliance Advisory Committee. Each of the committee reports were included in the packets for Board review.

MOTION

Ms. Winkler made a motion to approve the Compliance Advisory Committee's Quarterly Report for the 2nd Quarter as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Johnson seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

14. REVIEW, CONSIDER, AND APPROVE PUBLIC COMMENTS AT BOARD MEETINGS POLICY - NEW

Ms. Bell stated this is a new policy that establishes protocols for Public Comments during a Board Meeting.

MOTION

Dr. Young made a motion to approve the Public Comments at Board Meetings as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Bain seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Directors of Medina Regional Hospital District went into Closed Session, at 8:45 p.m., this date August 28, 2023. 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 now adjourns its Closed Session at 8:52 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 8:53 p.m.

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

No action was taken.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.



Tim Hardt, President



Tony Johnson, Secretary