

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEDINA COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

May 20, 2024

TIME AND PLACE: The Medina County Hospital District Board of Directors met in regular session on Monday, May 20, 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
Judy Winkler, Director
Zachary Windrow, MD, Director
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
Louisa Cuellar, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

ABSENT:

GUEST:

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 was one member of the public present.
3. **BOARD EDUCATION Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Compliance Training for Executives & Board Members (Ashley Lowe)** Ms. Lowe presented a video and a brief overview of the Accountable Care Organization Compliance Training for Executives & Board Members.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
A. Regular Session of April 22, 2024 The Minutes from the Board Meeting of April 22, 2024, were approved as presented in the Board Packet.
5. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHIEF NURSING OFFICER'S REPORT** Ms. Deen reported the following: Nurses Week was celebrated May 6-12. Connie Boehme, Med Surg LVN, was awarded the Daisy Award. Jackie Williams, RN, was promoted to Maternal Services Director and Lupita Hernandez, RN, was named the new ED Director; they bring a combined 50 years of nursing and leadership experience to Medina Healthcare System. Andrea Casas, Quality

Director, was appointed to the Texas Hospital Association's Quality and Patient Safety Council. The Rehabilitation department continues to increase patient volume. Ms. Deen provided an overview of HCAHPS report. Kristi Evans, Trauma Program Manager, will attend the Summer Safe Seminar coordinated by the Medina County Sexual Assault Response Team. Medina Regional Hospital has partnered with TORCH and Texas Tech University Health Science Center to provide tele-psychiatry services in the Emergency Department.

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

Ms. Lowe reported the following: Medina Healthcare System is focused on recruiting an additional Physician Assistant and/or Nurse Practitioner; in the interim, agency contract Physician Assistant and/or Nurse Practitioners are being brought in to provide coverage at the clinics. An offer was made to a Pediatric PA. If she accepts, she will join the team at the end of May. Dr. Jorge Munoz, Gastroenterologist, was provided with an agreement for review. He would join the Medina as a full time GI. Projected start date is September 2024. Dr. Ian Thompson, Urologist, has been provided with an agreement for review. He will join the Specialty Clinic team and offer ER consultation 24/7. Dr. Brandon Stein, Orthopedic, continues to express interest in collaborating with Medina Healthcare System. Medina connected with the Methodist Westover Hills Physician Relation Team to ensure we work collaboratively on patient needs in this area. The Baptist Health Foundation grant was approved for full submission to assist in the enhancements of the new CT scanner at Medina. TORCH Clinically Integrated Network update was provided. Lab continues to see an increase in lab test completed. Olivia Stone, Marketing and Communication Coordinator joined the Medina Team on April 15. Social media, website, and marketing updates were provided. In addition to the PCT program, Texas A&M joined us onsite to discuss Medical Student Engagement Program. The weekend clinic continues to be a success. Valeria Norris started her role as the Call Center Director, May 20. She will be in training for a few weeks before taking the helm. The customer service percentage remained high and the response to calls rate is in line with the goal. The focus will now shift to the quality of the interactions with our callers.

7. **CONSIDER MEDICAL
STAFF REPORT**

Dr. Windrow provided a verbal report concerning the CT scan purchase. He recommended we get input from radiologist and cardiologist to ensure we make the best choice .

8. **CONSIDER PUBLIC
CORRESPONDENCE
REPORT**

Mr. Johnson presented the public correspondence report for the month of May. There were 22 questionnaires returned from patients after receiving care at MHS. There were no negative comments.

MOTION

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

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

9. **CONSIDER CHIEF
EXECUTIVE
OFFICER'S REPORT**

Ms. Bell reported the following: Medina Healthcare System had strong rural health clinic and service line volumes in April. Information Technology reprogrammed the phone tree menu with clearer options to direct patients to the correct departments quickly. IT Informatics and Nursing Education developed a second day of orientation for newly hired staff. IT purchased a new software solution that allows the IT analysts improved visibility on the health of our computers. Project implementation started for contract management software. Since the installation of the new MRI, volume has increased; most of the volume growth is from specialists outside our system. Medina continues to market the new MRI and its capabilities to specialty practices in San Antonio. Federal Legislative Updates: Telehealth flexibilities were extended through September 2025. HB 8246, the Second Chance for Rural Hospitals Act, would open the Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) application process for rural hospitals that closed prior to 2014, of which 18 rural hospitals might qualify. Additional bills focused on the Change Healthcare data breach and various cybersecurity issues. CMS released a new online authenticator for price transparency verification. This validator tool can be used by hospitals to check price transparency machine-readable files for compliance. The new requirement for data compliance will go into effect July 1 of this year and data specifications on January 1, 2025. State Legislative Updates: On May 3, HHSC made the decision to make substantial changes to

supplemental payment programs, including delaying the launch of the ATLAS program. This was a big setback for rural hospitals, taking away the program that would replace the CHIRP program. After strong advocacy efforts by TORCH and THA, HHSC agreed to stand ATLAS back up. This ensures the 23 DSH hospitals (including Medina) that lost DSH funds effective 2024 after HHSC made changes to eligibility calculations, will now qualify for DSH effective 2025. Although HHSC would not agree to rescind eligibility requirements in 2024, the decision is still a win for rural hospitals. However, the compromise comes with a decrease in funding from the initial \$1.6B to \$600M. It sets the floor of \$275,000 per year per hospital.

Rural Healthcare Finance: The Speaker of the House and Ways Committee released the state's current rural healthcare focus which includes rural prenatal care, emergency detention rules and notable, no interim changes for facility fees, charity care studies and addition price transparency requirements.

On May 14, the Senate heard testimony around the health insurance market and workforce issues. The Rural Hospital Stabilization Program, a non-competitive grant, is imminent for rural hospitals. The first round of funds will go to Rural Emergency Hospitals, the second round to hospitals that qualify based on high, medium, and low risk scoring. High risk hospitals will receive \$200,000, medium risk \$175,000 and low risk \$100,000. The final and the third round of Rural Hospital Stabilization funding is slated for non-OB rural hospitals at \$35,000 per hospital.

MOTION

Ms. Winkler 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 April 2024 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 April 2024 as presented during the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

11. DEMONSTRATION OF THE CALL CENTER SOFTWARE

Due to technical difficulties, the demonstration was not presented.

12. DISCUSS AND APPROPRIATE ACTION ON A RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY ADJACENT TO HOSPITAL CAMPUS

There was discussion regarding the purchase of the property adjacent to the hospital, Dr. Delwin Wiemers dentist's office.

MOTION

Dr. Young made a motion to approve the purchase of the property adjacent to the hospital for the amount of \$350,000. Ms. Mangold seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

13. TORCH GRANT – TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER – TELE-PSYCHIATRY INITIATIVE

Ms. Bell provided a brief summary of the agreement between Texas Tech University Health Science Center (TTUHSC) and Medina Healthcare System. TTUHSC will provide Tele-Psychiatry consultations in the Emergency Department.

No action was taken.

14. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE MEDINA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM'S SCOPE OF

Ms. Deen noted that this is an annual review of the policy, and the only change is the updated contract list.

SERVICES POLICY

MOTION

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the Medina Healthcare System’s Scope of Services policy as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Bain seconded the motion.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

15. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE MEDINA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM’S ORGAN PROCUREMENT POLICY

Ms. Deen noted that this is an annual review of the policy and there have been no changes made since the last Board approval.

MOTION

Dr. Young made a motion to approve the Medina Healthcare System’s Organ Procurement policy as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Bain seconded the motion.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

16. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE MEDINA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM’S EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT AND ACTIVE LABOR ACT (EMTALA) PATIENT TRANSFER POLICY

Ms. Deen noted that this is an annual review of the policy and there have been no changes made since the last Board approval.

MOTION

Ms. Mangold made a motion to approve the Medina Healthcare System’s Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) Patient Transfer policy as presented in the Board packet. Dr. Windrow seconded the motion.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

17. CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING COMPLIANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE’S FIRST QUARTER REPORT

Ms. Lowe presented a brief summary of the Compliance Advisory Committee’s First Quarter report.

MOTION

Ms. Winkler made a motion to approve the Compliance Advisory Committee’s First Quarter report as presented in the Board packet. Dr. Windrow seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

18. DISCUSS ELECTION CALENDAR

The Election Calendar was reviewed and discussed.

19. DISCUSS BUDGET AND TAX RATE CALENDAR

The Budget and Tax Rate Calendar was reviewed and discussed.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Directors of Medina Regional Hospital District did not go into Closed Session, this date May 20, 2024.


21. CONSIDER ANY NECESSARY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

22. NEXT BOARD MEETING


June 24, 2024

23. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



Tim Hardt, President



Tony Johnson, Secretary