

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEDINA COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

August 26, 2024

TIME AND PLACE:

The Medina County Hospital District Board of Directors met in regular session on Monday, August 26, 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 present, representing a quorum.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** There was a member of the public present.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
A. Regular Session of July 22, 2024 The Minutes from the Board Meeting of July 22, 2024, were approved as presented in the Board Packet.
4. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHIEF NURSING OFFICER'S REPORT** Ms. Deen reported the following: In our continued dedication to provide continuing education opportunities to our teams, MHS hosted an in-person nurses' skills fair since the Covid-19 pandemic. Multiple MHS leaders attended the annual Global Leadership Summit hosted by Methodist Healthcare System. Ms. Deen attended a two-day CNO Critical Access Hospital Conference. Several leaders attended an EMTALA webinar. Medina Healthcare System participated in and supported the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Clean Hands Count campaign. Even with the increase in ED volume, the time from ED arrival to ED department and decision time continue to meet benchmark. Concord Medical Group will transition as the new Emergency Department provider group on August 30th. ED services have seen a 26% increase in volume since 2020 and are projected to have the highest volume ever. Continued improvements are being made in the ED to assist with the increase in volume to include training and streamlining a triage

process to ensure patients are seen in a timely manner. The state of the art InTouch Vici tele-stroke robot in the ED provides the community with 24/7 access to stroke experts, ensuring the patients receive the best possible care. It is equipped with video and audio capabilities, allowing neurologists to assess patients, review scans and collaborate with our medical staff.

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

Ms. Lowe reported the following: Contract Agency Physician Assistant, Eddie Gelber, is no longer providing services at the Medical Clinic of Devine. Mary Ramos, NP, started seeing patients on August 22nd. Jordan Adams, PA, is currently working at the Medical Clinic of Castroville exclusively but will begin rotating to all three locations in October.

McKenzie Knapick, PA, tendered her resignation due to family obligations. Recruitment for this position in Castroville is underway. Claudia Terrazas, PA, was interviewed and offered the position. She is currently studying to take the exam for licensure.

Brook Anderson, MD, PHY-3, at UT Health met the team on August 20th. She is from Devine and interested in working as a family practice physician within our clinics/hospital. She will shadow the providers when able during her last year of residency, which she is expected to complete June 2025.

Dr. Ian Thompson, Urologist, and his administrator were onsite August 2nd. He will be at the clinic on Fridays and will offer ER consultation 24/7. We anticipate a start date of October 2024.

Orthopedic specialty continues to be a focus for development. Dr. Brandon Stein met with the physician team on July 26th and Ms. Lowe followed up on the lease agreement in August. Administrators have changed for his practice and a meeting is scheduled with the new leadership team at the end of August.

The Hondo lease agreement with Texas Digestive Disease Consultants will terminate October 31, 2024. Last OR patient will be on October 29th.

Dr. Jorge Munoz, Gastroenterologist, will begin September 2, 2024.

ChartSpan is live and working alongside Jackie Tschirhart. As of August 22nd, there have been 173 patients enrolled in the Chronic Care Management Program.

A brief summary of the Community First documentation audit and COLA inspection in the Lab Department were provided. Main Street update was provided.

The lab continues to excel in terms of volume. New testing equipment will be coming in Fall 2024.

Weekend Clinic continues to stay consistent with volume. As of August 18th, the clinic has seen a total of 1,417 patients. Tricia Rochat, NP, joined the team of providers this month.

The Student PCT program will start once again. This opportunity will be extended to other school districts.

The Call Center received 14,826 calls in July. Dropped calls totaled 1,075. The service level was 93%. The daily report will show a downturn in response in relation to previous years. There are a few members of the team on FMLA and that is the primary attributor to this decrease.

6. **CONSIDER MEDICAL
STAFF REPORT**

Dr. Windrow commented there are no issues/concerns to report on behalf of the medical staff.

7. **CONSIDER PUBLIC
CORRESPONDENCE
REPORT**

Mr. Johnson presented the public correspondence report for the month of August. There were 16 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.

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

Ms. Bell reported the following: A graph of Total Visits was presented.

Growth – Project updates presented: The roof for the covered walkway is in progress. A pre-bid meeting for the new administration building was held on August 22nd. Bids will need to be submitted by September 9th at 5:00 P.M. The bid opening is scheduled for September 10th at 10:00 A.M. with Senior Leadership to select a contractor. The previous owner of the building designated as a new Specialty Clinic removed all equipment from the building on August 12th. MHS will move forward with plans to renovate the space, modeling the design of Specialty Clinic #3. Brandon Haby is working with Frances Merecka, Engineer at TXDOT, on the drainage project approved by the board at the June 2024 meeting. Renovations at the Patient Financial Services Building are almost complete. The call center had new carpet installed and new modular

furniture, which adds workstations to accommodate staff growth will be installed August 26th and 27th.

With the Board's approval at the July 2024 meeting, Medina Healthcare System (MHS) has engaged with GRG Architecture to develop a set of plans to expand clinical space for the Rehabilitation and Laboratory Departments. Approximately 5,000 square feet will be added to the Rehabilitation Department to accommodate continued growth of all department disciplines, Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapies. The renovation will give the Laboratory Department an additional 1,500 square feet to accommodate new equipment as more testing is brought in-house. The project will also revamp the outside of the Brucks Annex entrance to serve as a convenient additional outpatient point of entry. The Medical Clinic of Castroville is experiencing rapid volume increases because of continued development on the east and northeast sides of the county. This, in addition to Dr. McCollum joining the practice, has maxed out current square footage. The need for expansion is critical and time sensitive to ensure market share and to continue accepting new patients. Further recommendation to the board will be forthcoming from Senior Leaders.

MHS will receive a July payment from Main Street at the end of August. This payment results from successful gap closure of healthcare needs for Medicare Advantage products through Care Coordination between Main Street and Medina Healthcare System on the ambulatory side.

Advocacy and Legislative updates were provided: On August 8th, Governor Abbott issued an executive order requiring hospitals to collect hospital and cost data on treatment to undocumented migrants. The Texas Hospital Association (THA) has been working to analyze and clarify numerous elements of the order and convened a dedicated team to quickly review the order, troubleshoot questions and gain further perspective from state officials and Texas hospitals. There has been confusion regarding which hospitals must comply, how data and immigration status will be asked for and collected and how the order squares with privacy requirements and legal requirements for hospitals to screen and stabilize all patients.

On August 20, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas set aside the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) ban on most non-compete agreements. This means the rule will not be enforced or take effect on September 4 as intended. Judge Ada E. Brown ruled that the FTC does not have the authority to issue such a broad action and that the rule was "arbitrary and capricious." An appeal by the FTC is likely.

IT updates provided: Medical Equipment Auction House Partnership: The IT Department facilitated the discovery and onboarding of a medical equipment auction house. This initiative will assist in clearing out outdated or unused medical equipment, improving storage management, and generating potential revenue from auctioned items. DrFirst Project: Automated Pharmacy Refill Workflow We have initiated a project with DrFirst, focusing on creating automated workflows for inbound pharmacy refill requests. The goal is to streamline the refill process, reduce manual input, and improve efficiency for both the providers and clinical staff. Virtual Meditech Site Visit: Our facility successfully hosted Rooks Medical Center for a virtual Meditech site visit. CrowdStrike Outage Recovery: Our facility, along with many others nationwide, was impacted by a recent CrowdStrike outage. The IT department quickly responded to recover systems and minimize disruption. Full operations were restored, and mitigation strategies are being evaluated to prevent future impacts. Not all our computers were affected so the impact wasn't as debilitating as experienced by other companies using this software. CrowdStrike continues to be a valuable partner in our overall cybersecurity plan, and we don't have any plans to replace them currently.

The August 22nd edition of the Hondo Anvil Herald published an article written by Ms. Bell, outlining a recent trip to Washington, DC by several members of the TORCH Board and TORCH President, John Henderson. The article outlines the current legislative challenges for rural healthcare and advocacy efforts by TORCH.

A compensation analysis was completed with assistance from HCA and TORCH to determine current compensation structures and market drivers for employee compensation. A full review of this data is in process by the senior leadership team with recommendations pending.

MOTION

Ms. Winkler made a motion to approve the CEO report as presented in the Board packet. Ms. Mangold seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

9. CONSIDER FINANCE REPORT

A. Consider approval of the July 2024

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 2024 as presented during the

Financial Report

B. Discuss Tax and Budget Calendar and Upcoming Meetings

Finance Committee meeting. Ms. Winkler seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Frosch presented and discussed the Tax and Budget Calendar and upcoming meetings. No action taken. Informational only.

10. CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION ON REPORT OF EFFECTIVE AND VOTER APPROVAL TAX RATE AND DISCUSS TAX RATE

Mr. Frosch presented and discussed the no-new revenue and voter approval rates. The 2023 adopted rate was 0.0898. The 2024 No-New Revenue Rate is 0.0854, and the 2024 Voter-Approval Rate is 0.0929. It was noted that the Tax District Maximum rate is 0.1000, but that any proposal exceeding the 0.0929 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 and the administration recommended that the Board adopt a new rate of 0.0929 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 16, 2024 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 0.0929 or any of the calculations.

MOTION

Dr. Young made a motion to propose a new tax rate of 0.0929 for the upcoming fiscal year as recommended by Mr. Frosch and the hospital administration. Mr. Bain seconded the motion.

11. RECORD VOTE ON PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER TAX RATE PROPOSAL

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

VOTE

The motion passed.

12. CONSIDERATION AND BOARD RESOLUTION ON THE FIRST DISBURSEMENT OF THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Frosch presented a brief overview of the First Disbursement of the opioid settlement distribution and the board resolution.

MOTION

Dr. Young made a motion to approve the First Disbursement of the opioid settlement distribution and the board resolution. Dr. Windrow seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

13. CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO ENGAGE WITH THE ARCHITECTURAL FIRM TO BEGIN THE REHABILITATION EXPANSION DESIGN PROCESS

Ms. Bell presented a request to engage with the architectural firm to begin the rehabilitation expansion design process.

MOTION

Mr. Bain made a motion to approve the request to engage with the architectural firm to begin the rehabilitation expansion design process. Dr. Young seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

14. CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING

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

**COMPLIANCE
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE'S
SECOND QUARTER
REPORT**

MOTION

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

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

**15. ANNUAL REVIEW OF
THE MEDINA
HEALTHCARE
SYSTEM'S PUBLIC
COMMENTS AT
BOARD MEETINGS
POLICY (ADM.045.1)
-- NO CHANGES**

Ms. Bell mentioned 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 Public Comments at Board Meetings policy (ADM.045.1) as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Johnson seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

**16. ANNUAL REVIEW OF
THE MEDINA
HEALTHCARE
SYSTEM'S ADVANCE
DIRECTIVES POLICY
(MHS.010.3) -
CHANGES**

Ms. Deen mentioned that this is an annual review of the policy and noted the changes made to the policy since the last Board approval.

MOTION

Ms. Winkler made a motion to approve the Medina Healthcare System's Advance Directives policy (MHS.010.3) as presented in the Board packet. Dr. Windrow seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

**17. ANNUAL REVIEW OF
THE MEDINA
HEALTHCARE
SYSTEM'S
WORKPLACE
VIOLENCE
PREVENTION POLICY
AND PLAN
(MHS.529.0) - NEW
POLICY**

Ms. Deen mentioned that this is a new policy that the state requires hospitals to have in place.

MOTION

Mr. Bain made a motion to approve the Medina Healthcare System's Workplace Violence Prevention Policy and Plan (MHS.529.0) as presented in the Board packet. Ms. Mangold seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

**18. CONSIDERATION
AND APPROPRIATE
ACTION REGARDING
MEDINA
HEALTHCARE
SYSTEM'S
ORGANIZATIONAL
CHART WITH AND
WITHOUT NAMES -
CHANGES**

Ms. Bell presented the MHS Organizational Chart and noted the changes.

MOTION

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the Organizational Chart for the Medina Healthcare System. Dr. Windrow seconded.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously.

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Directors of Medina Regional Hospital District did not go into Closed Session, this date August 26, 2024.

**20. CONSIDER ANY
NECESSARY ACTION
FROM EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

21. NEXT BOARD MEETING

Special Session September 16, 2024

22. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



Tim Hardt, President



Tony Johnson, Secretary