

**GOVE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER
QUINTER, KANSAS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
February 23, 2024**

The February meeting of the Gove County Medical Center Board of Trustees (BOT) was held on Friday, February 23, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room.

Members Present were:

Dave Polifka
Cheryl Remington
Deana Zerr
Greg Beougher (Out 10:20 – 10:24 am)
Terry Ostmeyer

Employees:

Conner Fiscarelli (Out 11:03 – 11:06 am, 11:07 – 11:08 am)
Rob LaPierre
Harry Sturgeon (Out 10:45 am)
Amber Yingling
Doreen Wente
Liz McDonald
Andrea Hargitt (Out 10:30 am)
Sonya Cap (Out 10:45 – 10:47 am)
Ericka Nicholson (Out 10:45 am)
Brad Mullins
Tara Thornburg

Visitors:

None

Chairperson, Dave Polifka called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

QUERY FOR ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

- Conner added report from Hays meeting attended by board members: Deana gave an overview of the meeting and touched on best practices and dashboards. Conner discussed what we are working on in regards to dashboards and new reporting options. Terry discussed Medicaid expansion and suggested meeting with legislators.
- Department tour: The board members will tour the Physical Therapy department today. This will be placed on the agenda and the board will tour a different department each meeting. In March, the board will tour the clinic.
- Rob LaPierre introduction: Conner introduced Rob LaPierre as the new CFO. Rob told the board a little about himself.

- Deana made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Cheryl seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

MINUTES:

Terry made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Greg seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

DEPARTMENT MANAGERS REPORTS:

PERSONNEL:

A handout displaying a list of resignations, new employees, current open positions, pending new employees, terminations and employees changing status or positions was reviewed.

- Conner stated that Nicki Graham, RT Supervisor, has turned in her resignation. Her last day is March 19, 2024. Her leaving presents challenges for GCMC. We currently have 24/7 RT call coverage. This coverage is needed due to the number of births we have. Nicki is also certified to score sleep studies. Sonya is working on what we need to be accredited and the possibility of out-source scoring. Conner discussed this at length.
- Conner stated Jamie Mense will be starting at Bluestem Clinic on March 26, 2024.
- Discussion held concerning the impact on GCMC by the new day care center.

QUALITY/RISK:

Nothing to discuss.

CEO:

RHIG: Conner updated the board on the Rural Hospital Innovation Grant.

ERC--Update: Connor had no update at this time. He stated the IRS put a freeze on ERC payments and is not sure if it is still frozen. We met the application deadline, but he doesn't know when we'll hear back.

HRSA--Update: Conner stated that we have submitted all of the required information. He has reached out asking for an update, but we may not hear back unless we owe money.

Aledade--Update: Conner has met with Aledade. There are no concerns on the IT or interfacing side of things. CPSI barriers are being worked on. Conner recommends moving forward and he will have a contract by the next meeting.

Jamie Mense start date/Grainfield Clinic: Jamie will be starting at Bluestem on Monday, February 26. She will have a two-week training session to learn all of the processes. A meet and greet is being planned for March 11 at Grainfield. Wade is working on marketing.

Interim Cost Report: Conner stated that we could potentially get back \$665,000 from CMS. Conner explained the process. There will be another audit from when LTC closed to July of 2024. We could see another large payment. Discussion held.

CFO Banking Permissions: Discussion held on what needs to be done to have Rob added. We will check with the bank to find out. Conner will bring the information to the next meeting.

Capital Items & Budgeting Process: Conner discussed wanting manager input on the capital budget items. Chris had meetings with each manager, but we may need to repeat the meetings.

- **Anesthesia Machine:** Our current machine is usable, but there are no parts available if it breaks down. If it is not working, our operating room and obstetrics department will shut down. Collett has received several quotes and worked with the CRNA's on what is needed. Sonya explained what the machine does. Greg moved to approve the purchase of a new anesthesia machine. Terry seconded and the motion carried 5-0.
- **Water Softener:** The water softener has been problematic for the past 1-2 years. We have had water/ice machine and OR sterilizer problems due to the hard water. Brad explained that why Glassman recommended the water softener be repaired rather than replaced. Discussion held. Cheryl moved that we go ahead with repairs to the water softener. Deana seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Compliance Program: Conner explained that we are not currently part of a system that monitors compliance. Without a program we could lose Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement. We have made changes but need to have a program to protect the organization during an audit. We have policies in place, but need something more in-depth. Ericka has explored many options for programs. Ericka offered to guarantee years of service in exchange for the education. The board was presented with an agreement from Trulu Health. Discussion held. Greg moved and Terry seconded to proceed with the education agreement from Trulu health without the years of service guarantee from Ericka. The motion carried 5-0.

CFO:

December 2023 Financials – Rob revisited the December financials. He went over the report in detail. Discussion held concerning the corrected numbers. The board members stressed a need to get information to the public so they understand where the hospital stands. They suggested the newsletter or newspaper. Discussion held.

NEW BUSINESS:

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

The Medical Staff recommended the BOT consider the following Providers for initial appointment and reappointment to the Medical Staff or Allied Health Professional Staff (AHP):

NEW:

- Paige Bartholemew, LSCSW—Full
- Kristian James LMSW—Full
- Jamie Mense, APRN/RN—Temporary
- Matthew Douglas, PA—Temporary
- Tiffany Tweedle—Temporary
- Catherine Hansing Pilson, DO—StatRad
- Abdullahi Jama—StatRad

After reviewing the above Provider applications, Cheryl made a motion to approve the Providers as presented. Deana seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

Interface Purchase--Brad:

Brad explained that this is a CMS mandate. We must be able to electronically transmit COVID reporting. If we miss reporting, there will be fines. This includes Antibiotic Stewardship as well. The requirement is 180 days of consecutive data must be reported within the year. This software is reimbursable. Terry moved and Deana seconded the purchase of the interface software. The motion carried 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Policy & Procedure:

- Fire Safety Plan 10-600
- Accounts Receivable Small Balance Write Off FI-001

Discussion held on various questions from the board about the two policies presented. Cheryl moved to accept the policies. Deana seconded and it carried 5-0.

Review Minutes:

The following January minutes were reviewed with no discussion.

- QA/QI Minutes
- PFAC Minutes
- Risk Management, Corporate Compliance and HIPPA Minutes

Other:

- There was discussion concerning the house on 5th Street. Conner stated that there is minimal cost involved annually, but it is not up to code and is not livable. Options such as tearing it down and making the space a parking lot, selling the house to have moved, or working with students to renovate it were all discussed. Conner will explore the options over the next few months.
- Election of the board was discussed. Conner and Ericka had a meeting with Mark Jeter of Jeter Law Office. Ericka and Rob have spoken with the commissioners. The commissioners are working through options. Conner discussed. This will be talked about more in depth at the next board meeting. There is no new information on voting.
- Conner discussed the community education that Ruth Blackwill has been doing. She is currently promoting Heart Month and did a wonderful job with the Suicide Prevention walk. Terry would like to see the hospital do something at the county fair this year. Conner will talk to Ruth about putting something together.

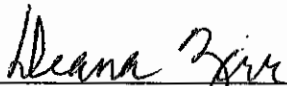
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no executive sessions held.

Adjourn:

There was no further business to discuss. Greg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terry seconded the motion and it carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.



Deana Zerr, Secretary