

Niobrara County Hospital District Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2020 5:30 pm

The Niobrara County Hospital District Board of Trustees met in the Training room at Niobrara Community Hospital in Lusk, Wyoming. In attendance were Mr. Mark Groh, Chairman; Mr. Travis Krein, Vice Chairman; Ms. Shelly Larson, Treasurer; Ms. Randi Ross, Secretary; and Mr. J.V. Boldon, member. Attending from RCI was Nick Doucette, CEO.

Mr. Groh called the Public Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

A quorum was verified.

Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Boldon moved to accept the agenda with the addition of COVID updates, Chargemaster increase and one meeting per month. Mr. Krein seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comments

Ms. Larson received a good report on ER care. Ms. Ross read a letter published in the Lusk Herald from the Jim Wasserburger family.

Old Business

Feasibility Study & SLIB Funding – the hospital has supplied BKD with all of the information they have asked for. The engagement letter has been signed. Phase 1 is eligible for CARES funding due to all of the changes made to the facility to accommodate COVID. Nick sat in on a Webinar with the SLIB board. It was negative in regard to providing funding for new facilities. The funds need to be spent, not allocated by the end of the calendar year. Nick has a call in to Senator Barrasso to discuss further.

Credentialing updates – Everything has been completed for Karen Alexander. Nick is working with Trish on Medicaid. An email was received today from WYO.gov for the qualified rate adjustment (QRA).

Hospital attorney -

Mr. Krien moved to make Kyle Ridgeway of WPN&D the hospital attorney of record. Mr. Boldon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

New Business

FY 2021 Budget approval

Mr. Krien moved to approve the 2021 budget. Mr. Boldon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried 4-0

Policy Approval – Nick presented the Prompt Pay Discount policy.

Ms. Larson moved to approve the policy. Mr. Krein seconded the motion. Discussion was held on the implementation. Motion carried 4-0.

Nursing coverage & recruitment program – currently the hospital is fully staffed. The ECF is using travelers at this point. Even though we can use LPNs Nick is looking for RNs for the ECF. This would cost less than having traveling LPNs and the RNs can share responsibility with the hospital. The hospital staff would share with ECF duties, as well.

Nick would like to set up a recruitment program where the interim DON and HR director interact with the students being trained through EWC to perhaps draw some of the students to work at NCH. He would also like to offer an employee referral program which would incentivize bringing others to our facility. The focus would be in key areas of need - referral bonuses of \$500 would be offered to the referrer and to the referree; after 6 months an additional \$500 would be offered for retention. The PRN issue will be addressed but will take time to change the culture.

ED provider coverage – Nick has a lead on a new provider; Dr. Falkenburg knows him. They would like to get him as locum tenens to see if he is a fit for NCH. Locum tenens don't require full credentialing.

Lusk EMS – It would be beneficial for NCH to operate the ambulance service. We can provide a higher level of service and it would be advantageous for cost reimbursement. Nick will schedule a meeting to talk with the mayor.

Contract approval process – at this point the board would like to see all new contracts.

Year-end write off & recovery plan – on June 30 NCH wrote off approximately \$260,000.00. This is bad debt expense for FY 2020. There is a tiered adjustment system. The financing program will be sent out on paper and emails for recovery. Hoping to have the Business Office fully staffed in August.

COVID update – we've just come through Alumni weekend, the 4th of July and the Legend of Rawhide so there is opportunity for increased exposure. We will be restricting visitors in the ECF through the end of the month. Visitation will be allowed outside but not inside the facility. It is prudent at this time to keep the public out of ECF for a couple of weeks. We are screening everyone who enters patient care areas. Hospital visitation is limited to one visitor per patient. Staff is required to wear masks in the facility when interacting with patients.

Chargemaster increase – Nick requested a blanket 3% increase in the chargemaster except for Pharmacy and Supply through the end of the year and will reevaluate then.

Ms. Larson moved to implement a 3% chargemaster increase. Mr. Krein seconded the motion. Nick feels a larger increase is warranted but is limited at this time due to insurance contracts. Motion carried 4-0.

One meeting per month –

Mr. Boldon moved to return to meeting once a month. Mr. Krein seconded the motion. Discussion was held. Since we are waiting to hear from HMS on a settlement, meeting more than once a month may be necessary. Mr. Boldon withdrew the motion and Mr. Krein withdrew the second. We will address again at the July 28 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.