

Niobrara County Hospital District Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2021 5:30 p.m.

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. Randi Ross, Secretary, Dan H. Hanson, Treasurer and J.V. Boldon, Member. Also in attendance from RCI were Nick Doucette, CEO and Dana Gilleland, CFO; from NCH, Tammy Basile, recorder and Monica Wilcox, Lusk Ambulance Service.

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

A quorum was verified.

Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Krein moved to accept the agenda with the addition of Security System under new business. Mr. Boldon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Acceptance of the Minutes

Mr. Boldon moved to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comments

EMS Community Needs Assessment

Monica Wilcox from the Lusk Ambulance Service approached the board about a community needs assessment for the ambulance. The state provides a grant of \$55,000.00 and requires a \$5,000.00 local match. The money is there, but they need permission from the community stakeholders.

Mr. Krein moved to support the ambulance needs assessment. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Groh will sign the document supporting the needs assessment.

Executive Operation Summary – February

Copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Financials

Patient revenue, less adjustments, on February 28 was \$89,597.59; operating revenue was \$10.12; non-operating revenue was \$34,242.60 for the total income of \$123,850.31. Operating expenses for the month were \$550,173.47; non-operating expenses were \$30.00. This results in a net income of -\$426,353.16

The cost report expense was high because we were late getting ECF information to Casey Peterson and they had to use higher paid people on the project. The auditors advised that the contractual adjustment be caught up in March.

Mr. Boldon moved to transfer the PPP money (\$885,115) to WGIF. Mr. Krein seconded the motion. This has been 100 % forgiven and we will get a better rate through WGIF. Motion carried 4-0.

Business office training is set up for next week. The employees signed documents regarding expectations of them. The \$30,000 from Care Infusions and the \$15,000 from BCBS have been received. A separate account has been set up for employee activities.

Old Business

WGIF Funds Transfers – new documents were signed by Mr. Groh as administrator. Mr. Hanson signed to removed Ms. Larson and add himself to the accounts.

Credentialing – VA issue is resolved and Clinic and Hospital are covered as of March 1. Medicaid denials – They changed contractor to HHS and all bills from February 19th forward were denied because they didn't have our facility license. The contact information was out of date as they were using Nick's HMS email. It is fixed now but there is a blackout period until April 1. It is highly unlikely that we will get paid for the time period of February 19-March 22. We have to wait until the blackout period is over to rebill. We have completed all attestations for everyone so there shouldn't be any more problems. Licenses and CAQH are current.

Laundry Room Renovation Approval – Contractors were here today, March 23; waiting on asbestos abatement which needs to be done before anything else happens. It will take about one week to complete abatement and six weeks for the project.

Audit – Dana had everything to Casey Peterson in mid-February. They are still waiting for patient information which the Business Office is providing by Thursday, March 25.

Strategic Planning Scheduling – Looking at end of April – possibly Tuesday, April 20, Tuesday, April 27 or Wednesday, April 28.

New Business

Yellowstone Presentation - there will be a 15–30-minute presentation in May.

Security System – Mr. Krein did a walk around the facility with law enforcement personnel. Anyone can enter our ER at any time which leaves the facility very vulnerable. This poses a significant risk to employees, staff and the facility as a whole. We have zero security measures in the facility. We can use COVID money for a security system. We have a quote for \$352,000.00 but will reach out for more quotes and have them reviewed by local law enforcement.

Mr. Krein moved to use COVID money for a temporary security system in ER and to pursue long term security for the facility. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Outpatient Growth Strategy & Long-Term Outlook – coming next week. Nick would like to diversify outpatient revenues and is looking into an intensive program of Outpatient Behavioral Health which is in network with United Healthcare.

Mr. Krein moved to enter Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Boldon seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned 9:40 p.m.

Next meeting is April 27, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

