



COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
BOARD MINUTES FOR JULY 18, 2024

**Call to Order** – Kay Olson called the meeting of the Cook County Hospital District Board of Directors to order on July 18, 2024 at 9:01 a.m. in the Board Room of North Shore Health.

**Recess to Closed Session** – Steve Frykman made a motion to recess into closed session permitted pursuant to Minn. Stat. §145.64 subd. 1(d) to discuss decisions, recommendations, deliberations or documentation of a Review Organization; pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 2 to discuss not public medical data. Mary Sanders seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**Closed Session Summary** - The Quality Improvement/Peer Review Report from June 19, 2024, the Medical Staff Report from June 19, 2024 and the July 17, 2024 Credentials Committee Report were discussed.

**Reconvene** - The North Shore Health Board reconvened in regular session at 9:30 a.m.

**Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Steve Frykman, Kay Olson, Mary Sanders, Randy Wiitala and Patty Winchell-Dahl

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Kimber Wraalstad, Troy Batchelor, Lori Ericson, Jason Yuhus, Michele Silence, Greg Ruberg, Doug Sanders, Gregg Westigard, Milan Schmidt and Sam Usem

**Public Comments:** None.

**Approval of Minutes for June 20, 2024** – Patty Winchell-Dahl made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2024 meeting as presented and the motion was seconded by Steve Frykman. The motion carried unanimously.

## Updates:

- a. **Clinic Board:** Because she was unable to attend the meeting, Kate Surbaugh shared a written summary of activities at Sawtooth Mountain Clinic (SMC). The Federal program to provide COVID-19 home tests is expected to end in the Fall of 2024. The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program grant is in the second year of the three-year grant.
- b. **County Board:** None.
- c. **Board Members:** Mary Sanders shared that she will not be filing for re-election to the Hospital Board. She thanked North Shore Health Board Members, staff and her husband, Doug, for their support during the last four years.

**Financial Reports:** Ms. Ericson presented the June 2024 financial statements. There was a Loss from Operations for the month of \$238K, compared to the budgeted Loss from Operations of \$76K. The Statements of Net Position, Statements of Revenue and Expenses and Change in Net Position were reviewed. Gross Patient Service Revenue of \$2.465M for the month of June was 5.18% more than budget. Inpatient and Outpatient Revenues were above budget with Swing Bed, Care Center and Home Care being under budget. Contractual Adjustments and Other Deductions were \$580K compared to the budget of \$374K. Total Operating Revenue for the month was \$1.889M, 4.47% less than budget. Total Operating Expenses of \$2.128M were 3.64% more than budget. The days cash on hand, debt service coverage ratio, current ratio and payer mix were reviewed by Ms. Ericson. Steve Frykman made a motion to accept the June 2024 financial statements. The motion was seconded by Randy Wiitala and the motion carried unanimously.

## Old Business:

- a) **Other:** None.

## Board Presentation – Board Bylaws Revision Presentation – Timothy Feeley, Attorney – Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, P. C.

Timothy Feeley joined the meeting and reviewed, in detail, the revisions he is proposing to the Bylaws of the Cook County Hospital District. Mr. Feeley highlighted the proposed additions and noted that he included Minnesota statutes for easy reference. The members of the Board thanked Mr. Feeley for his work on the Bylaw revision.

## New Business:

- a) **Cook County Hospital District Bylaw Revision:** Following the review of the proposed revisions by Mr. Feeley, a motion to adopt, as presented, the amended and restated Bylaws of the Cook County Hospital District d/b/a North Shore Health Board of Directors was made by Patty Winchell-Dahl and seconded by Mary Sanders. The motion carried unanimously.
- b) **2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan:** The primary strategies and priorities developed during the Strategic Planning meeting in October 2023 were reviewed. Ms. Wraalstad commented that the Executive Team refined and combined the priorities to reduce the

number of priorities to a more manageable amount. The Board Members supported the priorities, as presented. With the agreement of the Board, the next step for the development of the Strategic Plan will be the addition of SMART goals for each priority for each of the next three years. The Executive Team will begin developing the goals in collaboration with the Department Leaders and review with the Board at a future meeting.

c) **Other:** None.

**Management Report:**

The Management Report for July 2024 included in the Board materials was reviewed. The Headwaters High Value Network has been officially announced. There has been interest by several insurers in Minnesota in working with the Headwaters group, recognizing our importance to rural Minnesota. North Shore Health is pleased to share that Sarah Lundeen, MD, has assumed the role as Laboratory Medical Director. We are also pleased to share that Muain Haseeb, Ph.D. has joined North Shore Health as the new Laboratory Administrative Director. Muain began his role in the Laboratory at North Shore Health on Monday, June 24, 2024. Sadly, we are also sharing that Lisa Bloomquist and Lori Ericson will be leaving North Shore Health. A proposal to provide support regarding culture transformation has been received from Dr. Bill Auxier with the AUXIER Group and the proposal is currently being reviewed. Work is slowly beginning on the 2025 operating and capital budgets. The budget timeline was reviewed. The preliminary budget will be presented to the Board on November 21, 2024, with the final budget being presented for adoption on December 19, 2024. North Shore Health received our July 1, 2024, Cyber Insurance renewal premium notice. While we anticipated a significant premium increase due to the number of cyber-attacks in the health care sector, we were pleased to see no increase in the premium. The agreement with Rural Health Innovations (RHI) to conduct the Health Needs Assessment has been completed. Rhonda Barcus, RHI Program Manager, will serve as the Project Lead. She is currently attempting to identify the best week to conduct the key stakeholder and focus group interviews. When that date has been established, Ms. Barcus will develop the timeline for the project. Cook County received a one-time allotment of state funding to support public safety. At the invitation of the County, Karla Pankow, EMS Director, submitted a request for the following items: two Powered Stair Chairs, a Transport Ventilator and a LUCAS Chest Compression Device. We are excited to share that Cook County voted unanimously to grant \$68,600 to purchase the items requested. During the past six weeks, we have seen increasing cases of COVID-19 in the community. With COVID-19 in the community, we have also seen COVID-19 at North Shore Health. There has been one Care Center resident and two employees diagnosed with COVID-19. It would be best if individuals with COVID-19 symptoms stayed home and wore a mask when around others. North Shore Health will be participating in the Sunday, August 4, parade with the ambulance and volunteers walking behind the ambulance and handing out branded Slinkies and Welch's Fruit Snacks. We will have a resident ride in one of the ambulances and one the electro bike. North Shore Health is excited to offer Speech Language Pathology services for our Hospital patients and Care Center residents. This service will begin July 15 and will augment the outpatient Speech Language Therapy services currently offered. North Shore Health must submit the tax levy request to the Cook County Auditor by September 15, 2024. Therefore, the discussion and decision about the 2025 levy request will occur during the August Board meeting.

**Adjourn:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Patty Winchell-Dahl and seconded by Steve Frykman. The motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held on August 22, 2024 at North Shore Health.

The regular meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

*Kay Olson*  
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Chair

*Mary L Sanders*  
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Clerk