



**COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
BOARD MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 22, 2020**

Call to Order – Kay Olson called the meeting of the Cook County Hospital District Board of Directors to order on October 22, 2020 at 9:15 a.m. on Zoom and in the Board Room.

Adjourn to Closed Session – Justin Mueller made a motion to adjourn into closed session for the Quality Improvement/Peer Review, Medical Staff and Credentials Committee Reports. The motion was seconded by Steve Nielsen and the motion carried with all ayes.

Closed Session Summary - The September 16, 2020 Quality Improvement/Peer Review Committee Report and Medical Staff Report with October 22, 2020 Credentials Committee information were reviewed and discussed.

Reconvene – Kay Olson reconvened the North Shore Health Board in regular session at 9:30 a.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Sharon Bloomquist, Justin Mueller, Steve Nielsen, Kay Olson and Randy Wiitala (p)

Members Absent:

Others Present: Kimber Wraalstad; Paul Goettl; Greg Ruberg; Mary Sanders; Doug Sanders; Milan Schmidt, MD (p); David Mills (p); Tom Fleming (p)

The members of the Board (Kay Olson, Justin Mueller, Steve Nielsen, Randy Wiitala); Dr. Schmidt; Mr. Ruberg; Ms. Sanders; Mr. Sanders; Commissioner Mills; and Mr. Fleming attended the meeting via Zoom technology. Ms. Bloomquist, Ms. Wraalstad, and Mr. Goettl attended in the Board Room of North Shore Health.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was changed to include the purchase of an AVERA mobile cart under new business. Justin Mueller made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as modified; it was seconded by Steve Nielsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes for September 17, 2020 – Steve Nielsen made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2020 meeting as presented and the motion was seconded by Justin Mueller. Motion carried unanimously.

Updates:

- a. **Clinic Board:** Dr. Schmidt shared the following information on behalf of Kate Surbaugh. The plans for the Sawtooth Mountain Clinic Pharmacy continue on track. The pharmacy is anticipated to open on January 2021. The courier system is working well for the interim. The response to the drive-up flu shots has been excellent and continues to go well. The Respiratory Clinic has expanded to five days per week. The North Shore Health Care Foundation's Oral Health Task Force has officially transitioned to the Sawtooth Mountain Clinic, ensuring the program's long-term sustainability.
- b. **County Board:** Commissioner Mills shared the County has hired a County Administrator, James Joerke, who has started in his new role with Cook County. Rena Rogers is working with him during this transition and the Commissioners recognized Ms. Rogers for her work during the last year. Commissioner Mills commented on the increasing professionalism of the County. The County is currently involved in Union negotiations. The Community Health Board has also welcomed a new Director.
- c. **Board Members:** Ms. Olson requested that a future Zoom meeting be arranged with Sawtooth Mountain Clinic Collaboration Committee. Ms. Wraalstad will coordinate with Ms. Surbaugh.
- d. **Correspondence:** Ms. Wraalstad read two cards from employees thanking the members of the Board for the card of recognition and the gift certificate.

Financial Reports: Mr. Goettl presented the September 2020 financial statements. Patient days in the Acute Hospital were 20 days or 41% less than budget with inpatient revenue \$30K less than budget. Swing Bed days were 35 less than budget with revenue \$28K less than budget. Care Center days were 21 less than budget. Outpatient revenue of \$1,128K is \$111K or 22% less than budget. Net Operating Revenue for the month of \$1,705K is 7% better than budget. Total Operating Expenses of \$1,685K are 3.8% above budget. Operating expenses includes reagents for the analyzer that was purchased and preventative maintenance on the boilers. The Net Income for September of \$79K is \$71K better than budget. The year-to-date Income from Operations is \$43K, which is \$1,275K better than budget. Gross Patient Revenue, year-to-date, is down \$1,067K from budget, primarily as result of impact from COVID-19. Expenses directly related to COVID from March thru September total \$241K. Deductions from Revenue are \$649K better than budget associated with lower patient revenue. The year-to-date Net Income of \$509K is \$1,400K better than budget. Other operating revenue includes \$1.6M of COVID-19 grant funding. The Department of Health and Human Services issued new guidance regarding the calculation of lost revenues. This guidance has created great concern and efforts are being made to revert to the original June guidance. For the current time, grant funds are being recorded consistent with the previous guidance and in the same manner as previous months. Year-to-date FTEs are 106.9, 7.0 less than budget. Days' cash on hand remains strong at 324 days; an advance was received from CMS. The advance needs to be repaid to CMS so has been reflected on the Balance Sheet and not on the Income Statement. As in previous months, Mr. Goettl reviewed the 2020 forecast with nine months actual figures and three months projected revenue and expenses; adjustments are being made to known areas.

Old Business:

- a) **Other:** None.

New Business:

- a) **Unbudgeted Capital Equipment – AVERA eCare:** Ms. Wraalstad presented information regarding the request to purchase an AVERA mobile cart with the eEmergency system at the cost of \$14,200. Steve Nielsen made a motion to approve the purchase of the AVERA eCare mobile cart as recommended. The motion was seconded by Sharon Bloomquist and the motion carried unanimously.
- b) **Other:** None.

Management Report:

The Management Report for October 2020 included in the Board materials was reviewed. COVID-19 continues to be a primary focus of North Shore Health as we continue to prepare, plan and respond to COVID-19. The visitation policy for North Shore Living has been updated. The first round of routine testing as required by CMS was completed during the week of September 28 with 157 employees, physicians and essential caregivers participating. Once again, all were negative! Discussions about recent diversion status at both Essentia and St. Luke’s are occurring with the Northeast Healthcare Preparedness Coalition and Wilderness Health. St. Luke’s provided updated COVID-19 patient care practices and Updated Transfer Protocols. Processes for lateral transfers are also being evaluated. Jennifer Dowden represented NSH on WTIP on October 2. Jennifer Dowden provided flu shots in conjunction with the routine employee COVID-19 testing. As of October 15, 2020, 129 (83.7%) employees and 35 (95%) Care Center Residents have received their immunization. The 2021 renewal rates for health insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield have been received. The rate increases for the VEBA plan and the High Value Network are 9.9%. North Shore Health has applied for and received approval from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for registration to participate in the 340B Drug Pricing Program (340B Program) beginning in 2021. Analysis of the development of an Assisted Living Project continues. North Shore Health submitted our intention to participate in the Equitable Cost-Sharing for Publicly Owned Nursing Facilities (ECPN) Program for 2021. Work continues on the 2021 capital and operating budget. The next meeting of the Joint Elected Boards will be held on October 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. The work on the hardscape of the Serenity Garden is complete. Next Spring will bring the highly anticipated planting of trees, shrubs and vegetation.

Board Planning Update:

The North Shore Health Board of Directors continued the discussions to assist in the development of the strategic plan. Detailed information about the Ambulance services (regulatory requirements, service area, equipment, staffing/employees, volumes, revenues, expenses) was reviewed. Similar information will be provided for North Shore Living in February or March 2021.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Nielsen and seconded by Randy Wiitala. The motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held on November 19, 2020.

The regular meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.



Chair



Clerk

