

**REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hospital District No. 1-A of Whitman County, Washington
d/b/a Pullman Regional Hospital
Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at 6:00 PM In-Person or Virtually by Zoom**

Board of Commissioners

P-Tricia Grantham, President
E-PJ Sanchez, Vice President
P-Cheryl Oliver, Secretary
P-Joe Pitzer, Commissioner
P-Anna Nofsinger, Commissioner
P-Michael Cady, Commissioner
P-Shane McFarland, Commissioner

Hospital Personnel

P-Matt Forge, CEO
P-Steve Febus, CFO
P-Tammy Needham, CNO
P-Bernadette Berney, CHRO
P-Carrie Coen, CRO
P-Rob Rembert, Legal Counsel
P-Benjamin Rhoades, DO, Medical Staff President
P-Karly Port, CPSO
P-Peter Mikkelsen, M.D., CMO
P-Erin Sedam, Executive Assistant
P-Linda Infranco, Executive Director
P-Alison Weigley, External Relations Director

Guests:

Representative Joe Schmick
Wayne Druffel
Zanye Hunter
Katie Van Wyngarden

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Grantham called the meeting to order at 6:00p. Roll call was taken with the following Commissioners answering present: Grantham, Oliver, Pitzer, Nofsinger, Cady, and McFarland. Commissioner Sanchez was excused.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Commissioner McFarland moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of June 4, 2025.
Commissioner Pitzer seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. MODIFICATION TO AGENDA

An agenda item was added after Public Comment for Foundation Board Update.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cady moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner McFarland seconded the motion. The following committee reports were approved unanimously.

- Medical Executive Committee
- Finance Committee
- Quality Management System
- Governance Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Foundation Board of Directors
- Approval of Warrants

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Grantham opened the floor for public comment. A public attendee requested to provide comment. It was determined that the individual would instead offer an update to the Board later in the meeting, without being subject to the standard three-minute time limit. President Grantham closed the floor for comments.

VI. FOUNDATION BOARD UPDATE

Wayne Druffel provided an update on funding efforts for the High School Athletic Training Program. He reported that potential revenue sources for the program are still being explored. Mr. Druffel recently participated in a Zoom meeting with legislators and is working to schedule a meeting with high-ranking Democratic representatives in Seattle to advocate for the bill currently under consideration. Additionally, he has identified alternative avenues for research through Chief Baumgartner and noted that he now has a connection with the health committee that is being formed.

VII. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Governance Committee Report:

Matt Forge provided a Governance report, reminding the Commissioners of their responsibilities in this area, including the annual review of Board bylaws, evaluation of the Medical Staff bylaws, Board development and education, and the CEO evaluation process. He noted that the CEO evaluation will be finalized in July or August and presented to the Board at its September meeting.

a. Legislative Discussion:

Matt Forge welcomed guest Representative Joe Schmick to the meeting and invited him to share his thoughts, concerns, and insights regarding healthcare legislation in Washington, particularly as it pertains to the local district. Representative Schmick addressed several key topics. He expressed concern over state budget issues, including proposed cuts to Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), reference pricing, and the overall financial sustainability of the state budget. On the topic of mental health, he emphasized the need for improved support in rural areas, including funding for 23.5-hour walk-in crisis services and addressing persistent workforce shortages. He also discussed telehealth as a valuable tool, though he acknowledged ongoing challenges with clinician availability and facility access. Lastly, Representative Schmick spoke about economic development challenges in border counties and rural communities, citing the impacts of taxation and rising costs related to mandatory recycling regulations.

b. Rural Hospital Leadership Conference

Attendees of the recent Rural Hospital Leadership Conference in Chelan, Washington shared highlights and key takeaways from the sessions. Topics included the importance of cybersecurity and having robust downtime procedures in place; the Board's role in ensuring quality and the value of direct involvement with the organization's quality team; and financial sustainability, including discussions around the challenges facing rural hospitals and the unfortunate trend of closures in some communities.

B. Finance Committee Report:

Secretary Oliver provided a report from the Finance Committee, noting that the group reviewed the District's financial performance and reported a positive position year-to-date. She also shared that the committee discussed the recent DZA audit, including the letter addressed to the Board, which noted no findings. Additionally, the committee reviewed the potential financial impacts of the recently passed Big, Beautiful Bill and its implications for hospital funding.

a. Financial Update:

Steve Febus provided a financial update to the Board of Commissioners, noting that at this time last year, the District was facing a \$9.6 million negative margin. In contrast, the District is now in a much stronger financial position. Mr. Febus expressed confidence that the District is on track to end the year in a positive place. However, he cautioned that the summer months are historically challenging, particularly in managing expenses, but efforts are underway to minimize those impacts throughout June, July, and August.

Matt Forge acknowledged Mr. Febus's recent retirement announcement, thanking him for his years of dedicated service. He also informed the Board that a search is underway to identify a new Chief Financial Officer.

b. Audited Financials:

Steve Febus presented the DZA audited financial report, noting that there were no findings. Commissioner Pitzer moved to accept the audited report, and Commissioner Cady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Strategic Planning Committee Report

Matt Forge provided a brief overview of the Strategic Planning Committee and the three Cornerstone Groups that report to it: Quality Management System (QMS), Physician Services, and Human Resources and Organizational Development.

a. Strategic Dashboard Review

Matt Forge presented the most recent Strategic Dashboard to the Board, providing a high-level review of key metrics related to Culture, Reliability, and Growth.

b. Q3 One Page Plan:

Matt Forge reviewed the One Page Plan for the third quarter of 2025, outlining the various projects categorized under Culture, Reliability, and Growth. He explained that these projects are owned by the respective Cornerstone Groups, which are responsible for oversight and ensuring execution. The One Page Plan serves as a communication tool to inform the entire organization about the hospital's priority projects and strategic focus.

- c. **Provider Recruitment Update:**
Karly Port presented an overview of the Physician Services structure to the Commissioners. She also provided a recruitment update for both physicians and non-physician clinicians.
- d. **Q2 eNPS Results:**
Bernadette Berney presented the second quarter Employee Net Promoter Score (eNPS) results to the Commissioners. She also provided context on how eNPS is calculated, including an explanation of the standard question asked on each pulse survey that generates these results.
- e. **Expansion Update:**
Matt Forge provided the Board with an update on the Patient Access Expansion Project, as well as other service expansion initiatives currently underway.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. PRH Employee and Family Summer Fun Event, July 26, 12-4pm, Reaney Park, Pullman, WA
- B. Board Retreat, September 12, Location TBD
- C. Saturday July 19th – Pullman Regional Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:09p President Grantham announced that the meeting would go into Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss the granting, denial, revocation, restrictions, or other considerations of the status of the clinical or staff privileges of a physician or other healthcare provider, consider personnel issues, and consult with legal counsel.

X. OPEN SESSION

The meeting resumed in Open Session at 8:19p.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:19p.

Respectfully submitted by:


Erin Sedam

Executive Assistant


Cheryl Oliver, Secretary

Board of Commissioners
*(Minutes are not officially approved
until the next Board Meeting.)*