

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hospital District No. 1-A of Whitman County, Washington
d/b/a
Pullman Regional Hospital
Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 12:30 PM, Access by Zoom
Virtual Participation via ZOOM Conferencing

Board of Commissioners

P-Jeff Elbracht, President
P-Tricia Grantham, Vice President
P-Sandra O'Keefe, Secretary
P-Joe Pitzer, Commissioner
P-Michael Murphy, Commissioner
P-Margaret Werre, Commissioner
P-Karen Karpman, Commissioner

Hospital Personnel

P-Scott K. Adams, CEO
P-Jeannie Eylar, CCO
P-Steve Febus, CFO
P-Bernadette Berney, CHRO
P-Rueben Mayes, CDO
P-Karly Port, Executive Director PRHCN
P-Darrol Hval, D.O., Medical Staff President
P-Lisa Hohnholz, Administrative Assistant
P-Rob Rembert, Legal Counsel

Guests:

Alison Weigley
Anthony Kuipers

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Elbracht called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. Roll call was taken with the following Commissioners answering present: Elbracht, Grantham, Pitzer, Murphy, O'Keefe, Werre, and Karpman.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Werre moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of August 4, 2021. Commissioner Karpman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Karpman moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner O'Keefe seconded the motion. The following committee reports were approved unanimously.

- Medical Executive Committee
- Finance Committee
- Quality Improvement Committee
- Approval of Warrants

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- Scott Adams presented the Administrative Update and asked the Commissioners if there were any questions. Commissioner Murphey asked if we know what the new on call surgery schedule will be. Karly Port answered that Dr. Parra has to take 10 days of call per month, and our surgeons will fill the remainder of that. Our surgeons will be taking about 250 days at Whitman Hospital and PRH.
- Commissioner Karpman asked who would be on the vaccine review committee. Bernadette Berney responded that it will be herself, Dr. Peter Mikkelsen, Diane Whittick, and Andrea Howell who are on that committee.
- Commissioner O'Keefe asked, given the increase in volumes by students and lack of ease they have in getting assessments, do we need to have more conversation with campus leadership about what their plan is? Scott Adams answered, there's a general feeling that public health can take in more of a role with the vaccine. Vaccination is a large part of getting better control in our community of the virus. The campus does perform testing and vaccinations. The ability to get tests at pharmacies and retailers is not available in the volume we need, so they are looking into other options as well. Mr. Adams mentioned

that last year we were not busy with normal patient volumes, and this year we have fewer staff and a lot more patients. Our capacity to provide testing services like we did last year is not as available now.

V. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Quality Management System Report: We have 3 great candidates for a new Chief Reliability Officer. By the beginning of 2022, we will have restructured the QMS so it looks more like the financial report, with the same metrics reported each month.
- B. Financial Update
Steve Febus presented the 2nd quarter financial update report to the commissioners.
- He reported that we are very busy, and it's adding to the financial standpoint, and finances are up. Normally we would be sitting at 1-1.5 million of revenue, and now we are 3.4 million.
 - Surgical volume has been very high, inpatient volume has also been high.
 - We have done a mini cost report, and will have a settlement at the end of the year when we will owe money. An interim settlement may be asked of us before that. Budgeting process has been done for the year, which will be brought to the board in November.
 - We will continue to look into funding for fighting covid, some can still come from the initial Cares Act. Could possibly also get funds to help with EMR conversion.
- C. Foundation Update
Rueben Mayes reported a PowerPoint presentation as an update on the foundation. Reporting as of July 1st:
- Top line revenue of funding is doing very well compared to last year at this time. In July 2020 we had 405 donors, this year we had 800. We have implemented programs to help retain current donors to meet our highest needs, but we need to do more, and are looking into ways to do that.
 - Highest needs in 2021: DaVinci Surgical System, Residency Clinical space, PRH Residency ongoing contributions, and Orthopedic Center of Excellence. We have raised 69% of the amount we need for these programs, but we need more funding.
 - Next Era of Excellence: In Oct 2018 our budget was just over 6 million, at this point we have raised \$7,148,480. We have met all the goals for Next Era except for the DaVinci system. We would like to get to 8 million by Dec of this year.
 - The gala has been pushed out to next Feb 5th. Golf tournament raised over \$59,000, which is the most ever. 5th quarter rally at Red Barn Farms: Raised money for local athletic programs. Owners of venue donated the venue for us to use, and State farm donated up to \$25,000 in donation matching. Over 140 attendees. Raised over \$74,000.
 - Commissioner Grantham asked, with two galas being cancelled, how has this affected our donations? Mr. Mayes replied, we are sending out direct mail ads Sept 17th to focus on DaVinci system, which helps to raise \$15-25,000 usually. We will continue to focus on reaching out to people who haven't given last year, talking about where PRH is at, giving gifts to certain groups as a thank you...we think this strategy will more than make up for the gala this year.
- D. Strategic Planning Debrief
Commissioner Elbracht opens this for discussion: Any thoughts or questions based off the leadership planning session that was held this morning?
- Various commissioners enjoyed the future planning, prioritizing the needs in our community, bringing in new providers to the area, excitement at seeing the three new CMO's up and running, and seeing how much progress we've made despite covid.
 - Commissioner Elbracht said it will be critical for us as a board to evaluate how far we want to go in getting a bond going for more funding, and what we need to ask the community for.
 - Discussion was had on if the CMO's will have a time each week to compare notes with each other, since they are going to different meetings? Mr. Adams responded yes, weekly on Wednesdays at 7am. Currently, Dr Tingstad will be the board liaison for CMOs, and he will most likely start attending board meetings from now on. Jeannie Eylar mentioned that Dr. Mikkelsen already attends

the daily huddles and will continue to do so, and we are currently having two huddles per day.

E. Pandemic Activities Update

- Mr. Adams explained that he thinks there's another set of COVID data that community members are looking for, and that we can provide, so we will try to get that set up to send out with our weekly pandemic updates. We are seeing covid patients locally, many of them from out of town. There are delayed impacts of covid that are affecting our patient volume at PRH now.
- Mrs. Eylar stated, in August we had 17 pts admitted with covid, the highest number of patients in any month since last October. There has been a total of 76 patient days with those pts, and 8 were transferred from other hospitals that didn't have room. We were requested to bring in pts from other hospitals over 20 times. We were not able to take any transfers in over this weekend because of our capacity. We have transferred a pt as far as Great Falls, MT when we were full. ICU beds have been the biggest challenge.
- Our average length of stay in 2019 was less than 3 days, this year it's 3.92 days. We are dealing with pts that are sicker now than a couple years ago. Covid pts av length of stay in 2021 is 4.27 days. The pts with covid this year are much younger than last year as well.
- We have given contingency shifts that pay double time when people come in for callback or overtime. It has been very helpful to do this to have the staffing we've needed through this time.
- Towards the end of this year, we are expecting much larger surgical volume due to hiring new providers in surgery. We have now opened our same day department 24/7 in order to help with this. The first overnight shift starts tonight. When SDS is not being used at night, the nurses working their can help in ICU/MSU or wherever they are needed instead.
- We had the busiest June and July that we've ever had in the ER this year. We are seeing sicker patients coming in through ER as well. We have a 20% capacity in the hospital to care for ill patients, but are trying very hard to put off elective surgeries. People have been putting those off for a long time due to covid, so there is a balance that has to happen. We are doing pre-procedure COVID testing again. Currently, the COVID pts we are seeing are 90-95% unvaccinated.
- Mrs. Berney stated that the vaccination committee has gathered several times to review vaccination exemptions. Only medical exemptions and religious exemption are allowed at this time, per the governor's proclamation. There are forms that staff can fill out and turn back in to the employee health nurse, Diane Whittick. All 4 members of the committee need to agree before someone gets an exempt status. We have had 23 religious exemptions requests, and 3 medical requests so far. They have all been accepted at this time.
- Employees will have to meet certain requirements in order to work at PRH if they have an exemption. Exemptions last from Sept 1, 2021-Aug 31, 2022, but can be reviewed at any time. Just the employees' statement is needed for the religious exemption, there is no statement needed from their clergy. We currently have on staff 537 people. At this time, 422 staff are vaccinated (79%). 115 are not vaccinated. 448 are exempt or have the vaccine (83%). We have had 4 employees resign at this time due to not wanting the vaccine. 89 employees are undecided at this time. The exemptions are legally protected.
- Mr. Adams: WSU game is still happening on the 11th. Theme of the whole game is around the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Trying to find the right balance of acknowledging our staff and community, but also complying with safe practices. Commissioner Grantham asked what WSU is requiring for the game/pregame activity? Mr. Mayes answered that WSU has not decided to require anything as far as masking, social distancing. Masks are required indoors at WSU, including the hospitality tent when not eating/drinking, but not outside in the stadium.
- Commissioner Karpman requested that we have ages of COVID patients released to the community again. Mr. Adams said they are looking at the best ways to do that and will put it in the pandemic update tomorrow.
- Mr. Adams asked the commissioners if they feel good about doing the board meetings by Zoom only for the foreseeable future, and they all responded that they agree with that.

- Commissioner O'Keefe asked what would happen if COVID really ramped up in our area again, and Mr. Adams replied that a disaster plan would be set up, including a triage system. Other facilities may be called in to help if needed.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. WSU/PRH Football Game, September 11th, Martin Stadium
- B. Foundation Gala, September 25th, SEL Event Center -CANCELLED
- C. WSHA Fall eSeries (September 16th, September 30th, October 28th, November 11th, December 9th), virtual (Hospital has covered the costs for these meetings. They are available for a 30-day period, if you are registered to see the event.)

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:20 P.M. the President announced that the meeting would go into Executive Session for 5 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, to review the activities of a quality improvement committee or program, and consult with legal counsel.


VIII. OPEN SESSION

The meeting resumed in Open Session at 2:25 P.M. It was moved and seconded that the Credentials Report dated August 26, 2021, be approved and that the applications for appointment, reappointment, extension, and telestroke reappointment be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Lisa Hohnholz
Administrative Assistant



Sandra O'Keefe, Secretary
Board of Commissioners
(Minutes are not officially approved until the next Board Meeting.)

VOTING CHART

MOTION	<i>Approval of minutes from Aug. 4, 2021 meeting</i>		
	Aye	No	Abstain
Name			
Werre	X		
Murphy	X		
Pitzer	X		
Grantham	X		
Karpman	X		
O'Keefe	X		
Elbracht	X		

VOTING CHART

MOTION	<i>Consent Agenda</i>		
	Aye	No	Abstain
Name			
Werre	<i>X</i>		
Murphy	<i>X</i>		
Pitzer	<i>X</i>		
Grantham	<i>X</i>		
Karpman	<i>X</i>		
O'Keefe	<i>X</i>		
Elbracht	<i>X</i>		