



Board of Trustees Meeting
Regular Meeting
August 22nd, 2024
Minutes
10:00 am

Members Present:

Rod Waeckerlin, *President*
Mark Kostovny, *Vice President*
Jerry Steele, *Secretary*
Gary Goergen, *Treasurer*
Lisa Engstrom, *Member*
Dr. Duane Abels, *Chief Medical Officer*

Administration:

Gerald Parton, *Interim Chief Executive Officer*
Chelle Keplinger, *Interim Chief Financial Officer (via zoom)*
Stephanie Hinkle, *Director of Strategic Operations*
Lisa Boston, *Interim Director of Compliance (via zoom)*
Alexis Martinez, *Executive Assistant*
Chip Holmes, *Ovation Healthcare (via zoom)*
Scott Miller, *Ovation Healthcare (via zoom)*
Woody White, *Ovation Healthcare (via zoom)*

Guests:

Felicia Kimble, *Director of Revenue Cycle*
Michelle Beckett, *VP Amplify (via zoom)*

Rod Waeckerlin, President, called the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County Board of Trustees meeting to order at 10:04 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence followed.

Approval of Agenda:

Garry Goergen made a motion, and Lisa Engstrom seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Board of Trustees Consent Agenda:

Mr. Kostovny and President Waeckerlin complimented the clinic board reports provided by Mrs. Nelson, Director of Clinic Operations. They were both very pleased with the reports.

Lisa Engstrom made a motion, and Garry Goergen seconded the motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Board of Trustees Open Session Minutes for July 25th, 2024:

Garry Goergen made a motion, and Lisa Engstrom seconded the motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting on July 25th, 2024, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Recognition Presented by Rod Waeckerlin, *Board of Trustees President*:

- Employee of the Month for August 2024 was presented and awarded to Mariah Smith, Revenue Cycle Analyst. The Board thanked her for her hard work and dedication.

Open Discussion/Citizen Participation

N/A

Operational Report Presented by Gerald Parton, *Interim Chief Executive Officer*

Mr. Parton and Mrs. Nelson recently interviewed and conducted onsite interviews with (2) PA candidates for the clinics. Both candidates have declined offers.

Mrs. Hovik, NP, has been orientating onsite for a couple of days.

The Chief Financial Officer for MHCC has been posted. Ovation Healthcare have assisted with the job description and posting the position. Ovation will vet the candidate's first, prior to setting up interviews with MHCC.

Mr. Holmes will discuss the contract renewal with Ovation Healthcare in an Executive Session.

Mr. Parton discussed MHCC's current trauma level. MHCC is a level 4 trauma center. Surgeons are required to be available 24/7. Locum services are \$3,200.00 - \$3,400.00 daily, plus travel and lodging expenses. The hospital has an existing contract with Barton and Associates who provide locum general surgeons. A discussion will be held in the executive session to change the organization's trauma level from a 4 to a 5.

Cardinal has provided notice to terminate their contract on August 28th. Cardinal managed and supplied prescription drugs and furnished personnel, including but not limited to the 340B program and after hour pharmacy services. MHCC owes Cardinal over \$700K. Mrs. Keplinger has been making payments of \$25,000.00. Mr. Parton discussed Cardinal's proposition of a potential payment plan. However, he is looking into other vendors who can assist with pharmacy services. Ovation Healthcare has also assisted with assisting with the pharmacy transition and has supplied numerous vendor options for the purchase of prepaid medications. The 340B program will be placed on hold. Pharmacist, Tom Sturm, has agreed to stay as an MHCC employee and has agreed to after hours pharmacy call until a plan is in place. Mr. Sturm can verify orders remotely. If the ED doctors have orders, the pharmacist does not need to verify. If the floor doctors' places orders, the medications will need verification. Pharmacy Technician, Truly Garcia, has been offered a position with Cardinal elsewhere. The board members discussed the 340B program and its benefits. Mr. Parton has interviewed a couple of pharmacy candidates. President Waeckerlin would like to ensure there is diligent vetting through this process.

Chief of Staff Report Presented by Dr. Gary Mikesell, *Chief of Staff*

Dr. Mikesell shared an overview of current events taking place around MHCC including accounts payable, the hospital district and PAC, the general surgery, new clinic providers, clinic updates, and other items.

Ovation Healthcare Report Presented by Chip Holmes

Mr. Holmes recognized all parties who are assisting with the recruitment process for a CFO. (7) resumes have been received. The contract renewal with Ovation Healthcare will be discussed in the Executive Session. Mr. Dwayne Gunter, Ovation Healthcare CEO, has been assisting with the Cerner and Medhost challenges. Mr. Holmes recognizes Mr. Parton's consistent and effective communication with him regarding general surgery and Cardinal issues. President Waeckerlin thanked Mr. Holmes and Ovation Healthcare for assisting with the pharmacy issues at this time. He indicated that he has one question for Ovation Healthcare that he will ask in the Executive Session.

Quality Report Presented by Gerald Parton, *Interim Chief Executive Officer*

Mr. Parton has offered to split the quality position with Jessica Seldomridge and Abbie Webster. Time will need to be given to create an efficient quality program, as they are starting from the ground up.

Compliance Report Presented by Lisa Boston, *Interim Director of Compliance*

Mrs. Boston is working on a compliance committee which will consist of a small group of individuals. She indicated that there is a need for at least one board member to be on the committee. Mr. Parton agreed. A charter and compliance plan have been drafted. They will bring this to the Board of Trustees for approval at a later date. There have not been compliance calls. There was (1) compliance issue that will be discussed in executive session. Mr. Kostovny voiced his frustrations with the quality and compliance programs. The board members are responsible for 40% of these programs and MHCC still does not have either program running. He feels as though the board members are being excluded from everything. President Waeckerlin advised that they request recommendations, going forward.

Financials Presented by Chelle Keplinger, *Interim Chief Financial Officer*

Ms. Keplinger reviewed the YTD financials compared to the prior YTD, with changes to reflect each of them. She reviewed the cash summary report, which she believes MHCC is making slow headway. Revenue Enterprises have collected YTD \$574,000.00. These are actual funds in the bank. The board members requested copies of the slide shows. Mrs. Keplinger will send the slide shows to Ms. Martinez in the future for distribution to the board.

Expenses vs. revenue have decreased since last year. Mr. Goergen questioned if they have stopped accruals for expenditures. Mrs. Keplinger stated that they have not and continued to review different models. She hopes to have an update soon and explained that MHCC has been consistent year to year. The clean claim rate dropped by 2%. Collections are not as high this month and they still have work to do. Mr. Goergen questioned where the total of AR is at. Mrs. Keplinger stated that AR is still increasing. Self-pay is still hurting the AR and gave an important note that 9 ½ million will be turned around into bad debt by October. She continued to review the process. A decent clean claim rate is at 95% or higher. Mr. Kostovny said that he is still concerned that MHCC still does not have an operating budget. Without an operating budget, we do not have goals or expectations to operate. Further discussion will take place in the Executive Session.

Amplify Report will be given later in the day and presented by Michelle Bequette.

Mrs. Keplinger reviewed the AP vouchers and provided a list of vendors. She is paying who she can at this point. MHCC has set up a payment plan with MIA. AP is paid every week; less payments can go out during payroll weeks. Summit Group has been paid off which will provide an additional \$50K per month.

Mark Kostovny made a motion, and Garry Goergen seconded the motion to approve the financial AP vouchers of \$862,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Kostovny made a motion, and Garry Goergen seconded the motion to approve the financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Recess Board of Trustees Public Meeting to go to Executive Session at 11:05 AM

Motion to Recess Board of Trustees Executive Session to go to Open Session at 2:50 PM

Old Business

The Board of Trustees grant permission for Mr. Parton to review Abbi Forwood's contract with MHCC. Ms. Forwood questioned if MHCC can ensure payment is remitted to JLL (former broker group) in the amount of \$5,000.00. The board agreed that MHCC will remit payment to JLL.

New Business

Mr. Parton shared the new quote from the insurance for a new roof in the amount of \$187,000.00. Big Horn cannot install the roof until the springtime. It will cost MHCC \$25,000.00. This will be patching work done on the leaking part of the roof that currently sits over the MRI machine. Mr. Parton is checking to ensure that the price does not increase. Mr. Kostovny and Mr. Steele requested that they check the warranties associated with Big Horn.

Mark Kostovny made a motion, and Lisa Engstrom seconded the motion to adjust Memorial Hospital of Carbon County's trauma level status to an appropriate trauma level, from a level 4 to a level 5 trauma center. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Patti Shue, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (Renewal)**

Mark Kostovny made a motion, and Garry Goergen seconded the motion to approve Patti Shue's employment contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Lisa Boston, Interim Director of Compliance (Renewal)**

Mark Kostovny made a motion, and Jerry Steele seconded the motion to approve Lisa Boston's employment contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Credentialing

Mark Kostovny made a motion, and Jerry Steele seconded the motion to grant privileges the medical executive committee's (1-4) as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- ❖ Henry Onyeaka, MD – Psychiatry: Telemedicine Staff
- ❖ Carolyn Waldo, MD – Emergency Medicine: Locum Tenens
- ❖ Benjamin Abadeer, DO – General Surgery: Locum Tenens
- ❖ Janea Hovik, NP – Nurse Practitioner: Active Staff

Mark Kostovny made a motion, and Jerry Steele seconded the motion to accept the medical executive committee's recommendations for reappointments (1-2) as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- ❖ Duane Abels, DO – Chief Medical Officer: Active Staff
- ❖ 2. Adrian Fluture, MD – Cardiology: Courtesy Staff

Mark Kostovny made a motion, and Jerry Steele seconded the motion to accept the medical executive committee's (1-2) provisional reviews as presented with the exception for Matthew Army (90 days) to complete (5) CME's. Motion carried unanimously.

- ❖ Matthew Curry, MD – Radiology: Telemedicine Staff
- ❖ 2. Jeramie Rosales-Rodriguez, MD – Psychiatry: Telemedicine Staff

Mark Kostovny made a motion, and Jerry Steele seconded the motion to accept the medical executive committee's (1) addition of privileges for as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- ❖ Vincent Oyler, MD – Emergency Medicine: Locum Tenens

Requesting the addition of flexible sigmoid and anoscope

Amplify Report Presented by Michelle Beckett, VP Amplify

Mrs. Beckett reviewed that all information has not been included. She reviewed page 1, depicting gross charges and collections. Slow and steady collections have been retrieved. In July, the Medicare incident affected cash as well. AR is over 90 days and has decreased. Page 2 shows the overall AR days divided by 2. She indicated that this is the reality. Amplify is still dealing with Medicare challenges. Some are unclear on the DNFB. There are also lab charge issues. She has worked with Ms. Kimble and the team on different components for this. They are working to correct these issues. The total AR is pulling down. DNFB days are where they need to be. The clean claim rate has a lot of work to be done. They need to identify the cause. Paula (Amplify Manager) is working with Ms. Kimble. President Waeckerlin stated the clean claim rate went up \$4M since January. Mrs. Beckett indicated that she has doubled the team for Carbon County and plans to restructure this month. She has increased coders as well. She advised the board members that they will see improvement by August and September. The board thanked Ms. Beckett.

Adjournment:

Lisa Engstrom made a motion, and Garry Goergen seconded the motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees public meeting at 3:21 pm and to reconvene on September 26th, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be on September 26th, 2024, at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexis Martinez, *Executive Assistant*
Abbi Forwood, *Legal Counsel*