



Board of Trustees Meeting
Regular Meeting
August 28th, 2025
Minutes
10:00 am

Members Present:

Rod Waeckerlin, *President*
Jerry Steele, *Vice President*
Gary Goergen, *Treasurer*
Lisa Engstrom, *Secretary*
Dr. Stephanie Chiu, *Trustee*

Absent Members:

Administration:

Kerry Ashment, *Chief Executive Officer*
Stephanie Hinkle, *Chief Operating Officer*
Joy Coulston, *Chief Financial Officer*

Guests:

Brad Hamilton, *Ovation Healthcare Group Vice President Operations* (Via Zoom)
Abbi Forwood, *Legal Counsel* (via Zoom)
Dr. Duane Abels, *DO*

Rod Waeckerlin, President, called the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County Board of Trustees meeting to order at 10:01 am. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence followed.

Amendment and Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Waeckerlin requested to amend the agenda to move Executive Session to immediately follow Open Discussion/Citizen Participation.

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

Approval of Consent Agenda Items: Attachment (A)

Gary Goergen made a motion, and Lisa Engstrom seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Board of Trustees Open Session Minutes from August 28th, 2025:

Dr. Stephanie Chiu made a motion, and Lisa Engstrom seconded the motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting on August 28th, 2025, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee of the Month presented by Rod Waeckerlin, Board President:

- President Waeckerlin recognized Dr. Gregory Johnson as the Employee of the Month. Dr. Johnson was unable to attend and will be recognized at a later date.

Open Discussion/Citizen Participation

- Nothing was brought before the Board of Trustees.

Motion to Move to Executive Session & Recess Board of Trustees Public Meeting

Jerry Steele made a motion, and Dr. Stephanie Chiu seconded the motion to move the Board of Trustees to Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board convened to Executive Session at 10:06 am to discuss personnel issues and to consider or receive any information classified as confidential by law.

Motion to Move to Board of Trustees Public Meeting & Recess Executive Session:

Lisa Engstrom made a motion, and Gary Goergen seconded the motion to resume the Board of Trustees Public Meeting at 11:29 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Board of Trustees Lunch Education, Lisa Boston, *Interim Compliance Officer*

- Ms. Boston provided Conflict of Interest education to the Board of Trustees.

Operational Report: Kerry Ashment, *Chief Executive Officer* & Stephanie Hinkle, *Chief Operating Officer*

- Mr. Ashment provided the Board of Trustees with his operational report, highlighting several morale opportunities and staff recognition.

Mr. Ashment reported a brief overview of the July financials, noting a loss of \$95,192. He also informed the Board that the Rainy-Day fund continues to grow and is currently at \$802,000, noting that the organization is \$200,000 of having two payrolls in reserve.

A Risk Management and Physical Facility update was provided as well. Survey Readiness continues to be a focus. Many maintenance repairs are being handled in preparation for Survey and others are being funded by various grants.

A brief overview of survey readiness initiatives was shared with the Board and an update on plant operations projects.

Ms. Hinkle provided a Strategic Plan Update, further informing the board that we should have data to review in the coming weeks. A Board Retreat has been scheduled for October 10th to review the data collected and discuss next steps. Ms. Hinkle reported that there have been initial discussions about an Employee Engagement Survey, more information to come in the following weeks. Ms. Hinkle reminded the Board of Trustees about the upcoming Community Town Hall, which will be held on October 9th at 6pm. Mr. Goergen requested that minutes be kept for those meetings for the Board to review.

A Hospital District meeting will be scheduled with the MHCC PAC for an initial conversation to revisit the potential of pursuing the Hospital District again.

A Fall Newsletter will also be shared within the organization and with staff. There will be updates surrounding ongoing projects, etc.

Ovation Healthcare Report presented by Brad Hamilton, Ovation Healthcare, *Group Vice President Operations*:

- Mr. Hamilton presented the Ovation Healthcare report and was seeking feedback about the Ovation teams that have been working on various projects. Ms. Hinkle reported that the teams have been great to work with.

Mr. Hamilton reminded the Board of the upcoming retreat in February and encouraged the Board members and administrators to attend.

Mr. Hamilton will send a list of Ovation Services to Mr. Ashment and Ms. Hinkle to review in preparation for the dissolution of the Ovation Agreement since MHCC is still interested in purchasing certain services after the agreement ends.

Discussion: Dr. Westfall inquired about coding changes being communicated to providers as this is not currently occurring. Ms. Coulston will look into it.

Medical Staff Report: Dr. Lincoln Westfall, *Chief of Staff*

- Dr. Westfall presented the Medical Staff Report. He touched on staffing in the clinics and the departure of Ms. Curley who will be leaving in December. Dr. Westfall inquired about her replacement, to which Mr. Ashment stated that Administration would need to evaluate the need. Dr. Westfall further reported he would like to see more movement on the annual wellness exam calls. Dr. Westfall reported that Emergency Room physician staffing has been a challenge. No issues to report from a hospitalist standpoint.

Financial Report: Joy Coulston, *Chief Financial Officer*

- Ms. Coulston presented the Financial Summary Report for the month ending August 31st, 2025. She reviewed the statistics reporting that the average census, including observation, was 4.23 below the prior month of 5.42, however, above the last 12-month average of 2.94. All Ancillary Visits were below the prior month volume, except for Ambulance and Clinic. Clinic Visits were 1,066 in total versus the prior month of 953.

From the Income Statement, Ms. Coulston reported that gross revenue for the month was \$4,406,818 versus the prior month of \$4,902,496 a difference of (\$495,678) as compared to budget, gross revenue was below budget by \$814,930 or 15.6%. Deductions from Revenue were 41.6% for the month, which is lower than prior year historical average of 48.77%. Net revenue was \$2,187,572, up from the prior month, however, below budget by 3.7% and remains above the FY25 average of \$2,187,572. Overall operating expenses were \$2,729,341, slightly down from the prior month of \$2,829,144 and also below the FY25 average of \$2,858,919. As compared to budget, operating expenses are \$82,527 or 2.9% over budget. Salaries are below budget, however, contract labor is above by \$61,000. For the month, the operating loss was reported at \$92,464 and a net loss of \$95,192.

Discussion: Mr. Waeckerlin asked when Ms. Coulston anticipates seeing consistent financials; her hope would be in February 2026.

Ms. Coulston advised the Board that MHCC will be conducting a Charge Master Review, which will be paid for by grant funds. The projected timeline will take about a year to complete.

Mr. Ashment informed the Board that MHCC is has started paying back the loan from the State.

Gary Goergen made a motion, and Lisa Engstrom seconded the motion to approve the Financial Summary for the period ending August 31st, 2025, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Stephanie Chiu made a motion, and Gary Goergen seconded the motion to approve the vouchers for the period ending August 31st, 2025, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- **Board of Trustees Bylaw Review**

Discussion: The Board of Trustees were presented with the current bylaws and asked to review them and bring any suggested changes to the next Board meeting.

Credential Request for Memorial Hospital of Carbon County Privileges

- **Reappointments**

1. Dustin Plowman, MD—Telemedicine Staff—Psychiatry—QLER
 - Recommend Reappointment to Telemedicine Staff

Lisa Engstrom made a motion, and Dr. Stephanie Chiu seconded the motion to approve the Reappointment Request as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Additional Privileges**

1. Kristel Lessard, DO—Active Staff—Internal Medicine
 - Recommend the addition of 1st assist for General and Orth Surgery, Infusions, and Home Visits to be included in her list of privileges

Discussion: There was discussion surrounding the type of infusions the provider would be doing in the clinics. The Board asked that Credentialing provide that information for consideration for approval at the next board meeting.

Lisa Engstrom made a motion, and Dr. Stephanie Chiu seconded the motion to approve the addition of General and Orthopedic Surgery, and Home Visits to Dr. Lessard's privileges as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Executive Session Topics

- QRA Loan Approval

Dr. Stephanie Chiu made a motion, and Gary Goergen seconded the motion to approve the QRA Loan based on the letter from the State of Wyoming for the amount listed within the letter, as presented. The motion carried with four votes and one abstained.

- Design IT

Dr. Stephanie Chiu made a motion, and Lisa Engstrom seconded the motion to approve the litigation amount for Design IT. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

Lisa Engstrom made a motion, and Gary Goergen seconded the motion to adjourn Board of Trustees public meeting at 1:30 pm with no further business coming before the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for October 23rd, 2025.



Respectfully submitted.

Abbie Webster, *Executive Assistant*

Lisa Engstrom, Board of Trustees, *Secretary*