

Sublette County Rural Health Care District
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
May 15, 2019

Venue: County Commissioner's Room, Pinedale, WY

Trustees Present:

Wendy Boman, Chairman
Bill Johnson, Vice-Chairman
Tonia Hoffman, Secretary/Treasurer
Marti Seipp, Trustee
Mike Pompy, Trustee

Call to Order

Ms. Boman called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Set Agenda

Ms. Seipp made a motion to set the agenda, as written. Ms. Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Pompy made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of legal and personnel items. Ms. Seipp seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
*Executive Session meeting minutes taken by Tonia Hoffman.

Mr. Pompy made a motion to exit the Executive Session and return to the Regular Board Meeting. Ms. Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Routine Business

Administrative and Finance Report/Dave Doorn:

Mr. Doorn stated that revenues for April were a little higher than normal; the net income was a negative \$390,010 and with the mill levy adjustment of \$380,000, it was almost a break-even month. The data for the past few months have been fairly stable, but with the upcoming summer months, revenues should increase.

Ms. Vicky Marshall asked if the ER visits were the same as Same Day Appointments listed on the submitted report from the July 2018 – April 2019. Mr. Doorn answered affirmatively.

Mr. Doorn stated that there will be a special 25% discount for all medical services given to patients during the month of June, in an attempt to get our costs more in-line with the market and be more competitive with Kemmerer and other areas where we feel like we are losing business. There are several towns that are planning to get Insta-Care; Dave said he is also looking into that option and should have more information next month.

Mr. Doorn stated that there have been a few meetings with the Sublette Center, including a meeting with the Sublette Center's Board on May 14th, 2019. Today, May 15th, Dave was informed that their Board has agreed to meet again to discuss the possibility of a merger with the SCRHCD.

Mr. Doorn said that the recruitment for healthcare providers is going well. There are two physicians scheduled to come the beginning of June; Dave relayed that he has also been in contact with two mid-level providers and is in the process of setting dates for their visits. He stated that there is a good group of qualified physicians and mid-levels from which to choose. Mr. Doorn added that he has increased the size of the locum pool, which includes Dr. Buck Wallace; Dave stated that Dr. Wallace is not moving back to Pinedale, but he is back in the area once each month and is willing to take weekend on-call hours. Mr. Doorn said he has also been talking with a physician's assistant from Salmon, Idaho, who is interested in taking some clinic days. Ms. Boman asked for Mr. Doorn's confirmation about a doctor from Rock Springs who is interested and Dave responded that he is scheduled to come in.

Dave reported that he is working on the Telemedicine application and will meet the deadline for the grant.

Mr. Doorn relayed that Ms. Vicky Marshall reported that two ventilators were received and should be in service within the next few weeks. He thanked the Green River Foundation for funding this, which amounts to approximately \$5100.

Dave stated that 84 firefighter EKG's were completed recently.

Mr. Doorn said that the University of Utah's Education Coordinator will be coming in August for a CME event on new diabetes and hypertension medications.

Mr. Doorn reported that Ms. Vicky Marshall attended a University of Utah Critical Conversations workshop during the Healthcare Coalition's quarterly meeting in Rock Springs. Dave added that Ms. Sharon Rutsch also reported that she and Ms. Marshall attended the Leadership workshop provided by the University of Utah.

Mr. Pompy asked Dave to make a comment about the recruitment fees that have been paid. Dave reported that the recruitment search has been provided by the Wyoming Resource Health Network out of Cheyenne, that most of the resumes Dave has received have come from that Network, their services are free, and there has been no cost to the District for this recruitment. Mr. Doorn added that a few applications were also received by providers who saw the District's job posting on Pinedale Online.

Ms. Boman stated that a note from one of the staff was received, relaying that a few patients' lives were saved recently; Wendy added that the involved staff members are credited for that.

EMS Report/Bill Kluck:

Mr. Kluck commented that it will be a busy month for EMS trying to keep up with BLS, ACLS, and PALS training, which are continuous throughout the year.

Bill added that regarding safety precautions, there are often elk along and on the roads going to Jackson. The State Highway Patrol notified Mr. Kluck that there is now bridgework in progress on Highway 191 and two stoplights have been put in place during these repairs. He informed Bill that there may be some delays when transporting patients to Jackson and if there are lengthy delays, EMS will be notified of specific dates and times. During those times, EMS may need to divert patient transfers to Rock Springs. Bill said he will keep the providers informed about when this occurs.

Bill reported that for recent events, pack tests were given to a few stand-by personnel for BLM and Wyoming Game and Fish, as well as provided assistance during a high school rodeo a few weeks ago on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Mr. Kluck stated that he participated in a Leadership Summit a few weeks ago; the primary topic was Community Paramedicine. He added that he is able to send paramedics or intermediate EMTs to get certified as a Community Paramedicine clinician or technician. This service is to try to prevent readmissions to ERs by working with Home Health, hospitals, and doing home visits to do scheduled patient health checks. During these checks, if there is a concern regarding the patient's health, a provider is available online for treatment instructions. This program is just starting and currently, the State has two pilot programs where they choose two services within the State for the pilot program. The most costly part of this program, Bill stated, is sending the paramedics and intermediates to the training; Casper College is now approved by the State to provide this training. There may be an opportunity for cost reimbursement through the State for this training in the near future.

Mr. Pompy asked Mr. Kluck about the current status of having medical flight companies' presentations in the Marbleton-Big Piney area. Mr. Kluck responded that this is currently on hold because Air Idaho/Air Methods has discontinued their memberships. He added that Classic, Guardian, and Life Flight still offer their memberships, but that Air Idaho informed Bill that insurance companies are opposed to having memberships for this service and it is basically illegal to sell memberships for flight transfer. Mr. Kluck stated that in Utah, it is illegal for a medical flight company to sell memberships; there are current legislative actions taking place in Wyoming regarding air ambulances, so Bill is waiting to see what happens with this before proceeding with air transport presentations. Mr. Kluck relayed that Air Idaho now offers a Patient Advocacy plan, which is free. This program assigns a patient advocate after a patient is flown and the patient advocate mails the paperwork for the patient to sign. When Air Idaho receives back the signed paperwork, the advocate will work with the patient to get as much money as possible from the insurance company to cover the cost of the flight. Air Idaho conducted geographical research about how much residents in our area are able to pay and Bill said that currently, the out-of-pocket cost will be less than \$300 for the flight, however, the paperwork must be signed and returned and the insurance deductible must first be met. So far, this is only offered through Air Idaho and Bill said he is not sure if the other flight companies plan to do so. Mr. Kluck stated that there is a meeting scheduled with Guardian Life Flight on May 22nd to discuss the possibility of having a fixed-wing plan stationed at the Pinedale Airport. Answering Mr. Pompy's additional question, Bill responded that current flight memberships with Air Idaho will be honored, but members will not be able to renew it, but he cannot predict what the other flight companies will do. Bill commented that

many people became members of the Life Flight Network because it was the cheapest. He added that the District uses Air Idaho the most because they are the closest, can arrive in about forty minutes, and they carry blood every time, even without requesting it. The only other flight service that can carry blood is Life Flight Network stationed in Rexburg, Idaho, and they can arrive in about an hour and twenty minutes.

Committee Reports

CAH Committee (Bill Johnson/Mike Pompy):

Mr. Pompy reported that Mr. Johnson, Dave, and he met with an architect last week. Mike added that Bill Johnson's friend, who has experience in construction, came over from Lander to give his input and advice, pro bono. The architect is from Davis Architects, which is the same company who designed our current clinics and was involved during the construction of them. Mike said there were no conclusions made, but they are willing to help with applying for the USDA loan and during the loan process. A preliminary architecture report, including a floor plan of the hospital, is needed for the loan application, as well as a financial report. Mike said that a financial report was previously completed by BKD; he wants them to update it at no cost, because they assured the District that their report would be accepted by the USDA. Mr. Pompy requested for the Board's approval to have Mr. Doorn work with the architects to draft a preliminary floor plan and to work with BKD or Eide Bailey to create a new financial statement, so these can be submitted to the USDA, along with the projected costs for building the CAH. Mr. Pompy added that Ms. Lorraine Warner from the USDA assured the previous Board that if the loan was approved, the costs for preparing the loan application would be covered in the loan, so Mr. Pompy stated he is very confident that a new USDA loan application will be approved because of the previous plan's modifications, cooperation from the county and towns within it, and the support from the community.

Mr. Bill Johnson said that he invited his friend from Lander to come to give his input because he is very qualified, rather than being baffled by an architect. Bill stated that his friend walked with him through the Pinedale clinic and was very impressed with it and found no reason why it could not be revamped. After a walk-through of the public health building, his friend was very unimpressed with it and told Bill it should be torn down, but that there are four fairly new furnaces that could still be used. Bill stated that the Board needs to talk with the County Commissioners and probably tear down part or all of that building to make room for the hospital, but he feels the existing clinic can still be utilized. Mr. Johnson said that he understand that it will cost more per square foot, but the square footage for the new CAH plan is less than what the previous Board had planned. Mr. Pompy added that a floor plan needs to be drafted before a cost estimate can be made.

Ms. Wendy Boman stated that a business plan and financial report must be submitted to the Town of Pinedale and County Commissioners before they will make a decision whether or not to support the CAH project. Mr. Clay Kainer suggested getting approval from the Board to request proposals from Davis Architects, BKD, and Eide Bailey to get the required studies done, which he feels would be a good place to start. Ms. Boman stated that she addressed a constituent's comment about deciding on a design firm at this meeting and Wendy said she emphasized that the Board is nowhere near making that decision. Mr. Kainer stated that he feels the Board needs to find out what it will cost between now and the application process. Clay said he is going through the previously prepared reports to see what information can still be used from them in order to save some money. He reiterated that the proposals

need to first be acquired and what it will cost to redo the financials.

Ms. Maxine Lecke asked if the CAH's location been decided. Mr. Pompy answered that it has not, because the District Board needs to work with the County Commissioners and Town of Pinedale first before that decision can be made.

Building Committee (Mike Pompy):

Mr. Pompy stated that he asked the architect from Davis Architects if he could look into whether or not a remodel is necessary for the Marbleton-Big Piney Clinic or if it can be grandfathered in, but this is not yet known. Mr. Pompy asked if Mr. Doorn can be authorized to request proposals from the architects, BKD, and Eide Bailey. Ms. Boman answered that requesting proposals is part of gathering information and Dave is already authorized to do that. Ms. Boman added that she feels another workshop should be planned for some time in June and asked Dave if that would be too soon. Mr. Doorn stated that he wants to receive the proposals first before planning a workshop.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comments

Ms. Bettina Sparrowe asked if the CAH's previous floor plan can be used or if there is a need for something completely different. Mr. Clay Kainer responded that because the new floor plan will be for a different location, the previous plan would not work.

Ms. Sparrow asked why there were State statutes listed under the agenda's Executive Session item. Mr. Kainer replied that that was his request, so it is made clear that according to the public meetings act, a Board can go into Executive Session for particular reasons and the statutes cite those reasons.

Ms. Sparrow also requested that rather than having the Executive Session at the beginning of the meeting, have it be at the end of the board meeting, so those in attendance do not have to wait for the public session. Ms. Boman answered that sometimes things are discussed in Executive Session that need to be addressed in the public session; if the Executive Session is at the end of the meeting, many of those attending may leave before the Executive Session has ended.

Old Business

1) Clinic fee schedule / June promotion:

Mr. Dave Doorn stated that there will be a 25% discount given in June; he is working on a cash fee schedule (kind of an Insta-Care) with specified prices, and hopes to have that prepared for proposing it at next month's Board meeting.

Ms. Tonia Hoffman read a personal statement regarding the district's negative public perception. She feels this is a high priority item that needs addressed promptly. The urgency to reinstate after hours full care in Marbleton has been one way the board has been attempting to remedy the situation, but she is concerned that people in the public may have perceived it as the Board making Marbleton a higher priority than other problems the District is facing. This isn't the case, though, and she hopes the Board can keep working at that while in other ways working to restore public faith in the RHCD and its facilities.

Ms. Hoffman proposed that the cost for office visits be decreased by 20%, to be implemented immediately, with a possible 10% decrease for all other services. Mr. Doorn said that he will need to look at what that would do to the District's revenues before implementing this. Ms. Wendy Boman requested that Dave have that information available for next month's meeting so the Board can make a decision about this. Ms. Hoffman stated that she feels it won't affect revenues because it will bring more patients to the clinics for care. She commented that even by decreasing office visit costs by 20%, SCRHC's costs are still higher than any other regional facility. Mr. Mike Pompy stated that Dave has already been collecting data, a rate survey, from other regional facilities, as well as offering a 25% June discount special and working on a cash fee schedule. Mr. Pompy asked if Ms. Kelli Lovell was looking into aligning costs with other regional facilities. Ms. Hoffman commented that Kelli Lovell requested for the Board to define what "in-line" costs mean. Tonia stated that she has the data from other regional facilities, and even by dropping office visit costs by 20%, the District is still overcharging. Mr. Doorn stated that he will have Ms. Lovell do another rate survey of surrounding facilities and he would have that information for next month's meeting. Ms. Boman stated that her orthopedic surgeon's office visit charge is \$212. Ms. Tonia Hoffman responded that she made several phone calls and has a list of cost data from surrounding healthcare facilities and she is willing to share that data with the rest of the Board; she added that the District's standard office visit cost is \$220. Mr. Doorn said he will have a full evaluation ready for next month's meeting.

Ms. Bettina Sparrowe asked if insured and uninsured patients' office visit costs are the same. She said that her insurance covers for all costs of her visits. She asked Tonia if the reduction in cost will only apply to uninsured patients. Ms. Hoffman replied that the cost affects both insured and uninsured patients, because even if a person is insured, they still have a deductible to meet.

Mr. Johnson commented that Kemmerer is in a financial tail-spin; he doesn't believe the District can match their prices. Ms. Hoffman replied that even with dropping our costs by 20%, the District's cost would still be far more than Kemmerer. Mr. Johnson stated that even though the District wants to be competitive, other facilities' costs also need to be considered. Ms. Hoffman said that she gathered prices from two facilities in Rock Springs, two from Kemmerer, Evanston, and Jackson. Mike Pompy said that he doesn't want the District to discontinue the process of reviewing other facilities' rates, he wants to be competitive with other facilities in our region.

Ms. Sharon Rutsch reminded Wendy Boman that about two years ago, it was reported that there would soon be financial impacts to the lab and radiology departments, due to upcoming regulations. She stated that this needs to be considered before implementing discounted rates.

2) Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting held on April 17, 2019:

Ms. Seipp made a motion to accept the Minutes from the April 17, 2019 Board meeting. Ms. Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Budget Schedule:

Mr. Dave Doorn stated that tomorrow, May 16, 2019, at 8:00, he will be meeting with each department head, Ms. Wendy Boman, and Ms. Tonia Hoffman at the Public Health building to set the budget.

Routine Business

Approval of Payroll and Bills:

Mr. Mike Pompy made a motion to approve paying the payroll and bills in the amount of \$651,905.98. Ms. Seipp seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Pompy made a motion to adjourn at 6:30 pm. Mr. Bill Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes taken by Jean Straw

Wendy Boman, Board Chair

Dave Doorn, Administrative Director