

Sublette County Rural Health Care District
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
August 19th, 2020

Venue: Marbleton City Hall, Marbleton, WY

Trustees Present:

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

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Set Agenda:

Executive Session: [Minutes taken by Tonia Hoffman]

Routine Business:

Administrative and Finance Report / Dave Doorn

Dave started with the financials stating that we had a so-so month, revenue was down and basically from what he has seen was April bottomed out, and then slowly climbed again in May and June. But now that Covid has picked up our volumes have dropped. We were under budget on revenues, expenses were a little above due to Covid expenses. We also had 88,000 in health care claims. Those are our unusual expenses for the month. After the adjustment from the tax revenue we were down \$189,000. We are tracking Covid expenses that we will be reimbursed for. Our scheduled appointments are down for the month, but we had an incredible ER month, Bill Kluck was busy, but our after-hours ER was similar to last year. Our lab has record numbers which are Covid related. Sharon and her staff have been working very hard and have done an excellent job.

Bill Johnson requested that next month the reports showed each doctor and their visitation for the month.

Dave said that he will do that for Bill.

Dave gave a Covid update – Dr. Fitzsimmons was present as well. We are hanging in, the report from today from Cat Urbikite stated that we have 34 lab confirmed 8 probable and 3 active cases in the county right now and 1 death, a Sublette County resident in Salt Lake who had been there since June, they contracted it there in a senior center. Cases are reported where individuals claim their residency.

Testing has improved. The state gave us an Abbot machine, a quick test for Covid, it takes 15 minutes. We have a Sophia machine that is in both clinics and we will soon have a test that is just a nasal swab

compared to the nasal pharyngeal that we hope to use on kids coming back to schools. School will start next week, and we assume with more kids back at school we will be doing more testing.

We are working with both nurses from both school districts, we are trying to make it easier for them and we are working on a plan to test in Pinedale in the morning and Marbleton in the afternoon in the near future.

There is going to be some pushback about our antigen test but our hope is that we can do that antigen test rapidly on kids and it is nasal not nasal pharyngeal.

We are working with public health and the county to use CARES funding to allow us to offer those tests for free. We don't want any barriers for individuals to get tested.

We had an EIRMC meeting today about a global per capita value based reimbursement system compared to the fee-based system that we are at right now. The drop-dead date is in 2026. EIRMC is being proactive and had reached out to us to see if there was any interest.

Dave was on a video today with the state appropriations committee with the healthcare facilities bill that they are trying to create. Basically, they are trying to move some money out of the CARES to the healthcare facility funds. He didn't really find out anything definitive. If there is a special session and this bill gets moved ahead it could be good for us. It just depends on the interpretation of the federal guidelines. Everyone is hoping that there are some new guidelines that come out in the next month or so but nothing yet.

Bill asked if we are in a stall about a potential isolation unit.

Dave said that we had the opportunity to have a 3 room isolation unit placed at the Pinedale clinic, we had spoken about reaching out to the SLIB board and asking for some money and we had found out that Albert Sommers had recommended that we wait until we get a firm no on the hospital until we go ahead. So, Dave thinks that he will wait until later.

EMS Report / Bill Kluck

Bill said a big public thank you to Classic Air Medical for bringing over a simulation training. Classic agreed to bring it back again. About 20 people were able to utilize it.

We are still doing the ACLS BLS and PALS trying to catch up from Covid

A lot of car accidents lately so wear reflective vests when you are out. Stay cautious at night when you are driving

We are still following the CDC guidelines regarding state Covid procedures and protocols. There was an incident in Sweetwater county where they ended up losing 9 EMS crew because of one positive staff member. So, we our goal is to prevent any situation similar to this.

Events everything went well for school physicals, and the buckaroo rodeo. Blood donation, we collected 49 units of blood in Pinedale and 28 in Big Piney. That is substantial. Big thank you to those who came out. Next blood drive Dec 21 from 1-6 in Pinedale and Dec 22 from 1:30-6 in Marbleton and they both are at the EMS building in both locations.

PR Report/ Emily Ray – Absent

Emily was at the Q&A in Pinedale tonight, Dave offered to answer questions for Emily
Dave said she is very busy with Joint Planning Committee and maintaining the roles with the clinic.

Committee Reports

CAH Committee (Bill Johnson / Mike Pompy):

Bill said there wasn't much to report.

Mike said included in that is the Marbleton upgrade, we do have a letter back from Davis on what it is going to take.

Dave said they are looking for more info to move closer to be able to bid the project. Dave will be in contact with them tomorrow via phone conference. JD reached out to the State of WY last week so there should be more information tomorrow.

Mike mentioned that there is a plan needed for the construction debris and dust being isolated from the rest of the clinic. Sharon got it from Star Valley when they did some work providing the isolation and we can use that plan as a format to create our own.

Wendy asked how soon we can start on the project? She said to please encourage JD to expedite things.

Dave said that we need to verify through the state first, then get the info into a bid form and then bid it out.

Compensation Committee (Marti Seipp):

Marti is still working on job descriptions, but there was confusion as to whether or not they were complete. There was a zoom meeting with Roberto and it seemed that we are right in the middle to where we needed to be with employee wages.

Joint Planning Committee (Tonia Hoffman):

We have been attending a lot of events to get the word out, educate the public about what we are trying to accomplish. We have been getting a decent turn out and a lot of questions to clarify the misinformation that is floating around in the public. We are working really hard; Emily and Selena have been working really hard on the joint planning side. We are working on an RFP to send out to regional hospitals in the near future. We have a meeting on Friday. We are trying to get word out to employees about our goals, the mixer that was planned between the Sublette Center and RHCD has been cancelled because of Covid. We are trying to be all over the county at once to get our information out.

Mike stated that the Marbleton senior center meeting was excellent there was a lot of positive and negative questions and Dave did an excellent job of answering all of the questions clearly.

Wendy mentioned the schedule of Q&A's coming up in the future.

New Business:

Rachel Weksler wanted to clear up an error that was made. There was an addition to a statute on July 1st of this year and it added a section B, she thought she was operating under the state of the most current statute but realized her mistake. Section B is very important. A person's name can't be on a General Ballot more than once. She just wanted to read it for the record. Section B said no candidate's name shall appear on the general election ballot more than once, except that a candidate for partisan office can run for the office of President or Vice President on the same General Ballot. She thinks this clears up confusion, she apologized for any confusion that might be caused.

Dave wanted to add that the deadline for the ballot Registration is on Monday the 24th so we could use a few more names on the ballot.

Bill Johnson asked about collections – his comment about it is probably the most delicate we thing we do in the public eye is our collections. He just wants to make sure that we are going through the proper steps before we send anything to collections. It is a small town and we need to treat everyone equally and sensitively. We need to give them every last chance before they are turned over, it is a difficult world right now.

Wendy said we have some steps lined out.

Kelli wanted to clarify that we turned off our collections process about mid-March. We haven't turned anybody over during this period. Dave and I were contemplating when we should turn this back on. We are unsure as to that date, because right now we are AR in our collections. She has to do what is right for our community. They have continued to partner with patients with a payment plan and financial aid. Our normal collection process has been going on for years and years with the transition to EPIC we send out 3 consecutive paper statements and then the 4th one comes from a different vendor that sends out a final demand for us.

Bill requested that a phone call was made a few times before individuals were sent to collection to cut down the uncivility and there should be exceptions to the rule and a personal touch.

Kelli said they send out about 12,000 statements a month; 12,000 phone calls would be a lot to be made. We did a lot of tracking to figure out our return on investment we figured out that those phone calls did not have great results in the payments made that we have hoped for and it was quite the investment.

Kelli mentioned that we are going paperless on 9.20.2020. Emily and herself are working on ways to get that information out to the public. We have changed our paper statement 3 times over previous years and that has had no effect on the number of individuals stating that they do not get their statements. We have two middle men, our statement vendor and the United States Postal Office. She can confirm that through our vendors it went out and the patient says that they don't receive it. So, the solution to that this day and age, as we are moving to electronic statements so we are removing that middle man out and we are decreasing our costs associated with mailing statements as well. Anyone signed up for MyChart will receive a "phone call" aka a text message and email that will be received 2 times a month for 3 months and then it will be sent over to collection.

There are more than 50 a month that get turned over and those phone calls would require a full-time person. It has resolved that we took on the U of U's approach and what their standard is. It is up to the patient to let us know that they cannot fulfill the bill, and that they reach out to us to make

arrangements and we can work with them from there for any of their needs. We are happy to talk with them and will talk for hours if needed and help with financial assistance and in any way shape or form. She even offers assistance with individual's bills from other medical facilities.

Dave confirmed that Kelli and her team does an excellent job of finding ways to assist our patients with any billing needs.

Kelli mentioned that individuals that do not want to go paperless they still can get paper statements.

Wendy stated that she thinks that Kelli does a wonderful job, cares about people and offers options.

Public Comments:

Old Business:

Approval the June 2020 meeting minutes

Mike moved to approve the June 17th, 2020 meeting minutes, Tonia seconded the motion, unanimous approval.

Routine Business:

Approval of Payroll and Bills

Tonia made a motion to approve the bills in the amount \$830,045.15, Bill seconded the motion, unanimous approval

Adjournment:

Marti made a motion to adjourn, Mike seconded the motion, unanimous approval

Minutes taken by Emily Ray

Wendy Boman, Chairman

Dave Doorn, Administrative Director