

October 11, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Whidbey Island Public Hospital District was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President, Anne Tarrant. Present were President Tarrant, Commissioner Wallin, Commissioner Case, Commissioner Zaveruha, and Commissioner Cammermeyer. Chief Executive Officer, Tom Tomasino; Chief Financial Officer, Joe Vessey; Chief Operating Officer, Hank Hanigan; Chief Human Resources Officer, Carolyn Pape; Chief Quality Officer, Teresa Fulton; Interim Chief Nursing Officer, Kath Virgil-Belding; Chief of Staff Elect, Gabe Barrio, MD; Attorney, Dale Roundy, and many hospital and medical staff, as well as community members were present. Al Bartlett of Riney Productions was present to electronically record the meeting.

Points of Order

There were none

Minute Approval

President Tarrant called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2011 regular board meeting. Commissioner Case requested an amendment to the minutes to reflect the fact that it was he that made the statement that there are an increasing number of Medicare patients who need to be seen, not Commissioner Wallin. Commissioner Case made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Education

Roger Meyers, EMS Manager, presented an overview of the WGH Emergency Medical Services Department. He stated that he has been associated with this service for 35 years and has been a hospital employee for 30 years. The WGH EMS department responds to about 7000 calls a year and has a very experienced group of paramedics and EMTs. Of the 27 paramedics currently on staff 19 have over 10 years of field experience and nine of those have over 20 years of field experience. Our 13 EMTs have an average field experience of 15 years and one EMT has been here over 37 years. The scramble time expectation is wheels rolling within two minutes in the day time and three minutes at night. The current average is 2:03 during the day and 2:54 at night. The arrival time goal is to have an ambulance on scene within eight minutes 80 percent of the time. The services provided include a 911 ALS/BLS transport service, stat and non-stat off-island transfer service, ambulance standby at community events, and education and prevention programs. The system is two tiered with both BLS (Basic Life Support) and ALS (Advanced Life Support) units. The BLS units are located in three fire stations in Oak Harbor and Coupeville. There are three ALS units in Oak Harbor, one in Coupeville and two on South Whidbey. The demographics of Whidbey Island are unique. We can't call a neighboring county to come and help so we have built a system that is constantly in motion replacing ALS units with a BLS or ALS unit from another area. Some of the future needs include reviewing and redeploying the units geographically, reducing the number of emergency vehicles that respond to emergencies, continuing to support and enhance our BLS system, and continuing to promote and expand community education and prevention programs. EMS is involved in many public education events. Some highlights include teaming with the WGH Foundation in providing over 50 AEDs to community groups, Friends and Family CPR/AED training, and the Staying Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) program. The cost of running the EMS system is not cheap but since 1977 the public has assisted with funding with the passage of levies. The system could not operate without those levies.

Public Questions or Comments on Agenda Items

There were none.

Quality and Patient Safety

No report

Medical Staff Report

A. Chief of Staff Report

Dr. Gabe Barrio, Chief of Staff Elect, presented the following medical staff reappointments:

John R. Beumer, MD	Active Staff Reappointment
Steven T. Hunnell, MD	Active Staff Reappointment
Paul A. Zaveruha, MD	Active Staff Reappointment
William A. Wien, DO	Affiliate Active Staff Reappointment
Christopher M. Krol, MD	Courtesy Staff Reappointment
John D. McGowan, MD	Courtesy Staff Reappointment

Commissioner Case made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, to approve the reappointments as presented. Commissioner Zaveruha abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried. Dr. Barrio presented the following medical staff appointment:

Edward H. Sessions, MD	Provisional Courtesy Appointment
William E. Berg, MD	Provisional Courtesy Appointment
Todd J. Czartoski, MD	Provisional Courtesy Appointment
Matthew A. Edwardson, MD	Provisional Courtesy Appointment
Walter Thomas Kushner, MD	Provisional Courtesy Appointment
William H. Likosky, MD	Provisional Courtesy Appointment
Lee-Loung Liou, MD	Provisional Courtesy Appointment
Amer M. Malik, MD	Provisional Courtesy Appointment
Sheila D. Smith, MD	Provisional Courtesy Appointment

Commissioner Case made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cammermeyer, to approve the appointment as presented. Motion carried. Dr. Barrio presented the following Allied Health Professional appointment:

Todd A. Erickson, CRNA	Allied Health Professional
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Commissioner Case made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cammermeyer, to approve the appointment as presented. Motion carried. Dr. Barrio noted that Michael M. Nelson, MD has resigned from the Courtesy Staff and D. Russell Johnson, MD has resigned from the Active Staff. Dr. Barrio presented the Tele-Medicine Neurology Privilege Request form for approval. Commissioner Cammermeyer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Case, to approve the Tele-Medicine Neurology Privilege request form as presented. Motion carried. Dr. Barrio presented changes to the privilege request form for Emergency Medicine for approval. He reported that the changes are related to the ability of the E.D. physicians to do basic ultrasounds after receiving additional training. Commissioner Wallin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cammermeyer to approve the changes to the Privilege Request Form for Emergency Medicine. Motion carried. Dr. Barrio presented changes to the Medical Staff By-laws. Section 4.5 Consulting Staff (Tele-Medicine) has been added to the bylaws to reflect the needs of the new Tele-Stroke Program. Commissioner Wallin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cammermeyer, to approve the changes to the Medical Staff By-laws as presented. Motion carried. Dr. Barrio presented a new Medical Staff Policy on Telemedicine Credentialing for approval. This policy is the written mechanism to provide for the credentialing of tele-medicine physicians. Commissioner Wallin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cammermeyer, to approve the Tele-medicine Credentialing policy as presented. Motion carried.

Individual Items

A. Administrative Update

Tom Tomasino reported that we have a new dermatology clinic in Coupeville called Family Dermatology. The clinic is located in Dr. Johnson's spa building. Dr. Paul Thompson and PA Reese Bliet are the providers. They are seeing patients beginning this week and have access to all of Dr. Johnson's files. In addition Skagit Dermatology is providing dermatology coverage a couple of days a week in Oak Harbor. He reported that the general surgeons will be moving into Dr. Johnson's old medical practice building. This location is larger, is ADA compliant, has more exam rooms and is a better location. Mr. Tomasino reported that our new Lab Manager,

Jody Levit, is here and began working yesterday. She is from Homer, Alaska and has 20 years in lab management experience.

B. Surplus Property

Joe Vessey reported that the District owns some real estate that we might want to consider selling. The law requires a special process for selling these properties which includes the Board declaring them surplus, the Board selecting three appraisers and the Board holding a public hearing. There are two pieces of property to consider. The first is the old EMS building in Freeland next to the new Skagit Farmer's Supply. We have owned this property since the mid-90s. The second is a residential property in Oak Harbor that was bequeathed to the hospital from an estate. This property does not further the strategic goals of the hospital so it would be beneficial to sell. President Tarrant stated that the Finance Committee discussed these properties and agreed that it might be the right time to sell them. Mr. Vessey asked the Commissioners to approve his going forward with seeking out appraisers to present at the next Board Meeting. Commissioner Cammermeyer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, to approve the search for appraisers and begin the process of selling these properties. Motion carried.

Board Items

A. WSHA Webcast

President Tarrant stated that the WSHA webcast was on the agenda under the heading Agenda Items for the Next Meeting but really is a Board Item. She reported that WSHA has educational opportunities available to the Commissioners in the form of webcasts. The last webcast was regarding the Open Public Meetings Act. She encouraged the commissioners to participate in these opportunities either at the time of the webcast or at a later date by reviewing the PowerPoint presentations. The next webcast is November 3rd and the topic will be Ethics and Conflict of Interest.

Staff and Status Reports from Administration

A. Administrator's Report

Commissioner Cammermeyer asked if nurses who achieve certifications get an increase in the rate of pay. Carolyn Pape stated that under the WSNA contract the nurses receive a premium if they have a bachelor's degree or certification. There was discussion regarding the increase in uncompensated care since 2009. There was discussion regarding the medication dispensing system that will be go live in 2012.

B. Financial Report

Joe Vessey reported on payment reform and changes on the Federal and State level for reimbursement. The State has put a limit on ED visits for Medicaid beneficiaries for certain diagnoses that they have determined are non-emergent. After three visits in a calendar year for one of these diagnoses Medicaid will not reimburse the hospital. The impact is difficult to quantify but it appears that it will have an impact of a few hundred thousand dollars to the hospital. The State's intent is to encourage these individuals to seek primary care but the impact really falls on the hospital. The State says we can bill the patient for the visit but if the patient qualifies for Medicaid then the vast majority would also qualify for Charity Care based on both the State guidelines and ours. The Governor has also proposed an elimination of cost reimbursement for Critical Access Hospitals for Medicaid which would also mean the program would lose the federal matching funds. The impact to Whidbey General would be 1.1 million. They are also proposing to cut adult pharmacy benefits by 127 million which means access to medications will be more difficult and people will wind up in the E.D. as a result. There is also a proposal to eliminate the subsidy for the Basic Health Plan. On the federal level the President has proposed reducing the Medicare reimbursement for Critical Access Hospitals from 101% to 100% of reasonable costs. The impact would be about \$200,000 annually. In addition Tri-Care has been reviewing claims and taking back funds that they now believe they should not have paid. Tom Tomasino stated that the system is broken. We have seen the impact to mental and behavioral health on the island in horrific ways over the last two weeks. There was discussion about how a walk-in clinic may or may not reduce the impact of some of

these changes. Mr. Vessey reported on the August financial statements. Cash is down compared to July which is a result of the lower volumes in June and July. Accounts Receivable days are at 47 which is still very good. Billed charges were 4.5% under budget which was an increase from May, June and July. On a net basis revenue was at 6.9 million on a budget of 7.4 million. Expenses were under budget by \$82,000. The bottom line was excess revenue over expense of \$269,280 on a budget of \$333,847. Year-to-date gross patient revenues are under budget 8% and expenses by .5%. The net loss for the year is \$344,149 on a budget of 1.5 million.

C. Review of Dashboard Report

There were no questions on the Dashboard.

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Monthly Write-Offs and Vouchers

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 40.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Board. Commissioner Cammermeyer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Case, to approve vouchers #150426 and 150512 in the amount of \$13,967.87. Motion carried. Commissioner Zaveruha abstained from the review, discussion, vote and written approval of these vouchers due to a potential conflict of interest. Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 40.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Board. Commissioner Cammermeyer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Case to approve vouchers #150049 to #151335, and #2354 to #2375, excluding #150426 and #150512 in the total amount of \$8,752,094.86. Motion carried. Commissioner Cammermeyer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Case to approve the write-offs for September in the amount of \$922,247.28. Motion carried.

Agenda Items for next Regular Board Session

President Tarrant stated that the Surplus Property should be on the next agenda.

General Public Comments

There were none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Tarrant called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wallin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cammermeyer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm. Motion carried.