



November 24, 2020

Welcome Announcement of Open Meeting Law Posting

Loren Wiedel called the Meeting of the Thayer County Health Services Board of Trustees to order on November 24, 2020, at 7:02 pm, in the TCHS Bruning Conference Room, 120 Park Avenue, Hebron NE. The open meeting laws are posted and viewable in the conference room. Present on roll call were Loren Wiedel, Karen Dahlkoetter (by phone), Connie Lichty, Laura Tuma (by phone), and Libby Heitmann. Others in attendance: Paul Edwards, Aaron Teachout, Shawn Petras, Jamie Koch, Paul Traczek (Auditor), Andrew McCabe (Auditor), Dr. Bryan Hubl (by phone), Cheryl Dougherty, Lori Grummert, and Rita Luongo. Recorder: Bridget Behrends, Executive Assistant.

Approval of Agenda & Approval of October 28, 2020 Minutes: Libby motioned to approve the agenda and October 28, 2020 board meeting minutes. Connie seconded. Roll call vote, all yes. Motion carried.

Annual Audit Report (WIPFLI): Paul Traczek and Andrew McCabe from Wipfli reviewed the audit results for the year ended June 30, 2020 with the board. They reviewed the required communications, financial analysis, ratio analysis, industry updates and healthcare trends for both the hospital and the foundation, noting there were no material adjustments proposed during the statement audit. Aaron recognized Lori Grummert, Controller, and Cheryl Dougherty, Payroll Clerk, for their efforts during the audit. **Libby moved to accept the audit results for the year ended June 30, 2020 as written, Connie seconded. Roll call vote, all yes. Motion carried.**

Financial Statements- October 2020:

Aaron reviewed the financial statement packet for the Three Months Ended October 31, 2020 and 2019 with the Board:

Month of October: Operating Income was 117,857 or 5.3%, total margin of 112,892 or 5.1%, and an EBIDA of \$264,514 or 11.9%. The gain is significantly above budget of 3%. Gross revenue for the month was 21.9% above budget primarily from increased outpatient services to budget. Expenses were over budget by \$133k due to an increase in contracted services and pharmacy supplies for the month. Cash flow for the month was \$140k due to our increase in operations with ending cash balance of \$11.5M. Days cash on hand decreased to 194.3 compared to prior month of 194.8.

Year to Date: Operating Income was 478,878 or 5.6%, total margin of 504,284 or 5.9%, and an EBIDA of \$1,129,837 or 13.2%. TCHS is off to a great start of the fiscal year given the current climate of COVID-19. Gross revenues are 14.2% above budget and 18.5% above prior year. Expenses are over 2.7% to budget and 9.2% over the prior year. Days in AR are 44.6 (gross) and 37.9 (net). TCHS AR days are very good and considerably better than benchmark. TCHS Medicare cost per day and cost to charge ratio is not fully known yet until the cost report template is updated with the FY2020 cost report. Age of plant continues to rise as TCHS depreciation expenses continue to drop along with minimal capital investments.

Current Month: The month of November is continuing the level of services performed and revenue when compared to prior months but will slow down with the holiday. TCHS is on current pace for gross revenues to end the month at budget. TCHS continues to see an increase in visits for most departments to budget. This trend is expected to continue for the rest of the month and into December as long as COVID remains manageable. Multiple CAREs Act stimulus payments have been received along with the PPP loan. The regulations regarding these funds are continuously reviewed so they can be properly accounted for which changes weekly.

Libby made a motion to approve the October 31, 2020 financial statements, Connie seconded. Roll call vote, all yes. Motion carried.

Officers Reports:

Chief Executive Officer Report- Paul Edwards

- a. **Consent Agenda (October) – Libby made a motion to approve the October consent agenda as written; Connie seconded. Roll call vote, all yes. Motion Carried.** Discussion before approval: Loren congratulated TCHS in the implementation of Ocuvera cameras.
- b. **COVID-19 Update:** Paul reported that TCHS has seen a spike in COVID-19 cases; although, the number of cases seems to be reaching a plateau. During this time, Paul asked Dr. Bryan Hubl to provide a COVID-19 update on behalf of TCHS. Dr. Hubl informed The Board that over the weekend, more positive COVID-19 patients were seen. This rise in positive cases has caused some hospitals to reach near capacity. In result, CHI has contacted TCHS about taking on some of their COVID-19 patients' contingent of the COVID-19 patients at TCHS. Loren asked about hospitals prioritizing options for transferring TCHS COVID-19 patients. Paul provided various options. The first transfer option is Bryan Medical Center with CHI Hospitals in Grand Island and Omaha to follow. Paul stated that TCHS is monitoring capacity and strives to keep services open. Paul stated that over the last pay period, 14% of TCHS employees were internally impacted by COVID-19. Dr. Hubl described that COVID-19 patients are being treated through oxygen therapy with steroids. TCHS now has access to Remdesivir as well, which will only be given when the patient has tested positive for COVID-19. Loren asked how the providers collaborate to make the decision to transfer a COVID-19 patient. Dr. Hubl's responded that there are multiple critical components that are factors in this decision. Prime components are oxygen requisitions and other factors that require the patient to be closer to a specialist. If a patient requires CPAP, BiPaP, or intubation, the patient will need to be transferred to a facility more able to do so. Dr. Hubl reassured The Board that all operations are still a full go. Karen asked about the concern of employees being exposed and testing positive. Dr. Hubl reassured everyone that employees have stayed safe and TCHS hasn't had to shut down any departments; however, there are some electives that could differ. TCHS doesn't want to stop people from receiving their healthcare. Departmental contingency plans were reported a month ago, making departmental quarantines different on a case by case basis. Dr. Hubl concluded his updated by stating, "It is hard to think about the what-ifs when things are changing daily. We must take things day by day."
- c. **Employee Appreciation/Fundamentals:** Paul reported that Thayer County Health Services appreciates the work and dedication of their employees. Employee appreciation is shown through various tasks, with the TCHS Fundamentals Committee being the primary source of employee appreciation. The Fundamentals Committee is composed of fifteen members that represent fourteen departments. Five of these members are Operations Team Members along with the rest of its members being frontline employees. Fundamentals Committee has monthly meetings and works to coordinate a specific activity for each month. This committee also puts on a monthly celebration for birthdays and anniversaries celebrated within the month. Recently, the Fundamentals Committee had their Fall Festival that included food, games, several contests, and the Pour Horse Coffee Trailer which was a huge hit for celebration of successful TCHS Flu Clinics. Paul explained that this is a committee that is employee driven and run by the employees talking amongst each other. Feedback has shown that TCHS employees enjoy these employee engagement/appreciation events and that it strengthen the organization. Both Karen and Connie recognized that this is a great way to meet the needs of our employees and lift their spirits during this difficult time.
- d. **Marketing:** Paul reported to the Board that marketing had a remote session and preliminary work is being done with CHI. CHI will provide us with a final report. During this time, TCHS identified top performing service as which are Orthopaedics, Oncology, Family Practice, and Pain Clinic. Paul remarked that OB is underperforming at the moment, stating that TCHS will be lucky to have 40 deliveries this year while typically 70 deliveries are suggested to stay current. TCHS will be working with Marketing Director, Kassi Krupicka for campaign coordinates. TCHS looks to build out billboards, direct mail, and television campaigns. TCHS has recently purchased three billboards as shown and creative support will continue to be expanded.
- e. **New Hires:** Bridget reported that there were five new hires within the month of November. These individuals include: Chelsea Kramp, AP Specialist, John Luongo, Safety Coordinator, Erica Wiedel, Specialty Clinic RN, Sue Dlouhy, Pharmacist, and Andrea Kreisel, Pharmacy Clerk. This brought up the discussion of the adoption of Priefert Pharmacy and their staff. Paul explained that the store front still falls under Michael and might add a position at some point. For the time being, TCHS is wanting to get the Thayer County Pharmacy open, then expansion will take place. Paul stated that

he meets at Prieferts Pharmacy once a week and the transition is going well. Karen brought to the Boards attention an Aetna letter stating that Priefert Pharmacy is not a preferred provider. Aaron Teachout stated that this is strictly due to the game of pharmacy retail. Paul then requested a copy of the letter and specific information regarding its content. Paul explained that Kassi and Michael are working to push information out and have been addressing similar issues with Wellcare that have been coming up. Aaron reassured the Board that this has nothing to do with the purchase. It is strictly deals with timing and open enrollment. No payer contracts are changing. This item was completed by Paul directing any questions to Michael Logsdon.

Chief Nursing Officer Report- Jamie Koch

- a. **Physician Credentialing:** Connie motioned to approve the initial appointment and re-appointments as recommended by the Medical Staff. Libby seconded. Roll call vote, discussion prior to approval: Jamie stated that John Hallgren's wasn't approved due to his file not being ready. There will be two initial appointments and two reappointments with exception of John. Quality's scorecard will be revamped by January.

1. **Initial Appointments**

- a.) Janet Bock, APRN (Behavioral Health)
- b.) Reena Ramakrishnan, DO (Locum Tenen)
- c.) John Hallgren, MD (Locum Tenen)

2. **Reappointments**

- a.) Heidi Kile, APRN (Cardiology)
- b.) Michael Pierce, MD (Radiology)

Chief Financial Officer Report- Aaron Teachout

- a. **Capital Plan Update:** Aaron reported that TCHS has received the quote for hospital grade furniture and the furniture will get installed within 4-6 weeks. IT Switches will be needed in order to expand with no interruptions for IT. There is growth potential for Specialty Clinic. McCarthy will completing preliminary designs for expansion. The next step is to provide the Board with final estimates. The Board fully supports the Specialty Clinic expansion. However, the Board would like a presentation brought to them with preliminary estimates at a later Board Meeting.
- b. **Thayer County Pharmacy Bank Account:** Thayer County Health Services is planning to open an account at Thayer County Bank for Thayer County Pharmacy. The Thayer County Pharmacy needs its own account to reconcile.

Vice President of Clinic Services- Shawn Petras

- a. **Behavioral Health:** Shawn reported that Janet Bock, APRN (Behavioral Health) starts on Monday, December 1, 2020. Janet will start with a learning curve with EHR. Her appointments will be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Prior to her start date, she has attended the Deshler Chamber Meeting, Coffee Talk, and had a Zoom Meet and Greet.
- b. **Rural Health Clinics:** Shawn stated that there has been a spike in employee absences due to COVID-19.
- c. **Oncology:** Shawn reported that there has been an increase in chemotherapy. Due to being able to see other physician's patients. A room in the Specialty Clinic has been made into a Chemo Room. For the month of October, there were ten individuals receiving treatment. Dr. Werner is here twice a month. Loren asked about How TCHS acquires non-Dr. Werner patients. Shawn responded that this is a decision made by the patient and their physician. Dr. Werner is impressed by how quickly oncology has grown. This provides multiple positives to the patient such as being able to receive treatment closer to home, and not having to make the drive. Currently, there are four nurses certified to give chemo with hopefully two more nurses in the future.
- d. **Orthopaedics:** Shawn reported, TCHS has discussed several different orthopedic options. However, Dr. Barry Bohlen from Hastings Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine seems to be the best option. Dr. Bohlen brings three staff members with him. There has been a referral for Dr. Webb that does spines and joints. Dr. Webb is currently doing his fellowship and TCHS will have him here by July of 2021. For the time being, Dr. Vande Gutchte from Lincoln Orthopedic Center will be here starting in January until Dr. Webb takes over. This will be the first time that TCHS offers spine. Loren inquired about the success of Senior Life Solutions. Shawn reported that Zoom Meetings are being held, and when COVID-19 settles down, Senior Life Solutions looks to offer a hybrid to keep everyone engaged.

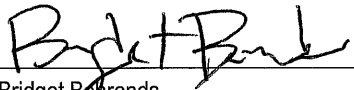
Old Business for The Board: Paul reported that the Thayer County Pharmacy is set to launch on December 7, 2020. All necessary portions such as accounting and inventory are being taken care of. Also, all employees will go through orientation within the next two weeks. At this time, Connie suggested a ribbon cutting. It was decided that this will wait until a later date. Although, the signing of Thayer County Pharmacy will take place at Werner's Law Office for those Board of Trustee Members who would like to attend.

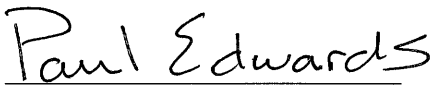
Miscellaneous/New Business for the Board: *none*.

Visitor Comments: *none*.

Executive Session: *none*

Libby made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40pm, Connie seconded. Roll call vote, all yes. Motion carried, meeting.


Bridget Behrends
Executive Assistant


Paul Edwards
President & CEO