



December 1, 2021

**Welcome Announcement of Open Meeting Law Posting**

Karen Dahlkoetter called the Meeting of the Thayer County Health Services Board of Trustees to order on December 1, 2021 at 7:01 p.m. 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 Karen Dahlkoetter, Loren Wiedel, Connie Lichty, and Mike Long. Others in attendance: Scott Cook, Jamie Koch, Marie Knedler, Mike DeFoe, Amanda Vandervoort, Lori Grummert, and Rita Luongo. Recorder: Bridget Behrends, Executive Assistant.

**Approval of Agenda & Approval of October 2021 Board Meeting Minutes: Mike motioned to approve the agenda along with October 2021 Board Meeting Minutes as amended. Loren seconded. Roll call vote, all yes. Motion carried.**

**Financial Statements- October 2021:**

Mike DeFoe, Chief Financial Officer reviewed the financial statement packet for the Four Months Ended October 31, 2021 and 2020 with the Board:

Month of October: Overview of the October 31, 2021 financial statements for the fourth month of fiscal year 2022. There was an operating gain of \$80,340 or 3.3% and an EBIDA of \$231,106 or 9.6%. The month was favorable due to clinic visits being up 18.2% which increased the majority of other department utilization. Clinic and outpatient revenue were up 16.1% and 5.3% respectively. Inpatient was under budget 21.1% due to swing bed days being 41 days under budget. Per the latest TCHS Medicare Interim Rate Letter, TCHS is reimbursed \$3,303 per day. The 41 days at the Medicare rate amounts to \$135,000 and the inpatient variance was appropriately under budget. Some of the departmental factors having an impact of the month include: Specialty Clinic visits up 62.7%, Lab test up 30.3%, Pharmacy scripts up 21.6%, and Rehab visits up 27.6%. There were 32 hospital admits, a 14.3% increase to budget, resulting in an average daily census of 3.94, unfavorable to budget by 23.7%. Total expenses were over budget 4.8% or \$107,744 and were mainly attributed to contract services/professional fees. Cash and equivalents increased by \$405,562 to \$12,073,952 from June. Day's cash on hand were 172.0.

Year to Date: Operating Income was \$435,320 or 4.5%, total margin of \$450,257 or 4.5%, and an EBIDA of \$1,064,270 or 11.0%. AR Days at the end of October were 46.1 gross and 43.9 net. Through the first four months of FY22, TCHS revenues are being guided by outpatient and clinic services. AR days decreased 2.5 days from prior month and revenue cycle will continue to work accounts.

Additional Information: TCHS is still planning an operational and financial review of Pharmacy areas. This review will occur at the end of the first quarter of FY2022 when we have a contribution from the auditors and several more months actual results.

Discussion: There were discussions regarding the nursing shortage and retention of nurses without burn out.

**Loren made a motion to approve the October 2021 Financial Statements, Connie seconded. Roll call vote, all yes. Motion carried.**

**Officers Reports:**

**Chief Executive Officer Report- Scott Cook**

- a. **Consent Agenda (November) – Mike made a motion to approve the November consent agenda as written; Loren seconded. Roll call vote, all yes. Motion Carried.** Discussion before approval: Scott reported that construction will begin for the TCHS Isolation Rooms on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- b. **Construction Update with Air Handler 1:** Scott reported that construction for Air Handler 1 is currently taking place. There has not been any issues so far as the electrical portion will begin tomorrow. Following completion, there will be a fine tuning of the system. In result of the recent weather, the Chiller Components Project will be postponed until January.
- c. **COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate:** Scott reported that there has been an injunction and stay put on the national healthcare COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate by CMS. Therefore, TCHS is putting a pause on all reasonable accommodation decisions for the COVID-19 Vaccine. TCHS will still collect documents for anyone who has started or is wanting to go through the reasonable accommodation process for the COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate. Although, TCHS will not make any formal decisions. This will provide record of the process if the mandate is put back in place. Scott reassured the board that TCHS is doing well from an employee standpoint.
- d. **New Hires:** Scott reported that there were two new hires for the month of November. These individual are JennaLee Harris, Behavioral Health Therapist and Megan Collins, Specialty Clinic Medical Assistant. Scott informed the board that TCHS is growing their Behavioral Health Program. Although, JennaLee will not begin providing services until January due to credentialing and insurance processes. Additionally, Amanda reported that TCHS is excited for Dr. Myers to join TCHS in August or sooner along with Dr. Blatny. Dr. Blatny has started at TCHS and has been a tremendous help with locum tenens coverage. Lastly, Scott reported that Travis Wright PA-C has tendered his resignation with TCHS effective the week of March 1, 2022. TCHS will welcome Brian Rokusek, CEO on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Chief Nursing Officer Report- Jamie Koch**

- a. **Physician Credentialing: Loren motioned to approve the initial appointments and re-appointments as recommended by the Medical Staff. Mike seconded. Roll call vote, discussion prior to approval:** none.
- b. **COVID-19 Update:** Jamie reported that TCHS has experienced an increase in positive COVID-19 cases, antibody infusions, along with hospitalizations as there are always a few admissions. Scott shared that Nebraska COVID-19 hospitalizations are the highest that they have ever been with 90% of COVID-19 positive cases being unvaccinated individuals. As a result, there is a staffing concern across the state as TCHS continues to face the challenge of transferring patients that need a higher level of care. Following this information, there were discussions regarding Weekly TCHS Vaccine Clinics, COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters, scheduling appointments through the TCHS COVID-19 Hotline, an increase in Antibody Infusions, concerns for supplies, and COVID-19 Testing. Scott stressed the importance of COVID-19 Vaccination as TCHS will encourage individuals that can not receive the vaccine from TCHS to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine from any available location.
- c. **QAPI:** Jamie reviewed the Quality Assurance Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 with the board. Jamie reported that the QAPI has been created for improvements to overall patient care and outcomes. The components of this plan involve: improvement in the TCHS Swing Bed Initiative, fall rate reduction, and improvement to the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems Survey. Jamie explained that TCHS is working to develop a transition of care program. Jamie reported that Stephanie Moody, Quality Improvement Coordinator and Ranae Vorderstrasse, Nursing Supervisor are working together to grow this program with the involvement of various departments. These departments include: Rehab, Social Services, Nursing, and Quality Liaison.

#### **Chief Financial Officer Report- Mike DeFoe**

- a. **CHI Management Fee:** Mike reported that the Cost Reports and Grant Funding had no impact to the CHI Management Fee. Following this information, there were discussions regarding the Cost Report, Air Handler, Specialty Clinic Room Rates, and CARES Act Funding. At this time, the board requested additional information on the Grant Funding and Cost Report transactions.

#### **Chief Operations Officer- Amanda Vandervoort**

- a. **Provider Update:** Amanda reported that Grant Anderson, PA-C will officially start on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Grant will be seeing patients in the Hebron Clinic along with other TCHS Satellite Clinics. Additionally, the new Respiratory Therapist will offer pulmonary rehab with COVID-19 recovery. In closing, Amanda reported that TCHS continues to


strive to make improvements to the Discharge Planning Process by revamping discharge handouts, conducting follow up calls, and providing a standardized packet for better understand of information.

**Old Business for The Board:** Scott reported that Senior Leadership Team will review information regarding the Expansion Project of the Specialty Clinic Waiting Room with the Providers and Specialty Clinic Staff.

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

**Visitor Comments:** Marie Knedler, CHI Health thanked the Board and Senior Leadership for their efforts as this is her last TCHS Board Meeting. Marie reported that Scott Cook, Interim CEO will begin his new position of Market Director of Network Development and Rural Healthcare for CHI Health. Therefore, Brian Rokusek, TCHS CEO will report to Scott. Scott will be in attendance at TCHS Board Meetings on behalf of CHI Health.

**Executive Session:** Mike moved to go into Executive Session at 8:15 pm, Loren seconded. Roll call votes, all yes. Motion Carried. (See Executive Session minutes attached).

  
Bridget Behrens  
Executive Assistant

  
Brian Rokusek  
Chief Executive Officer

December 1, 2021

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Executive Session- Mike moved to go into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. Loren seconded. Roll call taken, All Yes.

Motion carried.

Mike moved, Connie seconded to exit Executive Session at 8:27 p.m. and return to our regular session. Roll call taken, All Yes. Motion carried.

Regular Session - Mike moved, Loren seconded the motion to adjourn the Open Meeting at 8:28 p.m. Roll call taken, All Yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Lichty, Secretary