



September 27, 2023

**Welcome Announcement of Open Meeting Law Posting**

Karen Dahlkoetter called the Meeting of the Thayer County Health Services Board of Trustees to order on September 27, 2023, at 7:01 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 the roll call were Mike Long, Loren Wiedel, Connie Lichty, and Karen Dahlkoetter. Not in attendance was Laura Tuma. Others in attendance: Brian Rokusek, Amanda Vandervoort, Jamie Koch, Lori Grummert, and Mike DeFoe. Recorder: Heidi Leners, Executive Assistant/HR Assistant.

**Approval of Agenda & Approval of August 30, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes:**

Connie motioned to approve the agenda along with August 30, 2023 Board Meeting as written. Loren seconded. Roll call vote: Loren yes, Connie yes, Mike yes, and Karen yes. Motion carried.

**Financial Statements – August 2023:**

Mike reviewed the financial statement packet for the Second Month Ending August 31, 2023, and 2022 with the Board:

Month of August: Overview of the August 31, 2023 financial statements for the second month of fiscal year 2024. MTD there was an operating gain of \$136,000 and an EBIDA of \$311,000. Total patient revenues were under budget (4%) and under prior year (6%). Clinic professional fees were up on both budget and prior year but inpatient services continue to be light to start fiscal 2024. The average daily census for the floor was 3.2 with five births for the month. August was a complete turnaround from the first month of FY24 for the majority of outpatient services, as stats were above budget. Some departments with increases over prior year include Surgery up 8%, Senior Life up 65%, Rehab up 12%, Specialty up 10% and TC Pharmacy 4%. Clinic visits were above budget 2% but under prior year by (6%). Total expenses were over budget 1%. For the month total cash and investments decreased as we had the \$900,000 bond payment, benefits and payroll the final day of the month. The significant cash outflow decreased the day's cash on hand.

Year to Date: The YTD operating loss was (\$102,000), total margin (\$61,000) and an EBIDA of \$243,000. AR Days were 54 (gross) and 46 (net). We are starting to see some self-pay increase and continue to monitor the ATB for trends.

Additional Information: This is the time of year we can't use the monthly template supplied by Wipfli, our current estimated Medicare rates for the month were: IP \$5,905, OP 74% and SWB \$4,558. Prior year rates were IP \$4,421, OP 68% and SWB \$2,967. Audit prepared by client information is being submitted for the FY23 audit.

Discussion: There were discussions regarding the long-term debt to match benchmarks, cost-report true up and ensuring the board would have the foundation's financials at the next meeting.

Loren made a motion to approve the August 2023 Financial Statements, and Mike seconded. Roll call vote, Karen yes, Connie yes, Mike yes, and Loren yes. Motion Carried.

**Officers Reports:**

**Chief Executive Officer Report - Brian Rokusek**

- a. Consent Agenda (August) – Mike made a motion to approve the August consent agenda as written; Connie seconded. Roll call vote, Karen yes, Mike yes, Loren yes, and Connie yes. Motion Carried.
- b. **Administration Update:** Brian stated no update has been received from the EMTALA audit. Brian said Drive-Thru Flu Vaccination clinics will be October 9-13th. Brian also stated on October 17th in the evening, there will be an event for TCHS's 75th Anniversary with soft drinks and appetizers along with photos from the past 75 years. Brian stated Dr. Waters accepted the terms of the new agreement, and senior leadership is continuing to look for more mid-levels. Brian also provided the board with

information about how long-term care, like Blue Valley Lutheran Home, could be at risk in the next few years, with current regulations requiring an RN on staff 24/7.

- c. **October Board Meeting Date:** Brian stated due to the Nebraska Hospital Association's annual convention being at the same time as October's regular board meeting, October 25th; Brian asked the group if November 1st would work. **Connie made a motion to move October's board meeting to November 1st at 7pm; Mike seconded. Roll call vote. Karen yes, Mike yes, Loren yes, and Connie yes. Motion Carried.**
- d. **New Hires:** Brian reported there was three new hires; Brooklyn (Willow) Johnson, EVS Tech II, Gretchen Goedeken, Pharmacist, and Alishia Herring, Patient Access Representative.

**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, Mike yes, Loren yes, Karen yes, and Connie yes. Motion carried.**
- b. **Ambulance Purchase:** **Loren made a motion to approve the purchase of a new ambulance, costing \$237,050, with grant funding, fundraising and TCHS's 2025 budget. Connie seconded. Roll call vote, Mike yes, Loren yes, Karen yes, and Connie yes. Motion carried.** Jamie stated she would turn in the signed purchase agreement for the grant funding, and delivery of the new ambulance would be in May 2025.
- c. **HHS Sunday Brunch:** Jamie stated with Pioneer Inn's closing due to losing their roof, HHS and TCHS would like to provide an opportunity for Sunday Brunch. HHS and Little Blue Bistro will do a trial Brunch on October 15th for the public with a chicken fried steak meal and build-your-own omelet station. The hours on October 15th will be 11-1 pm.

**Chief Financial Officer Report - Mike DeFoe**

- a. **None:** n/a

**Chief Operations Officer - Amanda Vandervoort**

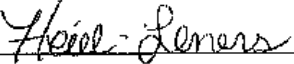
- a. **Provider Update:** Amanda gave an updated on Laura Baxa. Amanda stated that Christy Feltes, APRN, will be starting in the clinic on October 15th and doing a training program with the providers. Amanda also said Maria will be stepping down as specialty clinic supervisor in January, and TCHS has opened it up for internal applications. The board asked if providers could feel any effect with Laura out, and Amanda stated that staffing at the rural health clinics is where it's been felt when it comes to call schedules.

**Old Business for the Board:** None.

**Miscellaneous/New Business for the Board:** Mike Long asked about the current state of the strategic plan, and Brian gave a summary of where he is with the directors' leadership, coaching, and mentoring and the next steps. Mike also asked about the parking lot, and Loren asked about the roof leaking. Both board members spoke about the importance of patient safety and building longevity. Loren stated the finance committee should have a meeting before the next board meeting.

**Visitor Comments:** None.

**Mike moved, and Connie seconded to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting at 8:06 pm. Roll call taken. Karen yes, Loren yes, Mike yes, and Connie yes. Motion carried.**

  
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Heidi Leners  
Executive Assistant/HR Assistant

  
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Brian Rokusek  
Chief Executive Officer