

**Granite County Hospital District
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes – DRAFT
February 23, 2021**

Present:

- Mr. Jim Waldbillig (Board Chair)
- Mr. Chad Green
- Mr. John Barbara
- Mrs. Genevieve Kulaski

A quorum of the Board was present. Mr John Barbara and Mrs. Genevieve Kulaski attending via teleconference.

The meeting was called to order by Jim Waldbillig on February 23, 2021 at 05:30 PM. The meeting was held in the Granite County Medical Center Conference Facility in Philipsburg, MT.

The minutes from the January 26, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Chad Green made a motion to approve them as written. John Barbara seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Items

Administrator’s Report:

Maria Stoppler, CEO, DON, RN, presented her Administrator’s Report. (Please refer to the posted report for details.)

COVID-19 Update: Maria reported as of today Granite County has one active case and there are 240 new cases in the state.

COVID-19 Vaccine: Over 660 vaccines have been administered at Granite County Medical Center. Montana remains in Phase 1B, vaccinating those 70 years of age or older and those with elevated risk for complications due to COVID-19.

Financial Report:

Brenda Peyton, JCCS accountant, presented the financial report. (Please refer to the posted report for details.) Brenda noted six of the twelve targets were on track with ER visits and CT scans continuing to be over the targeted utilization. Traveler costs remain over budget however. There were no questions.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee - Barbara

John Barbara reported Joe Schimenti would be giving the Clear Lake Insurance Presentation later in the meeting and Jaime Bancroft would be giving a recruitment and retention report. Jaime then gave her report. She presented several preliminary ideas including flexibility for shift coverage, offering learning opportunities and incentives, initiating a recognition program, increasing open communication, offering help with student loans and looking at offering bonuses. She also suggested considering prevailing wages and shift differentials.

Kim Chabal, nurse at Granite County Medical Center suggested starting wages for an RN should begin at \$35 an hour, with a \$1,000 dollar bonus offered after six months and another bonus of \$1,000 dollars be offered after one year. For CNA’s she suggested starting them at \$15 an hour. She proposed weighing cost versus longevity with the goal being keeping staff instead of seeing frequent staff turnovers. She also suggested cross-training staff to help deal with emergencies.

Chad Green stated the board appreciated Kim’s input and they would take a hard look at wages and the budget to see if wage increases were feasible. He also proposed initiating a robust recognition program going forward.

Yolonda Schulz suggested teamwork was one essential component when shifts were understaffed; and through teamwork, some of the problems could be better addressed. She cited the need for staff to take on extra shifts when crisis situations arose so fewer travelers would be need to be called in to cover shifts.

Jim Waldbillig suggested the board readdress these issues beginning next month as the next budget cycle begins in June.

Policy Committee - Mainwaring

No report.

Quality and Safety Committee - Green

Did not attend the meeting but he has been briefed by Maria on current events.

Facilities - Waldbillig

Jim Waldbillig reported there was nothing new to report as bidding on the project is ongoing.

Marketing Committee - Kulaski

Genevieve Kulaski reported meetings will be quarterly and the next meeting will be in May. They have outlined their marketing plan for the next three months, however and new avenues are being explored to reach the community.

Technology Committee - Barbara

John Barbara met with Dave Lee and received a list of suggested improvements to coincide with the strategic business plan. One suggestion is a new telephone system as the system currently in use is outdated and components or additions have to be outsourced to third parties or are hard to obtain. Other long-range suggestions are whether or not to outsource services such as email and Windows Office Suite. John Barbara will distribute several suggestions next month for the board to consider in the months ahead.

Professional Affairs - Waldbillig

No report.

Medical Staff Report: No report.

Foundation Report:

The next meeting is scheduled for March.

Approval of Warrants:

The warrants have been distributed electronically.

Old Business

Old Business Topic:

Covid-19 Update: Covered under Administrator's Report.

Healthy Granite County Network: Kayla Sanders reported the community health worker began working February 1, 2021 and she is currently getting her certification. She will help take on social services and duties such as getting people referrals and in-home resources. She currently works twenty hours per week.

New Business

New Business Topic:

John Barbara's contacted Yellowstone Insurance and Joe Schimenti will be offering the Clear Lake Presentation. This is an opportunity for Granite County Medical Center to band together with other organizations in an effort to share risks and cap liability ultimately lowering insurance costs. The initial commitment cost is \$3,000.

Maria Stoppler recommended the board proceed. She reminded the board of the long-standing, trusted and beneficial relationship Granite County Medical Center has had with Yellowstone and if this program is structured similarly, she felt this program would be of great benefit in the long term, especially since Yellowstone's wellness program would provide education and information to help employees reduce risk while achieving the best benefit.

John Barbara made a motion to proceed with the Clear Lake proposal as outlined by Maria Stoppler as a study participant. Chad Green seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Katie Muhly asked the board to look into health insurance for part-time employees. She assumed as a part-time employee she would be able to buy in to the insurance plan, but that option was dropped. This is one thing to consider when recruitment and retention are of concern.

Open Comment

Jim Waldbillig commented that the board would not be commenting on the incident that happened this past week as outlined in the Administrator’s Report as both the County attorney and the School Boards attorney had so advised him. However, the board was available to hear any concerns expressed by the public.

Natalie Muchmore Smith reported the incident involving her mother was serious. She informed the board this was the second time their family had experienced terrible ER nursing care in one year, with the first event occurring roughly a year ago.

Maria Stoppler thanked her for sharing and assured her they did understand the seriousness of the situation and they were reevaluating how they brought on traveling staff.

There were no other comments.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Chad Green to adjourn. This was seconded by John Barbara. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 PM.

These minutes have been reviewed and approved by motion of the board:

Jim Waldbillig (Chairman of GCHD Board of Trustees)

Date