

**Nocona General Hospital  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 23, 2021**

**Board Members Present:**

Charles May, President  
Ken Koontz, Vice-President  
Chris Keck, Secretary  
Kristal Ferguson  
Paula Webb  
Ron Brown  
Cris Lemon

**Absent:**

None

**Hospital Administration:**

Lance Meekins, CEO; Rebecca Hamilton, Admin. Assistant/HR

**Others Present:**

Brian Jackson, Jackson & Carter, PLLC

Meeting was called to order by President, Charles May at 12:35 PM.

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

Ron Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting, and Chris Keck seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Community Input:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Discussion and Possible Vote on Yearly Home Health Operations Report as Required by the Texas Department of State Health Services**

Ken Koontz made a motion to accept the Yearly Home Health Operations Report as presented. Paula Webb seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Vote on Montague County Joint Election Agreement & Lease Agreement of Election Equipment with the City of Nocona, Nocona Hospital District, and Nocona ISD**

All candidates are unopposed and no election will be necessary. No action taken.

**Discussion and Possible Vote on January 2021 Financial Statements**

Lance presented the following financial information for the board's consideration:

For January the hospital finished with 49 admissions, 682 outpatient discharges, including 4 surgeries, 286 ER visits, 53 ambulance calls, 394 home health visits and 1516 clinic visits. Additionally, there were 13 observation admissions. This utilization resulted in gross revenue of \$2,331,933, exceeding budget by about 32%. The average daily census was 5.5 patients. The average length of stay was 5.1 days.

For year over year comparison:

- Gross revenue is about 9.4% over budget, although there are variances among the individual departments, and is running about 9.4% above last year.
- The ADC is matching last year
- Admissions are down about 4%
- The ALOS is up slightly, not surprising due to the COVID patients
- Outpatient discharges are up 28%
- ER visits are up 17%
- Ambulance calls are down 1%
- Obs admissions are down 15%
- O/P surgeries are down 54%
- FTE's are only up .29 (includes moving from a traveling physical therapist to a full-time employee)

On the net revenue front the hospital benefited from a small amount of QIPP payments (\$18,000) and the quarterly county ambulance subsidy. The allowances were once again booked heavily due to the increase in gross revenue, most of which is due to the extended length of stay and the expense of caring for the COVID inpatients.

Expenses again were over budget due to COVID purchases as in the past months especially lab, nursing, and pharmacy.

Ken Koontz made a motion to accept the financial report as presented, and Cris Lemon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Discussion and Possible Vote on Calling of Election for Saturday, May 1, 2021**

Chris Keck made a motion to call an election for the NGH Board of Trustees on Saturday, May 1, 2021, and Ron Brown seconded the motion. Charles polled those in attendance, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Convene to Closed Session for the Following Purpose: Texas Government Code Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney**

Board dismissed to Executive Session at 1:00 PM.

#### **Reconvene to Open Session and Take Action as Follows: Discussion and Possible Vote on Matters Related to Consultation with Attorney**

Board reconvened to Open Session at 2:03 PM. No action taken.

#### **Administrative Report**

Lance presented the following update on the Coronavirus to the Board:

##### Nurse Staffing

NGH continues to utilize the traveling staff courtesy of the State. They have come in extremely helpful specifically on the COVID inpatient side and the ER. We hope to have them through February. Although we have not received official notice from the State THA has stated that the State will soon be recalling most of the additional help due to a reduction in hospitalizations.

##### Upcoming Legislative Session

Lance attached a couple of reports from hospital advocacy groups that show bills they being tracked thus far. Many have to do with Medicaid expansion as in past sessions. TAPA is tracking several filed bills that would make changes to the Tort Claims Act.

##### Coronavirus Update

- Averaged 2.9 positive results per day in January (90 total) (5.46 per day in December)
- Tested about 10 per day. (303 total) (12 per day in January)

- The positive results are split about 50-50, Nocona residents and non-Nocona again.
- Averaged 4.5 COVID + inpatients, up slightly from December's 4.3.
- First 21 days of February average COVID + inpatients are 1.5, 1.4 positive tests daily, down from 2.9 in January, less than 1 positive per day for Nocona residents
- Had 22 COVID admissions in January, 19 in December.
- According to State dashboard testing through February 21, there had been 1677 Montague county residents tested positive and another 295 probable cases.
- Supplies are in good shape
- Currently no employees are out with COVID.
- Still have the COVID clinic patient parking north of the clinic with tent, providers are performing visits outside to prevent utilizing clinic rooms at this time.
- The free State testing has been extended through February
- Vaccination clinics went extremely well, dispensed 975 doses over three days. The second round for those 975 is in progress. Should have an additional 975 first doses shortly.
- Below is a reminder of last year's numbers. January was similar to October.

COVID	Tested	Positive	Negative
MARCH	15	0	15
APRIL	34	4	30
MAY	11	0	11
JUNE	29	5	24
JULY	60	10	50
AUGUST	103	21	82
SEPTEMBER	111	36	75
OCTOBER	278	102	176
NOVEMBER	421	183	238
DECEMBER	380	168	212
TTL	1442	529	913

**Medical Staff Report:** Nothing to Report

**Other Business:** None

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.

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Charles May, President

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Chris Keck, Secretary