

**Nocona General Hospital
Board of Directors Meeting
March 16, 2021**

Board Members Present:

Charles May, President
Ken Koontz, Vice-President
Chris Keck, Secretary
Kristal Ferguson
Paula Webb

Absent:

Cris Lemon
Ron Brown

Hospital Administration:

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

Medical Staff:

Len Dingler, MD

Others Present:

Brian Jackson, Jackson & Carter, PLLC

Meeting was called to order by President, Charles May at 12:34 PM.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Ken Koontz made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting, and Paula Webb seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Community Input: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Discussion and Possible Vote on February 2021 Financial Statements

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

For February the hospital finished with 46 admissions, 496 outpatient discharges, including 7 surgeries, 241 ER visits, 48 ambulance calls, 308 home health visits and 1094 clinic visits. Additionally, there were 11 observation admissions. As you will note, the winter storm and the shorter month impacted these utilization numbers. This utilization resulted in gross revenue of \$1,964,2253, exceeding budget by about 11%. The average daily census was 6.1 patients with an average length of stay of 3.8 days.

For year over year comparison:

- Gross revenue is about 11% over budget. Same story as previous months regarding the excess inpatient revenue due to covid inpatients. Outpatient Xray is underperforming due to the loss of revenue from MRI. Compared to last year through February, gross revenue is up 8%, net revenue is up 32.6%, expenses are up 9.5%.

- The ADC is down slightly from last year.
- Admissions are down about 5%
- The ALOS is down .3 days
- Outpatient discharges are up 21%
- ER visits are up 12%
- Ambulance calls are down 2%
- Obs admissions are down 16%
- O/P surgeries are down 53%
- FTEs are only up .4 (includes moving from a traveling physical therapist to a full-time employee)

On the net revenue front the hospital benefited greatly from QIPP payments for the first quarter of year 4 (\$570,000) and the monthly payments for December (\$670,000) and January (\$150,000) For the month the hospital recorded a \$1.4m benefit from QIPP. You'll note the difference in the monthly benefit (December to January) is significant. HHSC had waived the reporting requirements for component 3 and changed to paying it on a monthly basis instead of quarterly, and they played catch up, so December actually included 4 months' worth of that metric's payments. The allowances obviously were over budget due to the additional gross revenue produced, and I believe at this time, the accounts receivable allowances are adequately booked.

Once again expenses again were over budget due to COVID purchases as in the past months: nursing, pharmacy, and even maintenance as the red bags for infectious waste bill came due.

Paula Webb made a motion to accept the financial report as presented, and Kristal Ferguson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Certification of Unopposed Candidates

Ken Koontz made a motion to certify the four unopposed candidates who filed for the May 2021 election. Chris Keck seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Cancellation of May 1, 2021 Election

Paul Webb made a motion to cancel the May 1, 2021 election. Ken Koontz seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Evident Meaningful Use Stage 3 Proposal

Lance explained that the hospital is now required to meet attestation requirements for Stage 3 meaningful use. In previous years the hospital has met all requirements and most recently has been able to claim hardship exemptions to avoid the latest requirements (internet bandwidth within the community was the hardship exemption). CMS only allows the hardship exemptions for 5 years. Therefore, in order to avoid payment penalties, the hospital must now meet stage 3, which requires the reporting of certain electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs). The hospital is allowed to choose which measures it wishes to report on which change each year. In order to facilitate this exchange of information with CMS, Evident has a program within its CPSI software called MediSolv, which extracts this information and submits it to CMS. Documents were provided to the board detailing the additional benefits of the bundle. Again, without the attestation, Lance explained, CMS would impose a 1% penalty on any yearly payment increase the hospital received. For example, if the market basket update allows for a 2% payment increase, without attestation, the hospital's payment increase would be reduced to 1%.

Ken Koontz made a motion to enter into agreement with Evident to utilize MediSolv to assist with meeting this requirement, and Chris Keck seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Contract with Dieticians on Demand

Lance reported that the hospital has have been without a consulting dietician for an extended time due to a resignation. CMS conditions of participation require oversight from a registered dietician. The hospital has utilized a retired RD, but not on a consistent basis, and the search for a more permanent solution up to this point has been fruitless despite our repeated efforts. Dietary Manager, Kayla Moore, has been in contact with Dietician on Demand, and this avenue appears to be the best option at this point. Lance stated that there isn't a lot of information on them, but references have been checked, and Brian has reviewed the contract. This is the best option at this point to be in compliance with COPs. It does require a few more hours than previously involved, so the monthly expense would increase by about \$400.

Paula Webb made a motion to enter into contract with Dieticians on Demand, and Kristal Ferguson seconded. 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 12:55 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 1:25 PM. No action taken.

Administrative Report

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

Legislative Update

The Legislature is about nine weeks into the new session and deadline for filing bills is upon us. We will start to see more action as both chambers will begin holding more hearings and moving legislation to the Floor. Brian will also update you on any new developments he is hearing about.

Coronavirus Update

- Averaged 1.3 positive results per day in February (35 total) (2.9 per day in January, 5.46 per day in December)
- Tested about 7 per day. (194 total) (10 per day in January, 12 per day in December)
- The positive results are split about 50-50, Nocona residents and non-Nocona again.
- Averaged 1.5 COVID + inpatients per day, (4.5 in January, 4.3 in December).
- Through first 9 days of March had 4 positive tests out of 42 tested. Averaging between 1 and 2 inpatients.
- According to State dashboard testing through March 9, there had been 1713 confirmed case in Montague county and another 306 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 is still occurring.
- The DSHS emergency rule regarding hospital visitation and screening requirements is in effect until at least March 23rd. This rule is not superseded by the Governor's executive order that went into effect March 10th. Therefore, we are maintaining our current policies until that time.

- The State supplied staff is still onsite; however, we believe they will be recalled within the next few weeks.

Medical Staff Report: Nothing to Report

Other Business: None

Meeting was adjourned at 1:57 PM.

Charles May, President

Chris Keck, Secretary