

**Nocona General Hospital
Board of Directors Meeting
April 20, 2021**

Board Members Present:

Charles May, President
Ken Koontz, Vice-President
Chris Keck, Secretary
Paula Webb
Ron Brown

Absent:

Kristal Ferguson
Cris Lemon

Hospital Administration:

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

Medical Staff:

Len Dingler, MD (arrived at 1:30)

Others Present:

None

Meeting was called to order by President, Charles May at 12:39 PM.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Chris Keck made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2021 meeting and Paula Webb seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Community Input: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Discussion and Possible Vote on March 2021 Financial Statements

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

For March the hospital finished with 38 admissions, 722 outpatient discharges, including 14 surgeries, 289 ER visits, 65 ambulance calls, 351 home health visits and 1516 clinic visits. Additionally, there were 7 observation admissions. This utilization resulted in gross revenue of \$2,384,726, exceeding budget by about 35% and a high for the fiscal year. The average daily census was 4.7 patients with an average length of stay of 3.5 days.

For year over year comparison:

- Gross revenue is about 11.5% higher than last year, net revenue is up 36%, expenses are up 10%
- The ADC is down slightly from last year
- Admissions are down about 3%

- The ALOS is down .2 days
- Outpatient discharges are up 24%
- ER visits are up 12%
- Ambulance calls are similar
- Obs admissions are down 17%
- O/P surgeries are down 47%
- FTEs are the same

On the net revenue front the hospital benefited from QIPP payments from the payments for February. For the month the hospital recorded a \$180,000 benefit from QIPP. We are once again heavy on the allowances due to the high charges for COVID patients and a higher-than-normal outpatient month.

Expenses came down slightly but are still exceeding budget. We ordered COVID tests once again. The consultant fees are up due to travelers in the radiology department and in physical therapy.

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

Discussion and Possible Vote on Capital Equipment Purchase: Telemetry

In preparation of the reopening of the unit it was discovered that the telemetry system has failed. Unfortunately, this was not discovered earlier, but the system must be replaced. Corrie Holcomb, CNO, presented a quote from Mindray in the amount of \$148,465.09 which includes telemetry in the SCU and Med/Surg floor as well as the installation. Corrie recommended removing the laser printer and Benelink Module, which will lower the price by approximately \$5,000. She also presented an option not included in the quote that would give the providers a remote access option. This quote is still pending.

Paula Webb made a motion to purchase the telemetry as presented with the following changes: (1) remove the Benelink Module and laser printer, and (2) add the remote access option. Ron Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Convene to Closed Session for the Following Purposes:

- a) Texas Government Code Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney**
- b) Texas Health and Safety Code Section 161.032 – Presentation of Records and Proceedings of a Medical Committee or Medical Peer Review Committee**

Board dismissed to Closed Session at 1:01 PM.

Reconvene to Open Session and Take Action as Follows:

- a) Discussion and Possible Vote on Matters Related to Consultation with Attorney**
- b) Discussion and Possible Vote on Matters Related to Presentation of Records and Proceedings of a Medical Committee or Medical Peer Review Committee**

Board reconvened to Open Session at 1:07 PM.

Chris Keck made a motion to accept the Medical Peer Review Report as presented. Ken Koontz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Report

Lance presented the following report to the Board:

Revised Hospital Guidelines

The COVID-19 task force recommended the following for reopening the facility to visitors:

- Lobby and clinic entrances re-opened.
- Visitors are allowed 2 at a time on the floor and one per patient in the ER.
- Masks are encouraged by visitors, with the staff required to wear one when having direct patient contact. Additional hand sanitizing stations will be available. We will have signage at entrances.
- Screening of visitors will no longer be required; however, signs will direct visitors who have COVID symptoms to not enter.
- COVID unit will remain for now with all precautions as well (PPE, no visitors, etc.)
- Clinic procedures do not change.
- Open Wellness Center with temporary hours of Monday-Friday, 6a-2p. Hours will be adjusted as needed.

This is only a relaxation of our guidelines as COVID is still a concern, and procedures can be changed if necessary.

Lance stated that he was extremely proud of the employees and the entire Nocona community as efforts taken to mitigate the virus, while difficult at times, have yielded positive results. He thanked the Board for their constant support by ensuring that the staff had everything necessary to combat the virus.

Coronavirus Update

- Total of 16 positive results, down from 37 in February and 90 in January.
- Tested 136 total (59 were due to patient being admitted/OP surgery), 194 tested in February (64 due to patient being admitted/OP surgery), 303 tested in January.
- 5 COVID admissions, 1 observation. (0.5 per day) No admissions since March 19th. (1.5 COVID + inpatients in February per day, (4.5 in January, 4.3 in December).
- Through first 13 days of April had one positive test out of 58 tested.
- According to State dashboard testing through April 13, there have been 1,751 confirmed case in Montague county and another 316 probable cases.
- Supplies are in good shape.
- Currently no employees are out with COVID.
- The State supplied staff is still onsite; however, the State currently is indicating that all staff will be recalled by May 15th.

Vaccinations

NGH agreed to let the Texas Dept of Emergency Management (TDEM) utilize space at the hospital to conduct twice-weekly drive-thru vaccination clinics through at least April. The hospital currently is not conducting clinics but could begin again if the need arises. All vaccines allocated to NGH are being transferred to other facilities.

As of April 12th, 26% of the State's population older than 16 has been fully vaccinated. In Montague county, the rate is 23%, and in Nocona it is 23.5%. 55% of hospital staff is fully vaccinated (this includes all part-time/PRN staff).

Current Legislative Session

Things have really heated up in Austin in the last couple weeks, and the legislature is making up for lost ground with a lot of hearings and bill movement.

Don McBeath is tracking > 500 bills related to healthcare/hospitals. Senate budget (SB1) was voted out and is about \$5b over the Comptroller's January revenue estimate. Everyone is trying to understand how federal funding for state and local governments will factor. House Republicans held a press conference and released their plan for healthcare, which included expansion of telehealth and broadband (HB4 and HB5 are moving) and children's health coverage among other things. They did not address

the elephant in the room (Medicaid Expansion). TORCH is diligently working on the Senate Finance and House Appropriation committee members to add remaining Medicaid money (\$129m related to outpatient cost) to the budget to comply with SB170 that passed last session.

Medical Staff Report: Nothing to Report

Other Business: None

Meeting was adjourned at 2:18 PM.

Charles May, President

Chris Keck, Secretary