

**Nocona General Hospital
Board of Directors Meeting
August 17, 2021**

Board Members Present:

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

Absent:

None

Hospital Administration:

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

Medical Staff:

Len Dingler, MD

Others Present:

Brian Jackson, Jackson & Carter, PLLC

Meeting was called to order by President, Charles May at 12:30 PM.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Ron Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2021 meeting and Kristal Ferguson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Community Input: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Discussion and Possible Vote on Semi-Annual Nurse Staffing Plan

CNO Corrie Holcomb presented the semi-annual nurse staffing report. Staffing, especially nursing, has become an issue not just for NGH but around the State. She discussed current staffing issues and plans to address them.

Paula Webb made a motion to accept the Semi-Annual Nurse Staffing Plan as presented. Chris Keck seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Physician Removal (R) and Addition/Credentialing (A):

- a) Agrait-Bertran, Edgardo (R)
- b) Carswell, Aimee (A)
- c) Dar, Nabeel (A)
- d) Lu, Fang (A)

Hospital & Clinic Operations Manager Kelly Cope presented four radiologists to be added or removed from RadPartners group. RadPartners provides radiology services for the hospital and performs all necessary credentialing requirements.

Ron Brown made a motion to accept the additions/removal as presented, and Ken Koontz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Vote on NGH Interventional Pain Management Privileges for Nick Rose, CRNA

Kelly and Lance presented for the Board's consideration a document outlining Interventional Pain Management Privileges requested by CRNA Nick Rose. After discussion, the Board chose to table this item for future consideration pending additional details concerning the procedures listed, credentialing, and Med Staff approval.

Discussion and Possible Vote on 2021 Hospital District Tax Rate

Lance reported that all necessary steps have been completed to act on the hospital's 2021 tax rate. Based on previous discussions, a rate of \$0.1840/\$100 in appraised value has been published along with all the required public notifications in the newspaper. Lance reminded the Board that they could vote to set a lower tax rate at this meeting, but could go no higher without additional publication of its intent. The proposed tax rate would result in a tax levy of about \$835,000.

Ken Koontz made a motion that the property tax be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$.1840, which is effectively a 7.4 percent increase in the tax rate. **This tax rate will raise more taxes for Maintenance & Operations than last year's tax rate: the tax rate will effectively be raised by 7.4 percent and will raise taxes for Maintenance & Operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$12.70.** Ron Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Vote on August 2021 Financial Statements

Lance presented the following report on the August 2021 Financials:

The hospital completed August with 44 admissions, 855 outpatient discharges, including 13 surgeries, 375 ER visits, 378 home health visits and 1889 clinic visits. Additionally, there were 7 observation admissions. This was the best admission month since early 2021, and, overall, one of the best utilization months we have seen in years. This utilization resulted in gross revenue of almost \$2.2M., exceeding budget by about 18%. The average daily census was 6.7 patients with an average length of stay of 4.8 days. These utilization numbers combined with the expenses and allowances resulted in a \$100,000 loss from operations.

For year over year comparison: (2 months)

- Gross revenue is about 4.2% higher than last year, resulting in allowances being up about 10% due to the revenue mix and the aging of Accounts Receivable. Expenses are up less than 1%.
- The ADC is down 8% from last year.
- Admissions are up about 19%.
- The ALOS is down 15%.
- Outpatient discharges are up 21% (covid testing, antibody therapies).
- ER visits are up 27%.
- Ambulance calls are down 15%.
- Obs admissions are down 26%.

- O/P surgeries are the same.
- FTEs are up 3.

Net operating revenue exceeded budget by 31% for the month. However, we are seeing an aging of the Accounts Receivable forcing a higher allowance for doubtful accounts to be posted. Hopefully as we fill the currently vacant A/R, A/P position, and physicians are able to catch up on dictation, we will be able to increase collections on those older accounts.

Overall expenses were under budget by about 3% for the month and 3.5% for the year, but up from last year as stated above.

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

Discussion and Possible Vote on NGH Paid Leave Policy

The Texas Legislature passed a bill (H.B. No. 2073), which became effective September 1, 2021, requiring the governing body of a political subdivision to develop and implement a paid quarantine leave policy for, among others, emergency medical technicians. This policy meets that requirement and has been reviewed and approved by counsel.

Ron Brown made a motion to adopt the NGH Paid Leave Policy as presented, and Paula Webb seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Capital Equipment Purchase: BioFire

John Boykin, NGH Lab Director, presented information and answered questions concerning the purchase of BioFire, a new diagnostic tool. This tool will enable lab staff to run multiple tests, giving providers more diagnostic answers for their patients in less time.

Paula Webb made a motion to purchase outright the BioFire FilmArray Torch plus Four Modules, but omit any service contracts. Chris Keck 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

No Closed Session.

Administrative Report

Lance presented the following report to the Board:

July Coronavirus Update

- 338 Tests performed
- 152 Positive, 236 negative
- Positives:
 - Bellevue 3
 - Bowie 39
 - Forestburg 9
 - Montague 7
 - Nocona 60
 - Ringgold 3
 - Ryan 3
 - Saint Jo 11

- Several with 1 or 2
- 17 Covid+ inpatients resulting in 82 inpatient days
 - Nocona 5
 - Forestburg 2
 - Saint Jo 5
 - Bowie 3
 - Ringgold 1
 - Gainesville 1
- 13 unvaccinated inpatients, 4 vaccinated
- 4 deaths (vaccinated, 3 unvaccinated)
- 29 Regeneron outpatient IV therapy patients
- First half of September: 65 positives out of 235 tested

Provider Relief Fund Reporting

I have engaged our auditors to assist us with the required Federal and now State reporting obligations of the use of all COVID relief funds. I'm confident that we will show that we utilized all the funds appropriately and will not have to repay any. The tricky part is all the nursing home relief funds were issued under the hospital's tax ID number, thus requiring us to report those funds as well. We are currently gathering all the necessary information. The State requires the first report by the end of the month, while the Feds just issued an extension of 60 days from the original 9/30 deadline.

Vaccine Mandates

Information seems to come out each day concerning vaccine mandates; however, no firm guidance has been established as of this meeting.

Medical Staff Report: Nothing to Report

Other Business: None

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Charles May, President

Chris Keck, Secretary