

**Nocona General Hospital
Board of Directors Meeting
January 18, 2022**

Board Members Present:

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

Absent:

Cris Lemon

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 12:44 PM.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Paula Webb made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2021 meeting and Ron Brown seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Community Input: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Discussion and Possible Vote on December 2021 Financial Statements

Lance presented the following financial report to the Board:

For the month of December, the hospital had 43 admissions; 746 outpatient discharges, including 15 surgeries; 398 ER visits; 368 home health visits; and 1718 clinic visits. Additionally, there were 10 observation admissions. This utilization resulted in gross revenue of just over \$2.5M., exceeding budget by about 36%. The average daily census was 5.2 patients with an average length of stay of 3.8 days. These utilization numbers combined with the expenses and allowances resulted in a \$52,609 loss from operations.

For year over year comparison: (6 months)

- Gross revenue is about 20% higher than last year resulting in allowances being up about 23% due to the aging of Accounts Receivable. Expenses are down slightly.
- The ADC is up 0.6 patients from last year.

- Admissions are up about 27%.
- The ALOS is down about ½ day.
- Outpatient discharges are up 12%.
- ER visits are up 25%.
- Ambulance calls are up 13% (very high call volume for December this year).
- Obs admissions are down 13%.
- O/P surgeries are up 75%.
- FTEs are up 1.2.
- Receipts of patient accounts are up 18% for hospital accounts, down 45% for home health (but improving), and up 21% in the clinics.

Net operating revenue exceeded budget by 41% for the month and is up 14% from last year through 6 months.

Overall expenses were under budget by about 1.3% for the month but about 1.1% under budget for the year. Supplies and expenses were over budget by 20% once again as pharmacy and lab departments exceeded budget once again due to COVID purchases.

We currently are paying for one travel nurse and one physical therapist, which will shortly become 2 physical therapists as we had another P/T resignation. We also currently have four state supported RNs assisting with COVID care.

Non-operating revenue included QIPP Year 5 October payments.

Ron Brown made a motion to accept the December Financial report as presented. Ken Koontz seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Removal (R) and Addition/Credentialing (A) of the following RadPartners Physicians:

- a) Glenn Kaplan, MD (A)
- b) Charles Huang, MD (A)
- c) Andrew Bennett, MD (R)

Paula Webb made a motion to approve the requests from RadPartners as presented, and Chris Keck seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Tuition Reimbursement Requests for the Following Employees:

- a) Jacob Dingler, EMT-B
- b) Chase Edwards, EMT-B
- c) Jody Roberts, EMT-B

Three current EMT-B employees who wish to become paramedics have requested tuition assistance from the hospital. As discussed previously, the need to “grow our own” is becoming even more important. In return for the tuition assistance, each employee will sign a contract for two years of service to the hospital once they obtain their paramedic license.

Ken Koontz made a motion to approve the tuition reimbursement requests as presented. Kristal Ferguson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Jackson Physician Search Agreement

A contract to engage Jackson Physicians for physician recruitment was presented for board consideration. This is the same firm used when recruiting Dr. Roden. Dr. Len updated the board concerning his discussions with Casey Dean and received input from Dr. Roden. He recommended that the board hold off until perhaps the summer before considering the use of a recruiting agency.

The item was tabled.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Preventative Maintenance Proposal from Specialty Biomedical

A new preventative maintenance contract (as required by Medicare Conditions of Participation) was presented for board approval. Lance stated that the hospital had been fortunate over the past couple of decades to have an individual, Charles Medlin, perform this service at a very reasonable price. Unfortunately, Mr. Medlin recently passed away. OR Director Bonnie Robertson researched a couple of companies, and the one presented, Specialty Biomedical, has been endorsed by TORCH. The annual cost will more than double, but that is more due to Mr. Medlin's pricing.

Paula Webb made a motion to enter into a preventative maintenance contract with Specialty Biomedical. Ron Brown seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Convene to Closed Session for the Following Purposes:

a) Texas Government Code Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney

The board dismissed to closed session at 1:24 PM.

Reconvene to Open Session and Take Action as Follows:

a) Discussion and Possible Vote on Matters Related to Consultation with Attorney

The board reconvened to open session at 1:31. No action taken.

Administrative Report

Lance presented the following report to the Board:

The pharmacy dispensing system is installed and being utilized. All payments for the system have been made. All of the installation for the telemetry system is complete. We are awaiting training before we turn it on. Unfortunately, the roofing project is still on hold as the roofing companies continue to have issues obtaining materials.

For the parking lot project, the surveyors have been out, and we are waiting on the plans to be finalized in order to bid the project out.

December Coronavirus Update

- 309 Tests performed (203 November, 202 in October)
- 74 Positive (25 November, 37 October)
- Positives:
 - Bowie 20
 - Nocona 37
 - Saint Jo 9
- 12 Covid+ admissions (7 November, 10 October) resulting in 48 inpatient days (58 November, 80 October)
 - Nocona 3
 - Bowie 5
 - Saint Jo 3
 - Montague 1

Through the first 13 days of January, we have tested 233, with 142 positives and 14 admissions.

Medical Staff Report: Nothing to Report

Other Business: None

Meeting was adjourned at 1:52 PM.

Charles May, President

Chris Keck, Secretary