

**Nocona General Hospital
Board of Directors Meeting
February 15, 2022**

Board Members Present:

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

Absent:

Cris Lemon
Kristal Ferguson

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 12:36 PM.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Ron Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 meeting and Chris Keck seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Community Input: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Department Update

Radiology Department Director Gaytha Thompson updated the board with information and statistics from her department.

Discussion and Possible Vote on January 2022 Financial Statements

Lance presented the following financial report to the Board:

For the month of January, the hospital had 58 admissions; 826 outpatient discharges, including 2 surgeries; 395 ER visits; 368 home health visits; and 1631 clinic visits. Additionally, there were 11 observation admissions. This utilization resulted in gross revenue of \$2.7M., exceeding budget by about 47%. The average daily census was 9.1 patients, with an average length of stay of 5.5 days. These utilization numbers, combined with the expenses and allowances, resulted in a \$43,000 loss from operations.

For year over year comparison: (7 months)

- Gross revenue is about 19.5% higher than last year resulting in allowances being up about 26% due to the aging of Accounts Receivable. Expenses are down slightly.
- The ADC is up 0.8 patients from last year.
- Admissions are up about 26%.
- The ALOS is down about ½ day.
- Outpatient discharges are up 14%.
- ER visits are up 27%.
- Ambulance calls are up 16% (another very high call volume month).
- Obs admissions are down 14%.
- O/P surgeries are down 24% (had a mistake on last month's report).
- FTEs are up 0.6.
- Clinic visits are up 10%.
- Receipts of patient accounts are up 26% for hospital accounts, down 42% for home health, and up 22% in the clinics.

Net operating revenue exceeded budget by 56% for the month and is up 12.3% from last year through 7 months.

Overall expenses were over budget 7.7% for the month but right on budget for the year despite the increased utilization/gross revenue. For the month, a couple of line items stand out. As I warned about last month, consultant fees are up as we continue to utilize travelers in nursing and physical therapy. Also in that line item are payments made to the PICC line insertion company we contract with. A large majority of our COVID patients are requiring this service. We once again purchased a large number of COVID tests, as testing ramped up during the month, but which also led to a large number of COVID admissions. Along with these admissions came increased pharmacy expense as well. Employee benefits were also over budget, as we booked two months' worth of TPA fees during the month. With the new year starting, Group Resources was slow to invoice as they updated the employee census and transitioned to a new PPO.

With the strong tax collection month, it was a strong financial month for the hospital.

Ken Koontz made a motion to accept the January Financial report as presented. Paula Webb seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Calling of Election for Saturday, May 7, 2022

Three NGH trustees are up for re-election in May: Ron Brown, Cris Lemon, and Charles May. With the deadline to file and the last day to call for an election falling on the same day and after the February board meeting – Friday, February 18, 2022 – it is necessary to move forward with calling for an election.

Ron Brown made a motion to Call for an Election on Saturday, May 7, 2022. Ken Koontz Seconded the motion, and the motion carried 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

Chris Keck made a motion to approve the Joint Election & Lease Agreement as presented, and Ron Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Tuition Reimbursement Request for Rachel Phillips, LVN

Lance presented to the board a recommendation for tuition reimbursement for current NGH LVN Rachel Phillips. This request is also endorsed by CNO Corrie Holcomb. Once accepted into the nursing program, Rachel will be studying to become a Registered Nurse.

Paula Webb made a motion to approve the request for tuition reimbursement, and Ron Brown seconded. Motion carried 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:

Parking Lot Addition

We are finally moving in the right direction. The architects received the drawings from the engineers, but sent them back for a couple of minor changes. The architects will reach out once they have received the updated drawings.

Breach Update

Unfortunately, after about six months of no contact, the HHS Office of Civil Rights contacted me once again. Nothing has moved forward as our case got moved to a new person so basically, we had the same conversation I had with the previous investigator. I did send them a more detailed summary that he requested, but they will still need to send the case to the Department of Justice for them to review and decide whether they will investigate the case or send it back to HHS. Our attorneys have been made aware of this development.

January Coronavirus Update

- 484 Tests performed (309 December, 203 November)
303 in January 2021
 - 313 Positive (74-December, 25-November). 232 during stretch of 1/7-1/22
90 Positives in January 2021
 - Positives:
 - Bowie 81
 - Nocona 163
 - Saint Jo 13
 - Montague 14
 - Sunset 10
 - 32 Covid+ admissions (12-December, 7-November) resulting in 152 inpatient days
22 COVID admissions in January 2022
 - Nocona 10
 - Bowie 15
 - Saint Jo 2
 - Bellevue 1
 - Montague 3
 - Sunset 1
- 13 vaccinated; 19 not vaccinated

February Update Thus Far

Through the first 10 days of February, we have tested 76 with 22 positives and 4 admissions.

Medical Staff Report: Nothing to Report

Other Business: None

Meeting was adjourned at 1:26 PM.

Charles May, President

Chris Keck, Secretary