

**Nocona General Hospital**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**May 20, 2025**

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Cris Lemon

**Hospital Administration:**

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

**Medical Staff:**

Len Dingler, MD

**Others Present:**

David Hartwell, BYSP Architects

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

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

Paula Webb made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025 Regular meeting. Ken Koontz seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Community Input**

None

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**Conduct Oath of Office for Newly-Elected Trustees**

Rebecca Hamilton swore in the newly-elected directors: Chris Keck, Kristal Ferguson, Ken Koontz, and Paula Webb.

**Discussion and Possible Vote on Election of Officers**

Ron Brown made a motion that there be no change to the officers: Charles May, President; Ken Koontz, Vice-President; Chris Keck, Secretary. Paula Webb seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Presentation: David Hartwell, BYSP Architects**

David Hartwell gave the board a status report of the construction project and discussed what is in store for the next month or so. He reported that clinic operations have moved into the new clinic with registration across the hall in what will become the training room. The x-ray room has been moved and is awaiting its 100% inspection. The corridors leading from the front entrance to the ER have been repainted and the ceilings replaced. The ER renovation has started as well with outpatient and ER registrations moved to the waiting area west of the ER. Through the April pay applications, he stated that the hospital is at 53% paid

for the entire project (this includes the retention amount of 5%) or \$3,473,880 of the total contract sum of \$6,545,648.

### **Discussion and Possible Vote on April 2025 Financial Statements**

Lance presented the following report on the March 2025 Financials:

For April the hospital finished with 34 admissions; 625 outpatient discharges, including 10 surgeries; 359 ER visits; 72 ambulance calls; 417 home health visits; and 1691 clinic visits. Additionally, there were 14 observation admissions. This utilization resulted in gross revenue of about \$2.3M, exceeding budget by 5.6%. The average daily census was 4.8 patients with an average length of stay of 3.9 days. All utilization stats remain in the red compared to last year except for ER visits and ambulance calls.

For year over year comparison:

- Gross revenue is under budget by about 0.7% but up 7.3% from last year. However, net revenue is down 2.8% due to increased bad debts and contractals. This is also evident in the collections from patient accounts having dropped by 11% this year. Expenses are down 1.9%.
- The ADC is down about 0.1 patients.
- Admissions are down 4%.
- The ALOS is up 0.1 days.
- Outpatient discharges are down 3%.
- ER visits are up 13%.
- Obs admissions are down 12%.
- O/P surgeries are down 24%.
- Clinic visits are down 2%.
- FTEs are up 0.6.
- Days Cash on Hand is down 4%.

Net QIPP payments for about \$800,000 were received for the first quarter of year 8.

QIPP Year 8 payments for quarter 2 are scheduled to be received in June.

I have also updated the operating indicators spreadsheet. I removed the Medicare summary section and replaced it with additional clinic operational metrics. I also added a line for pain management procedures performed in the OR.

### **Convene to Closed Session for the Following Purposes:**

- a) Texas Government Code Section 551.071 –Attorney Consultation & Presentation of Quality Assurance Metrics**

None

### **Administrative Report**

Lance presented the following report to the Board:

#### Parking Lot

Only a small section remains to be done, the area just north of the clinic, although it may be complete by the time of the meeting. Once complete the entire project area will be restriped.

#### QIPP Facilities

Foursquare opted to partner the Gatesville facility with the Gatesville hospital instead of us. It appears at this time that Gracen Hawley will opt to include her two facilities with us starting in year 10.

There are growing concerns with a couple of our facilities meeting the required metrics in year 8, specifically two Foursquare facilities and the two Grace Care Centers. HSM continually provides them reports showing their status and is working with them to rectify the issues preventing them from achieving the metrics. The fear for the hospital is that these facilities will not qualify for enough component 2-4 funds to offset the losses on component 1 which includes our IGT, thereby requiring each entity to take funds from operations for the recoupments. Again, Chris Dockal and his team, as well as Kristina, are on top of it.

#### DSH Qualification

Some great news.... NGH has qualified under the revised rules for participation in the Disproportionate Share Hospital program. Federal law requires Medicaid programs to make special payments to hospitals that serve a disproportionately large number of Medicaid and low-income patients. These hospitals are called disproportionate share hospitals (DSH) and receive DSH funding. DSH funds are different from most Medicaid payments because they are not tied to specific services for Medicaid-eligible patients. The state deemed all rural hospitals eligible for DSH in 2025 and waived trauma designation requirements and requirements for a specific number of Medicaid and low-income patient days. There is a two OB federal requirement that we will need to satisfy, basically stating that we have two physicians willing to provide nonemergent OB services. There is a lot of leeway in what will satisfy this requirement, specifically, we do not have to begin delivering babies again. I will go into more detail at the meeting. Most importantly, the estimated payment net of the required IGT should be more than \$400,000.

#### Budget

The fiscal year 2026 operating budget has been slow to develop. I will need to convene a meeting of the finance committee soon. I will be meeting with each of the department directors to discuss any potential changes operationally that could affect the upcoming budget.

#### Preliminary Tax Values

I have also included our 2025 preliminary tax values showing the district's appraisals have increased from last year's certified numbers. There currently is an increase of about \$42 million. Again, these are preliminary numbers and most likely will decrease once the appeals process is completed.

#### Legislative Update

Brian shared with the board the latest information on current legislative action.

#### **Medical Staff Report**

Nothing to Report.

#### **Other Business**

None.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM.

  
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Ken Koontz, Vice-President

  
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Chris Keck, Secretary