

**Granite County Hospital District
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes – DRAFT
January 25, 2022**

Present:

- Mr. Jim Waldbillig (Board Chair)
- Mr. John Barbara
- Mrs. Kristi Mainwaring
- Mr. Matt LaTray

A quorum of the Board was present. Mrs. Kristi Mainwaring and Mr. Matt LaTray attending via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Jim Waldbillig on January 25, 2022 at 5:35 PM. The meeting was held in the Granite County Medical Center Conference Facility in Philipsburg, MT.

The minutes from the December 28, 2021 meeting were reviewed. John Barbara made a motion to approve them as written. Jim Waldbillig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Items

Administrator’s Report:

Maria Stoppler, CEO, DON, RN, presented her Administrator’s Report. (Please refer to the posted report for details.)

Vaccine Mandate: Maria Stoppler reported the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the CMS vaccine mandate to go into effect while blocking the OSHA vaccine mandate for businesses with one hundred or more employees.

COVID-19: Maria Stoppler reported Omicron is the dominant variant in all fifty states and as of this morning Granite County has 29 active cases while 5,057 new cases were reported in the state.

Radiology Update: Maria reported the x-ray equipment has been installed and they are waiting for some construction items to be completed.

Financial Report:

Brenda Peyton, JCCS accountant, presented the financial report. (Please refer to the posted report for details.) Of note, eight of the twelve utilization targets are on track. Brenda reported Granite County Medical Center is heading into a quarter that historically has been low for utilization and revenue. The trend is expected to pick up again in May and June. She also reported traveler costs were high in December.

Of note, there is enough in restricted funds to cover remaining expenses for the Radiology project.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee - Barbara

After hearing from Brenda Peyton, John Barbara made a recommendation to request a levy based on projected increased costs for travelers, expected staffing shortages (which will increase the need for utilizing travelers) and increasing inflation on supplies. In addition, utilization of the clinic and laboratory for sick visits is projected to decrease over the next months as home testing for Covid will increase. Jim Waldbillig will contact the election administrator and expects the levy will be delayed until the general election. Jim expects the board will need to craft a resolution in February or March and the exact figure will be discussed at that time.

Policy Committee - Mainwaring

No report.

Quality and Safety Committee - Green

No report.

Facilities - LaTray
No report.

Technology Committee - Barbara
John Barbara reported Dave Lee found lapel mics for the board and another set of four mics will be purchased.

Professional Affairs - Waldbillig
No report.

Marketing Committee - Mainwaring
Kristi Mainwaring deferred to John Skousen and Eric Bunting. John Skousen reported they were meeting quarterly and discussing the best options to increase utilization of tele-medicine, promote vaccine advertising, and keep the community informed of current medical events. Eric Bunting reported over the past year over six thousand site visits had occurred with the main visits occurring on the home page and careers.

Recruitment & Retention - Mainwaring
No report.

Medical Staff Report:

Dr. Reiter noted that discussions are continuing with Ed Amberg to decrease fragmentation between the providers and increase information sharing between them. He also noted efforts are ongoing to increase ultrasound capabilities for GCMC. He also recommended looking at offering MRI's, telemetry, ambulatory care, and certifications in life support.

Foundation Report:

No report.

Approval of Warrants:

Jim Waldbillig noted the warrants are distributed electronically.

Old Business

X-Ray Remodel:

Covered under Administrator's Report.

District ByLaws Revisions/Decision:

Kristi Mainwaring noted the Bylaws have been sent out for review. Discussion will commence once they are back.

New Business

Finance Committee Strategy Discussion/Decision:

John Barbara noted that a lot of changes have occurred in the prior month. Last month he recommended paying down some of the long-term debt. He is now recommending the board reconsider their options and wait to see how the split decision of the Supreme Court regarding the vaccine mandates impacts the hospital. After discussion, the board agreed. They will explore options in the days ahead. No decision will be made by the board at this time.

Jim Waldbillig also suggested continuing with the survey for the housing unit and getting some drawings of possible units, but both he and John Barbara recommended waiting on the housing decision until the ramifications of the vaccine mandates are seen. Matt LaTray and Kristi Mainwaring agreed. A decision will be postponed until a later date.

Vaccine Mandate:

Matt La Tray noted there is considerable uncertainty within the federal government regarding employment. Maria noted she is unaware of any appeals on the vaccine mandate, as well.

Open Comment

Elena Gagliano asked if the unvaccinated staff were employees or travelers, and if any had already left. Maria reported GCHD had six unvaccinated employees and one employee resigned approximately thirty days ago. Ms. Gagliano also asked about the approval process for exemptions. Maria reported exemptions were decided by a committee review.

Ms. Gagliano also asked about discontinued monoclonal antibodies. Maria Stoppler reported REGEN-COV is being held at this time because it is ineffective against Omicron.

Adjournment

A motion was made by John Barbara to adjourn. This was seconded by Jim Waldbillig. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

These minutes have been reviewed and approved by motion of the board:

Jim Waldbillig (Chairman of GCHD Board of Trustees)

Date