

MID VALLEY HOSPITAL
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
October 25, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Family Medical Building Conference Room C/D and via Zoom

MINUTES

BOARD:

Richard Johnson, Ed.D, Chair
Ellen Delaney, Vice-Chair
Rebecca Christoph, RN, Secretary (scribe)

Evon LaGrou, Member
Becky Corson, MBA, Member

STAFF:

John White, CEO
Dr. Jennifer Thill, Chief Medical Officer
Dianna Osborne, Clinic Administrator
Carrie Anthony, Controller

Holly Stanley, CFO
Randy Coffell, HR Director
Carlo Piraino, RN, Director of Nursing
Dr. Robie Sterling, Chief of Staff

GUESTS:

Sandy Johnson, Attorney
David Imus, CPA, Wipfli

- I. Meeting was called to order in due form.
 - A. Acceptance/Changes to Agenda. **Commissioner Delaney motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Corson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
 - B. Approval of Minutes of October 11, 2022 Board Meeting. **With the addition of Dianna Osborne listed as present at the meeting, Commissioner Corson moved to approve the minutes of October 11, 2022 as so corrected. Commissioner Delaney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- II. Comments/Announcements
 - A. Public Comments: None made.
 - B. Mid Valley Hospital and Clinic Thanksgiving Meal will be Thursday, November 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. for day shift and from 11:00 p.m. to 2 a.m. for night shift.
 - C. Next board Meeting: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in Room C/D and via Zoom
 - D. Next scheduled committee meetings
 - i. Finance Committee meeting: November 21, 2022, 3:45 p.m.
 - ii. Facilities Committee Meeting: November 7, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
 - iii. Internal Relations Committee meeting: November 9, 2022, 11:30 a.m.
 - iv. External Committee Meeting: TBD
 - v. Quality Committee: November 1, 2022, 11:30 a.m.

- III. Commissioner Corson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Delaney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- IV. Commissioner Committee/Liaison Reports**
- A. Finance (Evon/Becky) –**
- i. Holly presented the September financials and patient stats for the month of September, 2022. September reported a loss of \$778 thousand. There was an increase in surgeries at 147 for the month; admissions were down 3%; deliveries were above average. Clinic visits were down 9% largely due to providers out during the month. On the expense side, professional fees and travelers expense continue to be high. Medicare settled the cost report in September with the hospital owing \$116 thousand for 2022 paid claims to date. AR days are holding steady at 54.9 days.**
 - ii. 2023 Preliminary Budget. A budget is required to be presented before November 1 by statute. John presented the preliminary budget for 2023 showing a loss of over \$2 million. He would like to come back with an amended budget some time in February once the 2022 financials close. With a \$2 million dollar loss, budget has to reflect reality. Traveler expenses annualized for 2022 is expected to be close to \$6 million when including anesthesia staff, which is three times higher than if all on staff. John stated he has ideas on revenue improvement, including the charge master review, swing bed, and etc. Holly reported that they used a flat 5% charge increase but expect changes from the charge master review to have an additional positive effect on revenue. Administration is strategically looking at ways to think outside the box to reduce traveling cost. However, staffing shortages and corresponding traveler expense is being experienced throughout the industry. Holly reported salaries increased overall 10% with the union contract. Non-union wages were just increased 4.6% in the fall. Labor costs are what is driving the negative bottom line. The overall benefit package is being evaluated to improve recruiting as a whole package. Operational efficiencies and inventory control with the lab is currently being evaluated with Virginia Mason team and expected savings will be included in the budget. Holly reported recently finally hiring a candidate from Kentucky to fill the Health Information Management position.**

Sandy Johnson, Legal Council, stated compensation is no legal issue for those office staff who don't control referrals. However, one needs to be careful to pay providers fair market value for services rendered based on federal fair market value representation. MGMA specifically addresses Western, rural, and small areas in regard to provider compensation.
- B. Internal Relations – Commissioner Christoph moved to approve two policies, Recall by Manufacture-Supplies and Equipment Policy, and Preventative Maintenance Program Policy. Commissioner Delaney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- V. Administrator Report: John asked Randy, HR; Dianna, Clinic; and Carlo, Nursing to report first.**

Randy reported hiring the HI manager and interviewed a candidate for director of marketing who is considering the position. The Payroll specialist in HR has been hired and will be starting November 7th. Currently, some positions are being filled by internal candidates, leaving openings to be filled. Tomorrow, Randy and Carol will be attending the Expo at the Agriplex for high school students to discuss career fields.

Dianna reported recruiting firms presented to Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner candidates, with one subsequently taking another position, but she will be working with remaining candidate. Staffing is looking good in the clinic and there is another flu and COVID Bivalent Booster shot clinic this Friday.

Carlo worked with Holly and Randy today on costs, reviewing areas that could improve and decrease cost in nursing areas. Hiring a scheduling and payroll person will relieve duties. There are still several nursing administrative positions that need to be filled, which they are working on.

John stated operationally once the COVID emergency is declared over, screening criteria will change and possibly masking.

Lab survey, compliance, and improvements in lab are almost complete with Lindsey doing an excellent job through the process. It has been a great partnership with Virginia Mason to improve lab. The citation report has been complete and response report completed and to be reviewed and sent off tomorrow. John has almost completed onboarding and is focusing on internal staff before moving ahead to meeting external contacts. He said it has been going well and has received a warm welcome. He will work on Board meeting packet and present to the Board. Staffing is the top priority and retaining the staff we have. He wants to be sure the compensation, benefit package, and retirement is competitive. As an example, he is working to promote people internally. He has two phlebotomists in lab who want to go to school to earn their MLT license. In exchange for working with them to help them achieve their goal, they will work for Mid Valley a minimum of two years after completion. John stated there are opportunities to do better in the ACO. The hospital and clinic want to work ahead of the curve to be ready for the new payment method of the future based on improved health and preventative care. With the focus on prevention, Primary care, Behavioral health care, oral health, along with social determinants of health, including food and housing security, are part of a patient's overall healthcare. John will be focusing on developing a swing bed program. John and Carlo will be meeting with Bill from Rehab Vision, the Pt therapy group tomorrow. Therapy is doing better now, with two PTs on staff and patients are getting services, though more robust services including other therapies are desired. Telehealth is a component of capitalized care. The clinic has not had confirmed yet as to whether an RHC can be a distant site provider once the pandemic is declared over. Patients, however, would like to keep telehealth. Dianna reported clinic patients especially use telehealth for their annual wellness visits. Pay for telehealth services is still low in comparison to office visits.

VI. Medical Staff Report. Dr. Thill reported they are continuing to work together short and long-term planning with the help of hospitalists to improve the ED, and also to improve efficiency in the OR. She stated they are also working on various ideas on how to better capture and improve care they are delivering.

Robie stated Med staff hasn't met, but the ER/Hospitalist meeting occurred today, and they are looking closely at ER through put. He announced Family Health Center has a new physician, Dr. Gray, and Dr. Ramani Redmond, who is a Med/Ped physician.

VII. Old Business: None

VIII. New Business

A. Resolution \$655 Annual taxing District Increase. Commissioner Corson moved to approve Resolution #655, Annual Taxing District Increase, as presented.

Commissioner Christoph seconded the motion which passed unanimously.


IX. Executive Session: RCW 42.30.110(i) To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency, this subsection (1)(i) does not permit a governing body to hold an executive session solely because an attorney representing the agency is present. For purposes of this subsection (1)(i) "potential litigation" means matters protected by RPC 1.6 or RCW 5.60.060(2)(a) concerning:
(i) Litigation that has been specifically threatened to which the agency, the governing body or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become a party.

Executive Session began at 6:07 p.m. for fifteen minutes

a. Extension for 5 minutes to 6:32 p.m.

b. Extension for 13 minutes to 6:45 p.m.

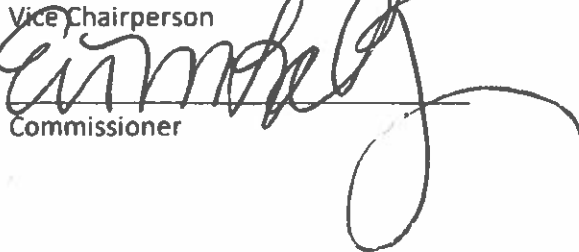
X. The Board reconvened into regular session at 6:40 p.m. Commissioner Delaney moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Christoph seconded the motion which passed unanimously.


Chairperson


Secretary


Vice Chairperson


Commissioner


Commissioner