

March 17, 2020

The emergency virtual meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Whidbey Island Public Hospital District was called to order at 10:01 am by Board President, Commissioner Wallin. Present were President Wallin; Commissioner Fey; Commissioner Cammermeyer; Commissioner Blankenship; Chief Executive Officer/Chief Financial Officer, Ron Telles; Chief Operations Officer, Colleen Clark; Chief Nursing Officer, Erin Wooley; Chief Legal Officer, Jake Kempton; Executive Director of Facilities and Plant Engineering, Tim Waldner; and other hospital staff. Absent: Commissioner Anderson

Points of Order

President Wallin stated the virtual meeting will be audio and video recorded and is streaming live on WhidbeyHealth's Facebook page. Today's emergent meeting of the board is for the purpose of keeping the community abreast of steps WhidbeyHealth is taking in response to COVID-19 and contingency plans in place in the event that illness escalates in our community.

COVID-19 Testing Process

CNO Erin Wooley stated a drive up swabbing station has been set up on site. WhidbeyHealth uses Quest diagnostics for testing and is seeing testing turnaround times as early as 4 days. Ms. Wooley noted test result times may increase as demand increases. Patients being tested are being notified as their results come in. Ms. Wooley shared the hotline number 360-240-4055 for patients to be screened by a

registered nurse if they are interested in being tested. Patients who meet the criteria will be registered by phone and given further direction for the drive up swabbing station. Ms. Wooley stated WhidbeyHealth is currently performing approximately 50 swabs per day. The hotline is open 8am-4pm Monday through Thursday and 8am-noon on Fridays. The swabbing center is open 10am-6pm Monday through Thursday and 10am-2pm on Fridays.

Executive Director of Facilities and Plant Operations, Tim Waldner stated that signage has been posted directing patients to the swabbing tent with additional personnel standing by to direct traffic. Patients should stay inside their vehicles for the duration of the swabbing.

Supply Update

Executive Director Tim Waldner stated WhidbeyHealth is limited on supplies and are working to ensure the organization is appropriately prepared. There are currently 800 test kits on hand with 100 held for staff and physicians. Mr. Waldner gave the current supply statistics of 48,000 pairs of gloves, 1,700 N-95 masks, 9,900 droplet masks, 4,000 gowns in stock in the hospital. Mr. Waldner stated there are an additional 2,000 droplet masks, 91 N-95 masks and 251 gowns on hand in the clinics. As patient loads increase, those quantities will dwindle. Additional deliveries of personal protective equipment are expected over the next few weeks, however the complete stock of items ordered have not been being consistently delivered. Mr. Telles noted this is an issue among hospitals across Washington State.

Staff Illness

Chief Operating Office Colleen Clark spoke to the current concerns raised in the community regarding the safety of staff. Ms. Clark shared one provider is currently out ill. That provider was tested for COVID-19 with negative results. Ms. Clark stated all staff calling out with symptoms are being managed and monitored on a daily basis by our infection prevention nurse specialist. Mandatory temperature monitoring has been implemented for every person entering WhidbeyHealth facilities with dated sticker verification issued upon completion.

Ms. Clark stated work is underway in partnership with the IT department to move as many staff to remote work as possible. There are plans to reduce clinics and bring staff members onsite to help at the Medical Center in the areas it is most needed. Daily meetings are being held to ensure appropriate decisions are being made to close down service lines as needed both for the protection of staff and patients as well as the conservation of personal protective equipment. Rehab and OB schedules have been modified with an expected order from the governor today to eliminate all elective surgeries. Life saving and emergent surgeries will go forward.

Chief Legal Officer Jake Kempton stated work is underway in conjunction with the Washington State Hospital Association to bring a staffing firm under contract for out of state resources if needed. The contract is in the initial review stage.

Social Distancing

Chief Nursing Officer Erin Wooley spoke to the importance of social distancing and self-isolation. Keeping a minimum of 6' of distance between you and others and isolating at home are the most effective ways to slow COVID-19. For this reason,

visitors to the Medical Center have been eliminated with a few exceptions. Patients are encouraged to use technology to video chat with technology resources provided to those that need them. All visitors are being screened for respiratory illness, fever and other symptoms prior to entering the facility.

Partnerships

Chief Executive Officer Ron Telles stated the leadership team at WhidbeyHealth is keeping in close contact with WSHA as well as leadership at other healthcare systems in our region. Mr. Telles stated the financial impact of COVID-19 has been concerning. With 15-18 days cash on hand, a reduction in service lines and 24 hour expenditures for more clinical staff; the hospital is in need of government support. Mr. Telles urged community members to contact our local congressmen and governor to encourage support of WhidbeyHealth. Mr. Telles shared he is currently meeting three days per week by phone with executives from Skagit Regional Health, Peace Health and Providence to ensure we are working together with staffing and supplies as possible. Data is being shared between organizations to ensure access to robust data regarding what is happening in our region.

Community Impact

CNO Erin Wooley stated there are currently 7 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Island County as of this morning. It is anticipated this number will significantly increase as sampling and testing ability continue. Ms. Wooley reiterated the safest thing to do at this time is to stay home. For patients who test positive, symptoms including shortness of breath or trouble breathing should result in a visit to the emergency department.

Otherwise patients are encouraged to stay home, drink plenty of liquids and rest to recover.

Ms. Wooley thanked the school districts and Boys and Girls Club who have worked together to provide child care for first responders and health care workers. This has been critical in allowing operations to continue.

Adjournment

There being no further business the board meeting adjourned at 10:34am.

President of the Commission

Secretary of the Commission

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner