The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Whidbey Island Public Hospital District was called to order at 8:00 am by Board President, Commissioner Wallin. Present were President Wallin; Commissioner Fey; Commissioner Anderson; Commissioner Cammermeyer; Chief Executive Officer/Chief Financial Officer, Ron Telles; Chief Quality & Transformation Officer, Linda Gipson; Interim Chief of Staff, Dr. Nick Perera; General Counsel, Jake Kempton; and several other hospital staff.

**Excused Absence:** Commissioner Blankenship; Chief Operations Officer, Colleen Clark; Chief Nursing Officer, Linda Sanford

**Points of Order**

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Julie Langrock who unexpectedly passed away last week. An open memorial service will be held on Sunday at 3pm at Oak Harbor High School.

President Wallin stated the meeting will be audio and video recorded today.

**Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Fey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and the vouchers as presented, seconded by Commissioner Cammermeyer. Motion carried.

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense and reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, and have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Board.

#241622-242464 and #10574-10602 total amount of $8,375,987.98 with Capital equipment vouchers in the amount of $35,986.81 motion carries therefore the vouchers are approved for payment in the amount of $8,411,974.79 14th of October 2019.
General Public Comments:
WhidbeyHealth nurses working on the WSNA negotiation team Gwen Parrot, Luka Cobb and Ann Bell came forward to speak to the status of negotiations and request support from the board in the proposal for wage increases that has been made which they feel is reasonable and fair.
Ron Telles stated he appreciates the proposal being tied to the financial health of the organization and looks forward to reaching an agreement.
Mr. Wallin commended the nursing staff for coming forward and speaking to the board; the effort to work together is appreciated.

Medical Staff Report
Dr. Nick Perera stated he will be filling in for Dr. Langrock while he is on leave.
Dr. Perera presented the following initial appointments:
Shannon Farmakis, MD, Radiology, Provisional
Erick Prince, MD, Neurology, Provisional
Aws Alawi, MD, Neurology, Provisional
Aaron Stayman, MD, Neurology, Provisional
Allie Massaro, MD, Neurology, Provisional
Jennifer Witt, MD, Neurology, Provisional
James Wang, Neurology, Provisional
Craig Nattkemper, MD, Emergency Medicine
Commissioner Cammermeyer made a motion to approve initial appointments as presented; seconded by Commissioner Fey. Motion carried. President Wallin noted credentialing documents were needed for Dr. Nattkemper.
Dr. Perera presented the following advancements:
Jonathan Seavey, MD, Orthopedic, Provisional to Active
Anthony Guynes, MD, Emergency Medicine, Provisional to Courtesy
Commissioner Cammermeyer made a motion to approve the advancements as presented, seconded by Commissioner Fey. Motion carried.
Dr. Perera presented the following reappointments:
Friedrich Loura, MD, Gastroenterology, Courtesy
John Beumer, MD, Pediatrics, Active
Allison Alberton, MD, General Surgery, Active
Ronald Loch, MD, Radiology, Telemedicine
Nicholas Perera, MD, Emergency Medicine, Active
Peter Sutcliffe, MD, Cardiology, Courtesy
Sujata Agnani, MD, Cardiology, Courtesy
John Hassapis, MD, General Surgery, Active

Commissioner Fey made a motion to approve reappointments as presented, seconded by Commissioner Cammermeyer. Motion carried.

Proposed updates to Article 10 were reviewed. Commissioner Cammermeyer made a motion to approve the presented changes, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried.

Dr. Perera presented updates to the surgical site fire risk assessment guide. Commissioner Cammermeyer made a motion to approve the form as presented, seconded by Commissioner Fey. Motion carried.

Dr. Perera presented updated privilege request forms for Ophthalmology. Forms are being updated to be more comprehensive by specialty. Commissioner Cammermeyer made a motion to approve privilege request form as presented, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried.

Dr. Perera presented an updated Surgical Safety Checklist for the OR amending the current safety checklist to account for additional time outs for patient safety. Commissioner Cammermeyer made a motion to approve the surgical safety checklist, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried.

Dr. Perera noted he will be out of town at the time of the next board meeting, and will have another chief fill in.

Commissioner Fey thanked the medical staff for all the work being done on updating bylaws. Mr. Wallin seconded the board’s appreciation, recognizing the amazing amount of work that is going in to updating policies and procedures.
Quality Update

Linda Gipson recognized members of the Patient Family Advisory Council and thanked them for their dedication in representing the voice of the patient for consideration in the transformational work that is being done at WhidbeyHealth.

Dr. Gipson stated the Quality department has completed a review of quality metrics from the last 2 years and identified two outstanding departments. Members of the Hospice team and Life Center team were recognized and awarded Quality pins. Both departments have patient experience scores consistently in the high 90’s. Patient comments were shared for both departments highlighting the compassion, dedication, knowledge and professionalism of the staff. Dr. Gipson stated the work being done in these departments is well worth emulating as we work towards improving across the system.

Commissioners Cammermeyer and Fey were also awarded quality pins and thanked for their work in advancing the quality agenda at WhidbeyHealth.

Dr. Gipson gave an overview of current quality work including collaboration to assure optimal transitions for patients facing incarceration. Dr. Gipson impressed the importance of working with community partners as WhidbeyHealth develops a continuum of care.

Dr. Gipson reviewed local statistics regarding reproductive health in our community as well as the contraceptive access policy. Upstream, a non-profit organization specializing in reaching out to rural and under accessed communities, has partnered with WhidbeyHealth facilitating the creation of policies, planning for obtaining supplies affordably, and training staff (including frontline, clinical and providers) on how to break down barriers to speak about contraception health and pregnancy intentions with patients. Staff from primary care and women’s care clinics have participated in the training and were commended for their teamwork and enthusiasm.

Dr. Gipson noted that this program is at no additional cost to the organization and WhidbeyHealth can now offer contraceptive options on site at every clinic. Dr. Gipson reviewed the recipe for success for this project including engagement, collaboration, grant funding, expert external project managers, education & training, use of IT to
support clinical work, and codifying of program requirements to assure sustainability. The quality department will be measuring the ongoing impact of this program and communicating the results to stakeholders.

Dr. Gipson also reviewed the priorities in progress including clinic quality metric reporting, embedded behavioral health into primary care, retinal screening, comprehensive opioid/SUD program, population health data analytics, advanced care planning, country wide 211, and ERAS. The board and executive team will also be presented with a comprehensive review of the quality plan and priorities for 2020 at an upcoming meeting.

Dr. Gipson noted Respecting Choices will be onsite to discuss advanced care planning. Using grant funding, the intention is to implement a sustainable program consistent across the system. The advanced care planning training is open to all interested staff. Dr. Gipson reviewed CMS and DOH quality program requirements. Work is being done across the organization one department at a time. The quality department is providing support to leadership with training and assisting as needed to make necessary improvements. The Quality Improvement Council will be meeting monthly versus quarterly due to the volume of work that has to be completed.

Dr. Gipson stated WhidbeyHealth has committed to the IHI Quadruple Aim of patient experience, population health, reducing costs and care team well-being.

North Sound ACH Medicaid transformation initiatives are also in progress including care coordination, care integration, capacity building and care transformation.

**Operations Reports:**

Patsy Kolesar, Director of Inpatient Services shared that the new swing bed program hosted the first patient on Friday.

Jackie Bassett, Interim Manager of the Family Birth Place shared her team’s excitement in announcing Dr. Megan McSorely will be joining WhidbeyHealth in a lead physician role for the OB department.

Curtis Shumate, Manager of Inpatient Nursing stated his team is getting ready for surveys with training and staff education.
Finance Update

Jennifer Reed, Controller gave an update on finance as of August 2019

1. Patient days are down for the month of August.
2. Discharges were also down lower than average.
3. The trend line for adjusted patient days looks good. Ms. Reed reiterated the importance of a focus on outpatient care.
4. Outpatient surgeries are right at the 4 year average. Dr. Oman was recognized for her help in this area. Inpatient surgeries slightly lower than 4 year trend.
5. ER visits are up.
6. Operating expenses are up from the previous month as compensation went back up to average.
7. As of August 31st, the organization had 28 days cash on hand

Ms. Reed stated Finance is working on an interim cost report that will reflect changes in charges. She is anticipating at least a 2% increase on outpatient reimbursement.

Ms. Reed is currently working on the budget for 2020.

Staff and Status Reports from Administration

Ron Telles stated Lisa Sanford, CNO will be retiring in March of 2020. The executive team has some candidates with upcoming interviews scheduled. Mr. Telles will be inviting 2 board members to participate in the interviews for this important position for WhidbeyHealth and the community.

Mr. Telles announced that as the current Compliance Officer, Chris Gleason has transitioned to the full time roll of Project Manager; Niah Cortez, who has been serving as WhidbeyHealth’s Revenue Integrity Manager, will be stepping into the role.

Ms. Cortez has been certified in healthcare compliance and has previous experience working in compliance in a managed care setting.

Mr. Telles also gave an update on the “I’m On Board” campaign. 400 employees have signed the commitment statement. Mr. Telles shared some of the sentiments expressed by employees who were hesitant to participate including a lack of trust in the full investment of department leaders. Mr. Telles reiterated his commitment to
this program and will be having discussions with leaders to ensure the team shares his enthusiasm for this important initiative.

Mr. Telles stated WhidbeyHealth will be initiating a robust marketing campaign in the next 2 months.

Mr. Telles reported on attending WSHA’s annual meeting along with President Wallin. One focus of the meeting was cyber security concerns in healthcare. WhidbeyHealth’s insurance agent will be attending a future board meeting to give an overview of WhidbeyHealth’s D&O insurance coverage and cyber security. Mr. Telles impressed the importance of ensuring we are doing everything we can to secure PHI.

Mr. Telles also reported on recent and upcoming community events including a Town Hall meeting in Langley on September 18th. Additional Town Hall meetings are scheduled in Coupeville on October 22nd and in Oak Harbor on October 29th. Mr. Telles will also be a guest speaker at the Coupeville Lion’s Club meeting on October 23rd.

**Board Items:**

President Wallin states the board will now be excused into Executive Session at 9:17 am, under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i), no voting will take place.

Regular session continues at 10:13am.

**Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting will be held Monday, November 11th at 8:00 am.

Commissioner Camermeyer made a motion to move forward with contract negotiations with Kevin Arrington to support leadership development work. An initial draft contract will be presented at the next board meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Fey. Motion carried.

The board will hold an upcoming work session to begin brainstorming mission, values and vision statements.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Commissioner Camermeyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Board meeting adjourned at 10:34am.
President of the Commission

Secretary of the Commission

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner