

September 26th, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Whidbey Island Public Hospital District was called to order at 11:01 am by Board President, Commissioner Golder. Present were Commissioner, James Golder; Commissioner, Greg Richardson; Commissioner, Marion Jouas; Commissioner, Kate Rose; Chief Financial Officer, Paul Rogers; Chief Executive Officer, Nathan Staggs; Executive Director of Quality and Transformation, Shanna Harney-Bates; Executive Director of Ancillary Services, Tim Waldner; Medical Chief of Staff, Dr. David Lemme; Chief of Staff Elect, Dr. Robert Rookstool; Director of the Foundation, Rainy Simpson; Administrative Chief of Staff, John Gleason. Dominic Symes from HealthTech was also in attendance. Commissioner Ron Wallin was in attendance remotely.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Richardson motions to approve the August 15 board meeting minutes. Commissioner Rose seconds the motion. August board meeting minutes are approved.

Nathan introduces the board to Rainy Simpson, the new Foundation director. Rainy highlighted the work of the foundation staff to pull of the Tour de Whidbey and other Foundation events. The Tour de Whidbey brought in \$82k in unrestricted funds. The annual gala will take place next week. The gala is raising money for the Rehabilitation department, including equipment and expansion.

Rural Health Enterprise

Leslie Hiebert, CEO of Rural Health Enterprise joins to discuss the statement of work and partnership with WhidbeyHealth. WhidbeyHealth has been a part of The Rural Collaborative for many years. The Rural Health Enterprise is a new limited liability partnership. The partnership should reduce costs for the hospital. The RHE has a limited partnership status with 21 other regional hospitals. The risk is limited to our one-time capital investment of \$2,000. The savings should pay for this investment in less than a year.

Call to Order/Points of Order

Resolution #472 - Authorizing agreement with the Rural Collaborative. The approval of the resolution gives CEO Nathan Staggs the authority to sign an agreement between the RHE and WhidbeyHealth.

Commissioner Rose motions to approve Resolution #472. Commissioner Richardson seconds that motion. Motion to approve Resolution #472 is approved.

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Medical Staff Report

Chief of Credentials, Dr. David Lemme

Dr. Lemme introduced Dr. Robert Rookstool and presents the credentials report to the board.

INITIAL APPOINTMENTS

- Oded Greenberg, MD - Real Radiology, Tele-Medicine
- Christopher Hunter, FNP - Primary Care Freeland, Provisional Active
- Carron E. Kras, ARNP, FNP - Primary Care Freeland, Provisional Active
- John W. Mannschreck, MD - Skagit Radiology, Provisional Courtesy
- Jeffrey J. Hebert, MD - Real Radiology, Tele-Medicine
- Anthony Rowe, MD - Real Radiology, Tele-Medicine
- Daniel Burritt, MD - Real Radiology, Tele-Medicine, Provisional Courtesy
- Joseph Skowronski, MD - Sound Locum Emergency Medicine, Provisional Courtesy

Commissioner Richardson motions to approve the Initial Appointments. Commissioner Rose seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

ADVANCEMENTS

- Christina L. Blake, PMHNP - Tele-Psych, Credentialed by Proxy, Tele-Medicine
- Shana R. Wright, PMHNP - Tele-Psych, Credentialed by Proxy, Tele-Medicine
- Stevette Javier, ARNP, RN - Palliative Care, Active
- Christina Amendolare, NP - Primary Care Freeland, Active Staff
- Hans-Martin Korb, DO - Sound Locum - Hospitalist, Courtesy
- Grace Wright PA-C - Walk-In Clinic - Goldie, Active Staff
- Joan James DO, Tele-Psych (Emergency/Critical) - Courtesy

Commissioner Richardson motions to approve the Advancements. Commissioner Rose seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

REAPPOINTMENTS

- Stephen R. Burton, MD - Tele-Stroke, Credentialed by Proxy, Tele-Medicine
- Mohammad I. Hirzallah, MD - Tele-Stroke, Credentialed by Proxy, Tele-Medicine
- James W. Jordan, MD - Tele-Stroke, Credentialed by Proxy, Tele-Medicine
- Kyle Y. Ogami, MD - Tele-Stroke, Credentialed by Proxy, Tele-Medicine
- Jonathan Kreher, MD - Sound Physicians Emergency Medicine, Courtesy

Commissioner Richardson motions to approve the Reappointments. Commissioner Jouas seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

Workflow Checklist by Providers

Commissioner Rose motions to approve the Workflow Checklist by Providers.

Commissioner Richardson seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

Privilege Request Form - Teleradiology Privileges - This is an updated privilege request form for those providers who only see patients distantly.

Commissioner Rose motions to approve the Teleradiology Privilege Request Form.

Commissioner Jouas seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

Waiver Request Form - FNP Krista Burckhardt - FNP Burckhardt has completed her training but is awaiting boards and licensure. We would like to give her the ability to do the same things that she does as an outpatient provider in the inpatient obstetric department. The credentialing and board process can take another two month.

Commissioner Rose motions to approve the NP Burckhardt Waiver Request Form.

Commissioner Richardson seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

Dr. Jerald Sanders Emeritus Status - Dr. Sanders recently retired. The Medical Executive Committee has asked that he have emeritus status if he desires. This status would be permanent. This item is not brought for approval, just for acknowledgment.

Commissioner Richardson motions to approve Dr. Sanders' Emeritus status.

Commissioner Rose seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

Dr. Rookstool shares his professional history of his work on Whidbey Island and with WhidbeyHealth with the board.

HealthTech Update

Dominic Symes, HealthTech

HealthTech is busy implementing budgeting software that should be available soon.

They hope to have the software set up in the coming 3-4 weeks. At the CEO meeting in November, a brainstorming session will take place discussion on the future of independent hospitals. HealthTech has been in discussion regarding credentialing.

Karen from HealthTech will be at the October board meeting to educate the board on credentialing.

Quality and Compliance Report

Executive Director of Quality and Transformations, Shanna Harney-Bates

Shanna Harney-Bates updates the board on highlights from the past month. CAP surveys for Lab and DNV surveys were both successful. Employee Health software

system will go live October 1. Our hospice program continues to receive good reviews. We recently had a PBS crew do some interviews and record footage around the hospice program. Commercials created from this video should start airing in November.

Financial Report

Chief Financial Officer, Paul Rogers

August had a net surplus of \$480k. We are taking credit for earnings that were made in Q1 and Q2 but were not reported in those periods. That accounts for \$666k. We overreported earnings by \$186k but underreported by \$666k. Patient days and emergency room visits both fell short of budget. Days cash on hand is at 14.1 days. We also reduced outstanding debt by 4 days which accounts for a reduction of around \$1.5 million in debt. Gross patient revenue is still trending higher than labor costs.

IT and Facilities Report

Executive Director of Ancillary Services, Tim Waldner

The IT department continues with the Meditech Expanse project. We have been holding 3+ hour long Expanse training sessions for everyone who will be using Expanse. Tomorrow will be the last of those sessions.

We were awarded a \$500k grant to fix air handler issues. The hospice department will be moving into the new building in mid-October. We had a crane install an air handler above the kitchen last week. We are planning on updating the flooring in the lobby in November. The ER facelift project bid was approved at yesterday's Finance Committee meeting. We will not start the project until at least February.

Commissioner Richardson motions to approve renovation of the E.D. commencing no earlier than February 1st. Commissioner Rose seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

Operations and Outpatient Services Report

Chief Executive Officer, Nathan Staggs

Since January 2023 we have acquired 41 new full, part time, or per diem providers.

Two more primary care providers will join next month. Two more walk-in clinic providers will join later this fall. We are hoping to be able to open the clinics 6 days a week. We are hoping to open the pharmacy on Saturdays starting in October. Interim Rehab director Thaddeus Thompson has agreed to become our full-time Rehab director.

Nursing Report

Chief Executive Officer, Nathan Staggs

No nursing updates at this time. Most of the focus in the department is directed towards Expanse.

Human Resources Report

Chief Executive Officer, Nathan Staggs

We have made a few minor changes to the new employee orientation process.

Administration Report

Chief Executive Officer, Nathan Staggs

Nathan has seen a lot of progress in the Expanse implementation process and is confident that we will be successful once we go live October 1st. We have moved most of the steps of the hiring process back into the hands of the hiring managers and not solely on Human Resources.

Nathan shares a letter that he received from Optum, a private insurance payer, denying coverage for needed care, stating that it did not meet coverage requirements. It also states that we may not bill the patient for these services.

Nathan will be reaching out to state representatives and our lawyer to discuss further steps.

General Board Items

There are no general board items at this time.

Executive Session

The board moved to Executive Session at 12:47 pm and expected to be in executive session for 25 minutes. The board discussed Personnel in this session, as allowed by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g). Executive Session started at 12:48 pm. The Executive Session ended at 1:13 pm. The board returned to regular session at 1:15 pm. No votes were taken, and no decisions were made.

Upon returning to the open session, Commissioner Richardson presents a CEO compensation goal for Nathan Staggs. Commissioner Richardson proposes an increase to \$385k for the remainder of 2024 and an increase to \$419k annual salary starting January 1, 2025, including 10% bonuses based on completion of multiple metrics set forth by the board.

Commissioner Richardson motions to approve the transition from initial compensation level which began on April 1, 2023, through March 21, 2024 and then a transition to the 2025 basic compensation for Nathan Staggs beginning on January 1, 2025.

Commissioner Wallin seconded the motion. Motion is approved.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Jouas thanks the Foundation for the money raised this summer and discusses the upcoming gala.

Commissioner Rose shows appreciation to Nathan and the WhidbeyHealth staff.

Commissioner Golder commends Greg's work on the compensation plan and Marion for her work with the Foundation.

Adjournment


Commissioner Golder adjourns the board meeting at 1:29 pm. Minutes taken by John Gleason.




President of the Commission



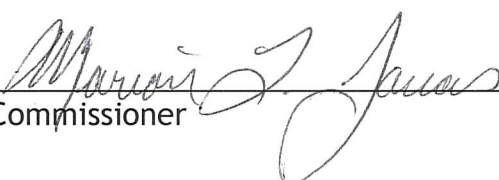
Secretary of the Commission



Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner