

August 28, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Whidbey Island Public Hospital District was called to order at 11:00 am by Board President, Commissioner Golder. Present were Commissioner, James Golder; Commissioner, Marion Jouas; Commissioner, Greg Richardson; Commissioner, Jamie Canby; Commissioner, Ron Wallin; Chief of Staff, Dr. Robert Rookstool; Chief Executive Officer, Nathan Staggs; Chief Financial Officer, Paul Rogers; Administrative Chief of Staff, John Gleason. Dominic Symes from HealthTech was also in attendance.

### **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Wallin motions to approve the July 24 Board Meeting minutes. Commissioner Richardson seconds the motion. The July 24 Board Meeting minutes are approved.

### **Call to Order/Points of Order**

No points of order at this time.

### **Legislative Update**

Clyde Shavers, State Representative, Washington State 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Representative Clyde Shavers speaks to the board about legislative challenges, and how to support rural hospitals. Representative Shavers is a member of the HealthCare committee; a lot of his advocacy revolved around support for rural hospitals. The federal HR1 bill is creating issues for Medicare and Medicaid patients. New requirements will force some people out of coverage. Commissioners express concern about the financial prospects for rural hospitals in the coming years and how we can keep the hospital profitable in the coming years. Dr. Rookstool raises the issue of insurance companies using Artificial Intelligence and how we combat that, we well as the issues with low Tricare reimbursement.

## Medical Staff Report

Chief of Staff, Dr. Robert Rookstool

Dr. Rookstool presents the credentials report to the board.

### **INITIAL APPOINTMENTS**

- Brandon J. Barrett MD, Cardiology - Optum, Provisional Courtesy
- Sean C. Chang MD, TeleRadiology, CPB Provisional TeleMedicine
- Michael T. Geraghty MD, General Surgery, Provisional Active
- Eric T. Harrington DO, Emergency Medicine, Provisional Courtesy
- Fletcher B. Moore MD, Skagit Radiology - Onsite, Provisional Active
- Robert W. Owens MD, Skagit Radiology - Remote, Provisional Courtesy
- James E. Pautz MD, Cardiology - Optum, Provisional Courtesy
- Greg L. Sarin DO, Orthopedic Surgery, Provisional Active
- Adham B. Shoujaa MD, TeleRadiology, CBP Provisional TeleMedicine
- Brian Y. Zhu MD, TeleRadiology, CBP Provisional TeleMedicine
- Michael H. Stella MD, TeleRadiology, CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine

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

### **ADVANCEMENTS**

- Catherine Borja MD, OB/GYN, Active
- Ryan W. Davis MD, Skagit Radiology - Remote, Courtesy
- Muhammad Farooq MD, TeleStroke, CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine
- Oded Greenberg MD, TeleRadiology - CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine
- Christopher Hunter FNP, Primary Care - Freeland, Active
- Carron E. Kras FNP, Primary Care - Freeland, Active
- Rebecca Mackintosh ARNP, Wound Care, Active
- Grant C. Schmidt DO, Walk-In Clinic - Coupeville, Active
- Binod Wagle MD, TeleStroke, CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine

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

## **REAPPOINTMENTS**

- Alison B. Katus FNP, Primary Care - Freeland, Active
- Soo Y. Kwon MD, TeleStroke, CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine
- Mimi S. Lee MD, TeleStroke, CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine
- Lien B. Nguyen DO, TeleStroke, CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine
- Margarita Oveian MD, TeleStroke, CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine
- Kishan S. Patel MD, TeleStroke, CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine
- Mary E. Paul PMHNP, TelePsychiatry, Courtesy TeleMedicine
- Wasim H. Raja MD, TeleHospitalist, Courtesy TeleMedicine
- Andrew D. Rontal MD, TeleStroke, CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine
- Pawani Sachar MD, TeleStroke, CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine
- Biggya L. Sapkota MD, TeleStroke, CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine
- Elizabeth “Betsy” Waring MD, Emergency Medicine, Active
- Corey R. White DO, TeleStroke, CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine
- Judith Wolfstein MD, TeleRadiology, CBP Courtesy TeleMedicine

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

## **RESPIRATORY MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

As a part of the Respiratory Medical Director policy, we need to appoint a director for the Respiratory Therapy Process. This policy defines that director position and appoints Dr. Nicholas Perera as the Respiratory Medical Director.

Commissioner Wallin motions to approve Dr. Nicholas Perera as the Respiratory Medical Director. Commissioner Richardson seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

## **RADIOLOGY PRIVILEGE SET**

This was reviewed by Dr. Cai, who reviewed cases and outlined documentation about PET scans. When it comes to procedure sedation, credentials noted that all surgeons have to renew certification every two years.

Commissioner Jouas motions to approve the Respiratory Privilege Set. Commissioner Richardson seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

### **HealthTech Update**

Dominic Symes, HealthTech

Jamie will be representing the WhidbeyHealth board at the HealthTech conference next month in Louisville. If there are any topics that the board would like to see discussed, please submit those questions to Dominic.

### **Financial Report**

Chief Financial Officer, Paul Rogers

Paul presents the finances of the month of July. We are reporting a total next loss of \$780k. Operating revenues and expenses both exceeded budget. The Operating Room closure for 18 of the 22 workdays in the month contributed to this downturn. Days cash on hand is at 7.0 days. A lot of our money was used to pay outstanding accounts payable in the month of July. Days cash on hand is forecast to be at 29 days by the end of the year.

### **Quality and Compliance Report**

Chief Executive Officer, Nathan Staggs

The second CNA program will start in September. We completed a DNV survey with several findings, none of them major. WhidbeyHealth has received a Department of Health grant for project Prescribing Appropriate Antibiotics for Acute Respiratory Conditions (PAAARC) that will be presented by WhidbeyHealth Infection Preventionist Colleen Klamm. Most quality scores met or exceeded national benchmarks.

### **IT and Facilities Report**

Chief Executive Officer, Nathan Staggs

We went live with our new timekeeping system last week. No major bugs, but it will be a big adjustment and a major improvement for employees. It should help payroll run smoothly once it is fully implemented.

The OR remodel is almost completed, with just one fix to a support beam still forthcoming. The front desk remodel has received a lot of positive reviews.

### **Operations and Outpatient Services Report**

Chief Executive Officer, Nathan Staggs

We are still interviewing and recruiting providers. We have reached a term agreement with a cardiologist. Dr. Miller is talking with a pain management specialist.

### **Nursing Report**

Chief Executive Officer, Nathan Staggs

The WSNA contract was ratified by the nursing union.

### **Administrative Report**

Chief Executive Officer, Nathan Staggs

Nathan speaks to the work that the Executive Leadership Team has done in the hospital and the community, and recent difficulties with the board, particularly the occurrences at the last board meeting. Commissioner Wallin reiterated the responsibility of the board and what oversight they do and do not have.

### **General Board Items**

**Board Delegation for Grievance Approval** - The grievance policy has no significant changes, but it is time for annual approval of the policy. This policy applies to any complaint or grievance, regardless of whether it comes from staff or from a patient.

Commissioner Jouas notes changes to the policy - under the definitions, a patient complaint is defined using the word 'complaint'. The word cannot be defined using the same word, so that use of the word 'complaint' needs to be removed. Removal of the words 'complaints regarding' so that the sentence reads better.

Commissioner Richardson notes changes to the policy - The table of contents should be vertically centered. On the second page, the examples of grievances should be listed above that line as a significant item.

Commissioner Richardson motions to approve the Board Delegation of Grievance subject to changes noted above. Commissioner Wallin seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

**Designate Events Review Committee** - The board needs to delegate an event review committee to handle grievances. The committee does not need to have board members on it. Members of the committee will be designated at a future date.

Commissioner Wallin motions to approve the Event Review Committee. Commissioner Richardson seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

**Approval of Complaints and Grievances Policy** - Commissioner Richardson motions to approve the Complaints and Grievances Policy. Commissioner Wallin seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

**Approval of Scope of Surgical Services Policy** - No changes were made to this policy, this is just an annual review that needs approval. Commissioner Canby notes that there is an acronym on page two that needs to be added to the definitions.

Commissioner Wallin motions to approve the Scope of Surgical Services Policy pending the addition of the definition outlined by Commissioner Canby. Commissioner Richardson seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

**Discussion and Approval of Purchase of Island Eye Care** - The physician who runs Island Eye Care is looking to sell their practice. We have reached an agreement on price. We would employ all of their current employees including the physician. The

finance committee reviewed and approved this purchase yesterday. The purchase price is about \$354,000 which includes all of the equipment.

Commissioner Wallin motions to approve the purchase of Island Eye Care.

Commissioner Richardson seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

**Discussion and Approval of Purchasing Meditech Expense Reporting Module** - When the Meditech contract was approved several years ago, there were a number of components left out of that contract. In addition to the OB module which has been purchased and is being implemented, the other big piece is the Expense clinic business analytics module. The module will take 4-6 months to implement and costs around \$175,000. Right now, most reports are generated manually, so this would save a lot of time.

Commissioner Richardson motions to approve the purchase of the Expense Reporting Module. Commissioner Wallin seconds that motion. Motion is approved.

### **Executive Session**

No Executive Session was taken.

### **Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Jouas applauds the results of the DNV inspection. She mentions that we should applaud our Quality department more. She would like to schedule a work session for the board to discuss governance issues as well as set up a budget for the board for the purposes of attending conferences.

Commissioner Richardson shares appreciation for Nathan's statement about the board. There is a lot of work being done on the hospital that that should be resolved in a few months.

Commissioner Wallin reiterates that the board should focus on not creating turmoil. Roles for board members should be explained and clearly defined for the new board members that will be joining the board in January.

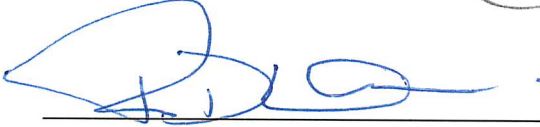
Public Comments

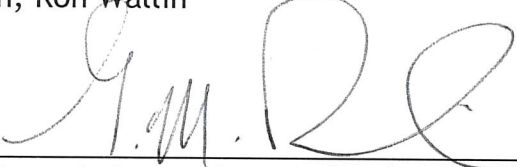
Community member Tom Van Dawark comments about the behavior of the board at the last board meeting and the perception of the hospital in the community.

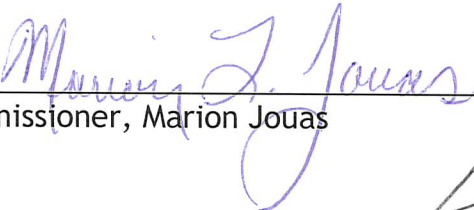
Adjournment

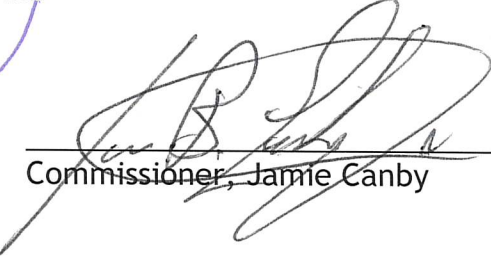
Commissioner Golder adjourns the meeting at 1:04 pm. Minutes taken by John Gleason.

  
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President of the Commission, James Golder

  
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Secretary of the Commission, Ron Wallin

  
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Commissioner, Greg Richardson

  
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Commissioner, Marion Jouas

  
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Commissioner, Jamie Canby