

A meeting of the McAlester Regional Health Center Authority was held at 04:00 PM, on Wednesday February 07, 2024, at McAlester Regional Health Center in the Administration Board Room. Public notice, setting forth there on the day, time and place for this regular meeting had been delivered to the office of the City Clerk at 8:15 AM on February 06, 2024.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Christopher Beene, MD, Chairman ~ Marti Fields ~ Johnny Zellmer, MD ~ Mary Shannon ~ Brent Grilloit ~ Susan Kanard ~ James Bland

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Sayer Brenner ~ Damon Mascoto

HOSPITAL STAFF: T. Shawn Howard ~ Sonya Stone ~ Lucy Muller ~ Ken Matthews ~ Julie Powell ~ Dr. Matthew Graves ~ Larry Auld ~ Destanie Wilson ~ Dee Misrasi ~ Whitney Hull ~ Chris Plunkett ~ Kayla Rovnak.

OTHER ATTENDEES: Karen Rieger, Legal Counsel ~ Elizabeth Dalton, Legal Counsel ~ Bo Kelley ~ Gina Powers ~ Janie Cloud ~ Weldon Smith ~ Necia Wolfe ~ Geneve Tidwell ~ Ingrid Kimbrough ~ Derek James.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Beene called the meeting to order at 04:00 PM

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda:

1. MRHCA Board of Trustees Minutes for January 10, 2024
2. January 2024 Agreement Log
3. Credentialing & Privileging Appointments

Consideration & Approval of Appointment: (Provisional)

1. Herbert "Bruce" Daniels, MD ~ Family Medicine/Hospitalist ~ One year
2. M. Naveed Ahmed, MD ~ Telemedicine/Cardiology/OHH ~ One year
3. Kaitlin Vaughn, APRN ~ Nurse Practitioner/Hospitalist ~ One year

Consideration & Approval of Reappointment: (Active Staff)

1. Lori Peters, DO ~ Family Medicine ~ Two years

Consideration & Approval of Reappointment: (Affiliate Staff) Moonlighting

1. Jarryd Horn, DO ~ Emergency Medicine ~ Two years
2. Joshua Nelson, DO ~ Emergency Medicine ~ Two years

Consideration & Approval of Additional Privileges: (Telemedicine)

1. Talla Rousan, MD ~ Cardiology/Telemedicine/OHH ~ One year

Consideration & Approval of Temporary Privileges

1. M. Naveed Ahmed, MD ~ Telemedicine/Cardiology/OHH ~ One year

Resignations (Acknowledge & Accept)

1. Evan Johnson, MD ~ Tele Radiology/StatRad ~ 10/25/23
2. Brandon Guthery, MD ~ Pathology ~ 12/14/23
3. Jennifer Hastings, APRN ~ APRN/Hospitalist/PrlMe ~ 11/30/23

A **motion** was made (Fields) and seconded (Kanard) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The vote was taken as follows: Aye: Marti Fields, Susan Kanard, Johnny Zellmer, MD, James Bland, Mary Shannon, Brent Grilliot, and Christopher Beene, MD. Nay: None. Absent: Sayer Brenner, Damon Mascoto. Abstain: None. Chairman Beene declared the **motion** carried.

Consideration and approval of Resolution to authorize McAlester Regional Health Center's President/CEO to utilize a grant award or expend grant funds awarded by the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board: Mr. Larry Auld presented the resolution for approval. A **motion** was made (Bland) and seconded (Grilliot) to approve the Resolution to authorize McAlester Regional Health Center's President/CEO to utilize a grant award or expend grant funds awarded by the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board as presented. The vote was taken as follows: Aye: James Bland, Brent Grilliot, Susan Kanard, Marti Fields, Johnny Zellmer, MD, Mary Shannon, and Christopher Beene, MD. Nay: None. Absent: Sayer Brenner, Damon Mascoto. Abstain: None. Chairman Beene declared the **motion** carried.

Discussion regarding the MRHC Charity Policy: Mr. Shawn Howard shared the MRHC Financial Assistance Policy and Charity Care/Financial Assistance Application. He reported the policy has been in effect for many years however the policy is updated annually to reflect changes in the federal poverty level guidelines. Mr. Howard stated he is bringing this policy forward to the Board as a reminder of the Hospital's process regarding financial assistance. He reported there was a recent newspaper article that painted a very dark light on the Hospital's collection practices and charity giving to the community in the event the patient cannot pay. The article was not accurate, liberties were taken, and it was very misleading. Mr. Howard stated he has never denied a charity case. He reported that upon admission and after it is determined a patient does not have insurance or other means to pay, they are given the financial assistance application, and the hospital assists the patient in filling out the application. In the event they do not qualify for financial assistance, they are offered a payment plan that is as low as \$20-\$25 a month. The only people that end up on the path to a collections agency are the ones that have a way to pay but chooses not to. Mr. James Bland stated he read the policy and application and felt it was still in good standing and added the hospital has to keep their doors open too just like any other business. Mr. Brent Grilliot stated he was on a payment plan and the hospital allowed him to pay it out as long as he needed to with no problem. Mr. Howard stated he reached out to other same size hospitals in the State and found their financial assistance program mirrors the MRHC policy. He stated that he also inquired about the average bad debt percentage in the State and found it was approximately \$2.5M. The hospital has \$6.8M bad debt which greatly exceeds the average. He closed by stating the newspaper article was unfortunate, but he would like the Board's support of the current policy and encouraged them to recommend any changes they feel necessary.

Finance Committee Reports:

- 1. Consideration and discussion of December 2023 Financial Reports:** Ms. Destanie Wilson for Ms. Cheryl Perry provided an overview of the December 2023 Financial Reports. She reviewed the Income Statement, Month and Year to Date Actuals, Statement of Financial Position, Days Cash on Hand, MRHCA Loan Covenants, and Investments/Board Designated Capital/General Use Funds Roll Forward. Mr. Shawn Howard shared a 120 day revenue improvement plan including current and future items identified to grow revenue for the hospital. Discussion occurred regarding the Finance reports as presented. A **motion** was made (Bland) and seconded (Zellmer) to approve the December 2023 Finance Reports as presented. The vote was taken as follows: Aye: James Bland, Johnny Zellmer, MD, Mary Shannon, Marti Fields, Susan Kanard, Brent Grilliot, and Christopher Beene, MD. Nay: None. Absent: Sayer Brenner, Damon Mascoto. Abstain: None. Chairman Beene declared the **motion** carried.

Audit & Corporate Compliance Committee Report: Ms. Kayla Rovnak provided an overview of the meeting held on January 23, 2024. She Shared the open records report and the quarterly vendor sanction checks report. She reported there were no updates to the Compliance Activity Log. Ms. Rovnak reported Ms. Rhonda Falconer shared the Privacy/Security Compliance Report, Ms. Ema Bargas shared the 340B Audit Report, and Ms. Kerry Honeycutt shared the Medical Necessity Audit. In closing, Ms. Rovnak provide updates to the OIG Guidelines for 2024.

Board QI Committee Report: Ms. Whitney Hull reported a short Board QI meeting was held on January 30, 2024. There were only three agenda items including an update on an EMTALA Survey initiated in August. She reported they returned for a follow up survey in January to assure corrective actions were in place and they cleared the hospital of the previous citation. Ms. Hull reported the Quality Scorecard was reviewed noting that the hospital is doing very well for the year. She shared some areas of focus that will be addressed by a committee to make sure everything is in place in a timely manner.

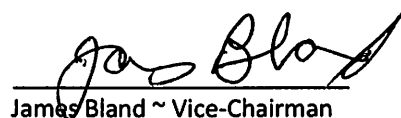
Chief of Staff Report: Dr. Matthew Graves reported he is starting to see improvement in staffing. He stated his main focus as Chief of Staff is to improve the provider numbers, adding that the staffing numbers are the lowest they have been in a while. He stated there are a lot of improvements being made including a new Emergency Department Management Group from OSU and the re-structuring of Hospitalist providers. He added interviews are continuing this week for Hospitalist providers. Dr. Graves reported new physicians are ramping up in Surgery and Pathology and Anesthesiology is fully staffed. He closed by reporting the staff is happy and the morale is high.

CEO Report: Mr. Howard provided a brief overview of the CEO report included in the meeting packet. He reported MRHC is opening an Urgent Care on Campus near the Emergency Department on Strong Blvd. Staff interviews are underway with an expected opening date in 60-90 days. Pediatric Therapy will be moving on campus to the Coppertop building in mid-February. Pediatric Therapy will be cancelling their lease at the building where they are currently located generating cost savings to the hospital. Mr. Howard provided a construction update for the Ambulatory Surgery Center following a flood. He reported the new Pet CT is operational and the case load is increasing. The hospital is one step closer to taking over nuclear medicine from Oklahoma Heart Hospital (OHH). He stated the hospital had a good working relationship with OHH, however it will be more cost effective, and it just makes more sense to do nuclear test on the inpatient side instead of outpatient with OHH. Mr. Kenneth Matthews reported MRHC is ready for startup when OHH filters through their patients already scheduled. Mr. Howard reporting Human Resources (HR) are busy interviewing providers including Hospitalist, Surgeons, Advanced Nurse Practitioners and Cardiology. He added HR is currently working with LifeCare on Telecardiology opportunities which will be a great resource for the Hospitalist especially at night. In closing, Mr. Howard opened the floor to Ms. Karen Rieger to introduce Ms. Elizabeth Dalton who joined the Crowe & Dunlevy firm.

Adjournment: A motion was made (Shannon) and seconded (Zelmer) to adjourn the meeting at 04:45 PM. The vote was taken as follows: Aye: Mary Shannon, Johnny Zellmer, MD, Susan Kanard, Brent Grilliot, James Bland, Marti Fields, and Christopher Beene, MD. Nay: None. Absent: Sayer Brenner, Damon Mascoto. Abstain: None. Chairman Beene declared the motion carried.



Christopher Beene, MD ~ Chairman
/sds



James Bland ~ Vice-Chairman