

**Hamilton County Hospital District
Board Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2024**

Presiding: Robert Witzsche

**Board members in attendance: Doug Forrest, Robert Witzsche, Karen Craig, Mike Collett
Neil Muxworthy arrived at 10:43am**

**Others Present: Grady Hooper, Chief Executive Officer; Melissa DeLaGarza, Chief
Operating Officer; Debbie Martin, Chief Nursing Officer; Tammy Schreiber, Chief
Financial Officer; Tracey Karasek, Chief Administrative Officer; Bobbie Nichols, QIPP
Director; Jordyn Powers, Recording Board Secretary; Maria Weaver, Hamilton-Hearld
News**

**Date and time: Thursday, January 18, 2024, 10:30a.m., Hamilton General Hospital Board
Room, 400 N Brown St, Hamilton, Texas 76531**

Citizen comments (limit of 3 minutes per person): There were none.

Consider and act on Closed Session minutes of November 3, 2023 meeting: Forrest moved,
Craig seconded approval on Closed Session minutes of November 3, 2023 meeting. Motion
carried.

**Consider and act on minutes of October 25, 2023 regular called meeting, November 3, 2023
special called meeting:** Forrest seconded, Craig seconded approval on minutes of October 25,
2023 regular called meeting and minutes of November 3, 2023 special called meeting. Motion
carried.

Consider and act on Financials Reports for October 2023 and November 2023: Schreiber
reported for October and November. There is a YTD loss of \$6,000 in October and \$123K in
November. Inpatient volumes have average 8 per day in October, and 10 per day in November.
Clinicals were down due to holidays and Cerner testing where providers were out. Revenue
shows \$10.1 million for October, and \$10.5 million for November. October 1st EMS billing
moved in house. We had a 120 run-out where we had contractual adjustments showing no
payments (\$104K with no corresponding payments). Supplemental government program,
uncompensated care has a true up- if we overestimate, we have to pay back and when we
underestimate, we receive nothing. \$461K in collections for December EMS. The average
through DigiTech was \$320K. Grady Hooper mentioned that our in-house billing has
significantly stepped up and the staff have received all certifications. Our expenses are up due to
the employee PTO buy-out. Purchased services dropped due to not having to pay the outside
agency for EMS billing. Accounting and legal increased due to QIPP legal fees for Advanced
nursing homes. Insurance had a variance due to the workers comp audit. We had a \$28K bottom
line. Loss in EMS of \$151K due to the San Saba station. Our EMS is a part of the EMS Disaster
Program so we will receive \$69K next month. The balance sheet shows the first QIPP payment
in November for \$13.3 million. Other current assets had \$29 million, so when you look at cash
and cash equivalent there is a \$2.89 million increase from last year. Cash collections for October
is \$3.7 million and November cash collections is \$3.3 million. Days in AR is 31.4. Under

liabilities there is a self-insurance claim for \$505K. There will be a few ambulances that will be paid off in April. The Wound Care modular building will also be paid off in April. Collett moved, Witzsche seconded approval on Financial Reports for October 2023 and November 2023. Motion carried.

Other financial items: Schreiber stated that in 2019 we became part of the 340B program (discounted drugs), but it has not been as beneficial as it was in the beginning years. Brookshire Brothers used to be with Capture RX and have terminated the contract with them. It is no longer profitable, so we will term the 340B with Brookshire Brothers.

Order Board of Directors General Election for Precinct 2, and At-Large: For Precinct 2, 4, and At-Large. Collett moved, Craig seconded approval on Order of Board of Directors General Election for Precinct 2, 4, and At-Large. Motion carried.

QIPP Report: Nichols gave the report on QIPP 7 data. Administration changes are still an issue. We have three 5-star facilities. Advantage care looks at facilities with 3-star or above. Special focus facilities in red will continue to be watched. 1-star facilities are homes that had IJ's in the past year. The program has had an increase in citations given out, and the records hold the IJs for a long period of time even after full corrective action. QIPP 8 starts September of 2024. Bobbie Nichols presented the Casper report from the MDS census. QIPP 8 has ten metrics compared to the previous four metrics. IGT will now be at risk based on the home's performance. Previously we would receive 110% of the IGT that was reserved, but part is now at risk based on metric achievements for component 1. Witzsche moved, Forrest seconded approval on the QIPP Report. Motion carried.


Quality/Compliance Quarter 4: Karasek reported for quarter 4. Inpatient had 1 grievance and 3 complaints. Outpatient had 2 grievances and 7 complaints. The discharge summary completion rate was up from 3.8% to 5.7%. There was one Emergency Room death. Returns to Emergency Departments were at 3.4%. Falls show 4 inpatient and 1 outpatient fall. To help improvement on falls we have chair alarms and bed alarms to notify when the patient is trying to get up. The Emergency Room survey results were reviewed. Inpatient HCAHPS had 36 returned surveys. Stretch goal of 82% was met for patient satisfaction. There was no trend in inpatient comments. CGCAHPS had 343 returned surveys. Wait time and reaching staff were the lowest two comment trends for outpatient. Only 9 metrics are below benchmark, which is better than in the past, and we are continuously working to correct them. Collett moved, Witzsche seconded approval on Quality/Compliance Quarter 4. Motion carried.

Compliance Program Handbook: Karasek mentioned that our Compliance Program has not been updated for years. Grady Hooper stated he wanted Tracey Karasek to oversee and update policies to make sure we are in compliance with CMS. We worked with our legal counsel to make sure everything was covered. There is an attestation for all Board members and employees to sign. Forrest moved, Collett seconded approval on the updated Compliance Program Handbook. Motion carried.

Administrator Report: Hooper reviewed the stats from the speed limit sign that is posted on Highway 36. Police Chief, Brad Bolton, ran reports for November through January. Closing on the report is traffic coming into town, and away is traffic going out of town. Closing showed around 300,000 cars with 54,000 over the speed limit. Away showed 176,000 cars speeding over

the limit. Excessive speed is 55mph and over with 102,000 cars going into town, and 153,000 cars going out of town. Average speed violation is 34mph coming in, and 37mph going out. Hooper would like to see permanent speed signs on either side of our property to aid in the slowing of traffic. January 29th will be the Groundbreaking for the Hamilton Specialty Clinic. Melissa DeLaGarza reported the Hico fitness center had door security completed and the 29th there will be signage for the building. Equipment installation for Hico Wellness will be around the first week of February. March will be the tentative date for a grand opening. Membership enrollment will open soon due to requests being made locally. The Goldthwaite project is still waiting to get bids back. Neil Muxworthy mentioned his time during his stay as an inpatient in the hospital and had only one complaint, the towels were subpar. Charlene Stockton, EVS Director, brought a towel for the Board members to feel and look at. Hooper stated because we are moving laundry in house, we can save by laundering our own so we can purchase better linens. All signage will be changed out around Hamilton due to cracking and wording becoming hard to read. Wound Care will be moving to the building where Solution Behavioral Health was and the business office department will be moving over to the Wound Care building.

Adjourn: Witzsche moved, Forrest seconded at 12:22pm that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.


Neil Muxworthy, President
Hamilton County Hospital District