

**Hamilton County Hospital District
Board Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2024**

Presiding: Neil Muxworthy

**Board members in attendance: Doug Forrest, Robert Witzsche, Karen Craig, Mike Collett
Neil Muxworthy**

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; Chad Reinert, Director of Clinical Informatics; Jordyn Powers, Recording Board Secretary; Patrick Cobb, Director of Emergency Medical Services; Deboarh Whitley, Forvis Partner; Cheyenne Tanner, Forvis Project Director; Maria Weaver, Hamilton-Hearld News

Date and time: Monday, April 29, 2024, 10:00a.m., Hamilton General Hospital Board Room, 400 N Brown St, Hamilton, Texas 76531

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

Presentation of 2023 Audit by Forvis– Deborah Whitley & Cheyenne Tanner: Deborah Whitley went over economic challenges going on in healthcare. There is a dilution of Medicare costs and reimbursements. Negotiations with payors are increasing due to disputes with payer payment rates. There are new supplemental payment programs that are not ideal for rural facilities with lower Medicaid volumes. Deborah discussed cybersecurity and insurance coverage. Operating revenue increased \$182M and operating expenses increased \$181.2M. There is an Operating loss in 2023 of \$190K compared to income of \$2.4M in 2022. Total nonoperating revenue decreased in 2023 by \$1.9M. Net position increase was \$5.5M compared to \$9.9M in the previous year. Cheyenne reviewed the Auditor's Reports and Financial Statements. On the balance sheet with assets, the nursing facility patient accounts receivable is what caused the increase in current assets. Cheyenne also reviewed third party settlements from Medicare, UC receivable, Prepaid CHIRP, and QIPP. Liabilities and Net Positions showed our current liabilities had an increase from the nursing facility payable. Net revenue trends from 2017-2023 show an increase in patient revenue. Healthy liquidity for 2023. Days with cash on hand show above two hundred days if we stopped taking upfront payments. Days in AR are around 35 days (above peers). Reviewed percentages with peer comparison. Cheyenne reviewed the report on internal control. Deborah stated our growth in QIPP after 9/30/2023 shows the rate of return will be bigger. Forrest moved, Collett seconded approval on the Presentation of 2023 Audit by Forvis. Motion carried.

Consider and act on minutes of March 1, 2024, regular called meeting: Forrest moved, Witzsche seconded approval on Minutes of March 1, 2024, regular called meeting. Motion carried.

Consider and act on Financial Reports for January 2024: Schreiber reported for January. \$110K bottom line, absorbed loss for the year. Gross revenue showed an increase in Outpatient due to surgery volumes. EMS in Llano and Lampasas had a good billing month. Contractual had increased, but we reserved \$200K. We had a collection percentage of 32.82%. Variances in revenue were due to the 340B revenue timing issue. QIPP revenue in December we had tried up \$400K, but we are back to the run rate. Expenses had normal variances from employee benefits where we had a \$414K claim payment. Advertising increased due to the push of employment vacancies. The balance sheet shows cash and cash equivalent at \$19M. Witzsche moved, Craig seconded approval on Financial Reports for January 2024. Motion carried.

Other financial items: Nothing to report.

QIPP Report: DeLaGarza gave the report. We are in QIPP year 7, and we have finished QIPP year 8 enrollments. The new enrollment process had to justify QAPI participation. There is no longer a 150-mile radius stipulation, but all participation requirements must be met by each home to qualify for the program. If we want to move forward with more homes, we must have a relationship with a home 9 months prior to enrollment before they can come into the program. Bobbie Nichols is back full-time as the QIPP Director. Collett moved, Forrest seconded approval on the QIPP Report. Motion carried.

Quality/Compliance Quarter 1: Karasek reviewed. The hospital was awarded Top 100 Critical Access Hospital, only three in Texas received this award. We did not get our 5-star rating, due to not having enough surveys returned (we had 80 of the 100 required). Press Ganey disqualifies surveys that are incomplete, filled out by someone other than the patient, and if it is past the 6-week time limit after the patients stay. We had 54 surveys returned for inpatient, and we did not meet 78% metric goal for patient satisfaction, we were at 74%. Reviewed highest and lowest trends for inpatient metrics. Outpatient had 356 surveys returned. Reviewed highest and lowest trends for outpatient metrics. Patient safety grievances and complaints showed inpatient had 3, and outpatient had 12. We had one Emergency Room death. Emergency Room returns are at 3%, which is coming down from the last quarter. Tracey included the minutes from the previous quality meetings. Craig moved, Witzsche seconded approval on Quality/Compliance Quarter 1. Motion carried.


Annual EOC and Quality Evaluation: Karasek reviewed an overview of the quality program. This report must be presented yearly to the Board per DNV. Karasek also had an EOC overview for 2023 in emergency management. Patrick Cobb stated they have one outstanding project which is the employee emergency alert system. Collett moved, Witzsche seconded approval on the Annual EOC and Quality Evaluation. Motion carried.

Consider and act on accepting \$27,767.73 for Wildfire Disaster Hamilton EMS Deployment Reimbursement from the State of Texas Division of Emergency Management: Cobb stated he submitted reimbursement from our staff working the Panhandle fires. The reimbursement request has been accepted and the check is in the mail. Witzsche moved, Forrest seconded

approval on accepting \$27,767.73 for Wildfire Disaster Hamilton EMS Deployment Reimbursement from the State of Texas Division of Emergency Management. Motion carried.

Administrator Report: Hooper gave his report. On March 25th, the Foundation hosted their fundraising dinner event which went very well. Witzsche stated they received a \$25K donation. The Hospital's Auxiliary had an employee appreciation lunch on the 15th of April for all the Hamilton Healthcare System employees. The water storage project is completed. The water filters were set for quarterly replacement, but it needs to be changed at least monthly. We will be adding a screen to catch large particles that have been coming through the lines. The Wellness Center in Hico had its grand opening on the 24th of April, and we got new members to join. Some members would like to see a personal trainer in Hico as well. The security door project is almost completed. Goldthwaite Physical Therapy and Wellness Center is getting sheet rock put up. The Specialty Clinic has steel beams being put up. The wall up at the specialty location is a mock wall to test material before they are placed on the building. Wound Care has moved to Brown Street. We now have a full-time occupational therapist working in the Wound Care building. Hospital Week is May 13th. We are reviewing the high school scholarships we give out each year. Melissa DeLaGarza stated our low-cost labs are being offered every 6 months; May 9th is the next date. Cerner testing has Go-Live estimated on June 10th. The Blue Zones meeting was hosted here on the 22nd of April, and we are trying to participate, but full community participation is needed.

Adjourn: Witzsche moved, Forrest seconded at 11:50am that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.



Neil Muxworthy, President
Hamilton County Hospital District