

MINUTES OF THE KEARNY COUNTY HOSPITAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 31, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Pauline Neff, Hatty Rebel, Tom Vincent, and Marilyn Wolfe

OTHERS PRESENT: Heather Combs Platter; Marian Hunter, RN, DON-HPRV; ReChelle Kennedy, CFO; John Loebel, CEO; Julie Munson, DO; Arlo Reimer, MD; Erik Sandstrom, MD; Sue Stingley, RN, DNS-KCH; and Donna Winright

The Finance Committee of the Board of Directors met at 2:00 pm on Monday, August 30. Members in attendance were Pauline Neff, Tom Vincent and Jon Wheat. John Loebel, CEO, ReChelle Kennedy, CFO, and Sue Stingley, RN, DNS were also in attendance. The committee reviewed the financial report for July; discussed moving the fiscal year to a calendar year basis; discussed a recommendation to hold off on the purchase of new anesthesia machines; reviewed a list of cost reductions that have been implemented to date; discussed alternatives for financing the electronic medical record and other capital items; reviewed a proposed patient loan agreement with the Kearny County Bank and received an update on the status of the Rural Health Clinic designation for the Family Health Center.

The Kearny County Hospital Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Tom Vincent, Vice Chairman at 6:03 pm.

Tom amended the agenda by adding the introduction of Pauline Neff as a new Board member. The agenda was approved as amended.

Tom introduced and welcomed Pauline Neff as the newest member of the Kearny County Hospital Board of Directors. John Loebel provided information about the donation from Vernon Neff to the hospital to purchase a sling/lift chair for use by the physical therapy department in getting patients up to walk more quickly. The Board and staff expressed their gratitude for Vernon and Pauline's generosity.

Sue Stingley provided an update on the flu vaccination programs. The regular flu vaccines will be administered beginning September 1, 2009. The vaccine will be offered to all staff – those choosing not to take the vaccine must sign a waiver of declination. The H1N1 vaccine will be provided by the Kearny County Health Department. KCH nursing staff will help staff clinics to administer the vaccine. The vaccine will be provided on a priority basis beginning with high risk groups.

Sue reported that the anesthesia machines were discussed in depth at the finance committee and it was decided to hold off on the purchase for the time being. The current service contract will be discussed with the vendor. In addition, the infant-radiant warmer no longer maintains temperature and must be replaced. This item is included in the capital budget and quotes are being received and compiled. It may require polling each Board member before the September meeting.

Sue updated the Board on the installation of the new elopement deterrent system for HPRV and Assisted Living. Implementation has been delayed until September 9, 2009. Sue also provided the update to the County Commissioners at their meeting on August 24th.

Marian Hunter reported that all 40 beds at the long-term care unit are full and they are now fully staffed. The fall dinner is scheduled for October 10th and the Christmas Party will be Wednesday, December 9th.

Dr. Reimer reported that the flu clinic at the Family Health Center is scheduled for September 14 – 18 and September 21 – 25 from 0800 – 0830 AM. Dr. Babar Ali, the Cardiologist from Hays, saw 6 patients in his outreach clinic on August 28th. Dr Reimer will try to schedule dinner with the physician recruits when he is in Wichita later this month.

Dr. Sandstrom reported that HPRV is operating well.

John presented the occupancy and administrative reports. The assisted living apartments currently have 30 residents living in 26 apartments and one apartment is being held with a deposit. John updated the board on cost reductions that have been implemented throughout the organization. To date the annualized impact of the costs eliminated from the operating budget is \$74,295. The capital budget has been reduced by \$34,000 to date. The list of cost reductions will be continuously updated and will be an agenda item at every monthly Board meeting. John advised the Board of donations that HPRV, home health and the hospital have received over the summer.

The consent agenda was approved as presented.

ReChelle reviewed the July financial reports. July was right on target for both revenue and expenses; however, the contractual allowances created a significant loss for the month. The Board approved the July financials as presented, checks #068414 - #068622 in the amount of \$343,689.00 and electronic transfers in the amount of \$699,254.21.

ReChelle provided an update on the Rural Health Clinic designation. KDHE is still accepting applications for the program; however surveys that are performed by KDHE are currently on hold. In addition, ReChelle updated the Board on the issues involved in changing our fiscal year to match the County's fiscal year of January – December.

KCH has had discussions with Kearny County Bank about a loan program for patients who require financial assistance. It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to proceed with this process. Any action to adopt the resolution to approve the program was tabled until the September meeting because there was not a quorum with one Board member abstaining.

Discussion of the electronic health record at the finance committee focused on determining the appropriate vendor and developing a proposal to talk with financial institutions to acquire a loan. Once all costs are determined, a decision must be made for the use of the stimulus funds. The EHR committee will provide a plan and costs to the finance committee.

John presented the administrative report and updated the Board on physician recruitment. Dr Birky, Dr Miller and Dr Hetzel along with their families visited Lakin on August 8th. John requested input from the Board for what the next steps might be in the recruitment process. There has been no further correspondence with Dr. Sandoval since her visit to Lakin over the 4th of July weekend. John reported that KCH recently had contact with Dr Jeremy Kirchoff, a third year resident at Research Medical Center. He will be available in July 2011 because he will be doing a one year fellowship in OB after he completes his residency. John also stated that Dr Sandstrom was job shadowed during a week in August by Ryan Hayden, a pre-med undergrad at Friends University in Wichita.

Donna provided an update on recognition of years of service.

The dates available for the strategic planning session are the week of October 5th and the week of October 12th. The meetings will be facilitated by Terry White, a principal with Leading Edge Consulting. Tuesday, October 6th or Wednesday, October 7th was determined to be the best dates. John will poll all of the members to finalize the date.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Reimer, Secretary

Approved:

Tom Vincent, Vice Chairman

Heather Combs Platter, Recording Secretary