

Cochran County Hospital District
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2024

Cochran Memorial Hospital Lobby
201 E Grant Ave
Morton, Texas 79346

ATTENDANCE

Board of Directors

Betty Lyon
Richard Houston
John Schmidt
Ray O'Brien
William (Bill) Albus

Absent

Hospital Administration

Kody Kitchens

Minutes Taker

Mary McKnight

Guests

Maggie Ramon

1. Opening

- a. Quorum present
 - i. Called to order 1703
- b. Invocation led by Richard Houston
- c. Public Comments/Open Forum
 - i. Kody spoke about Main Street Health and their employee, Lace, at the request of John. Lace has fit in well with the staff and with patients and has been very helpful. Bill also spoke about his interaction with Lace. The hospital does get a little bit of money back from Main Street Health.
- d. Review and Consider Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - i. Motion made to approve the February 21, 2024 regular session meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded. Four (4) votes in favor of approving minutes, zero (0) votes against. Motion passed

2. Reports

- a. Financials
 - i. Provider Payroll Report
 1. Incorrect amount shown for Flint Medical Staffing, should be around \$50,000. That was for two months.
 2. Line 52 on the financial report for \$10,560 was for the month before. We withheld that check until one of the doctors completed their charts.
 3. We will not be needing the staffing service for the foreseeable future.
 - ii. John inquired about plans to use the vending funds
 1. Kody stated no plans, the funds will be transferred to the general fund. It is a savings account, we just had to set it up separately. There is about \$5,500 in there, but it is not profit, it is pretty much just breaking even.
 - iii. Richard inquired about year-to-date tax revenue amount of \$2,264,000. That is the amount collected this tax year. Expect to get \$2,400,000; only lack around \$200,000 to get 100%.

- iv. Line items discussed.
- b. Administrator Report
 - i. We now own lease for domain name. Kody met with Rick, we now have total access.
 - ii. Texas Health and Human Services, have a new recoup amount for DY9. They are recouping COVID money. This was uncompensated care money. We will be able to recoup money for 2021 and 2022. We did lose money during those year, but we can go back and claim it now.
 - 1. Kody going to conference in April that will provide more information on the upcoming UC10.
 - iii. During last CMS inspection we got a few deficiencies
 - 1. Tape used to post documents and forms to Emergency Room walls making cleaning difficult. We did have papers taped to the windows in the ER, have for years.
 - 2. Numerous chips in the flooring. Type of flooring in ER not up to standard as it cannot be cleaned properly per Infection Control. Also cracks in the floor in the hallway does not allow for proper cleaning and poses fall risk to patients. During exit interview they noted that these have been on-going problems and Larry would write that we would correct them, but they have never been corrected when the inspectors come back. These issues need to fixed and it is probably going to cost a lot of money. The hallway flooring is granite, it cannot be replaced or matched due to its age.
 - 3. To address the issue of papers taped up in the ER, whiteboard was installed and papers have been laminated to allow them to be cleaned properly.
 - 4. The floor in the ER is tile and grout. People bleed and other bodily fluids get on it and it really can't be cleaned that well.
 - 5. Have found a grant that because we have deficiencies from an inspector, it puts us a higher priority.
 - a. Our fire safety system is hooked up through a phone line and it needs to digital on a cellular line. This morning all phone lines were down, so was our fire system, this grant would also pay for that.
 - b. We did have someone come out that is sure they can seal the floors; it is a transparent sealant that would still show the historic granite. It can be buffed and is resistant to bacteria and viruses.
 - c. We do have to cover 25% of the cost, the grant will cover the other 75%. Kody will be meeting with someone on March 25th from the Department of Agriculture to help with the grant, it is a lengthy process that requires submitting a lot of financial information, including an invoice from the company for sealing the floors and we have to have it all submitted by April 23rd.

6. The owner of the Prescription Shoppe, Micha, sold out to Food King, but he still is the pharmacist in charge and he spoke with Kody and was telling him that they are losing a lot of money. Kody spoke with our pharmacy consultant, John Bullock. There is a program called 340B, allows the pharmacy and the hospital both to make more money, and lowers the cost for our patients. John said he had talked to Larry in the past about the 340B program, but the reason Larry did not pursue it was due to a stipulation with Dr. Hughes being contract instead of an employee of the hospital. Kody will speak with Dr. Hughes to keep the pharmacy open so that people can get their medications here. Basically what it entails is we will purchase the medications for their pharmacy, through their vendors, give them to the pharmacy who will dispense them to their customers and we get paid for all that. We give them a dispense amount, we keep an amount, and the savings get passed on to the customer. The guy Kody spoke with figured a \$10,000-\$20,000 a month profit for the hospital through the 340B program.
- iv. Richard asked about the situation with the hospital pharmacy, if Betty Nichols had been replaced. Kody stated we are working on putting together a retirement party for Betty, but right now she is staying with her son for a few weeks, so that will be planned once she has returned. Mary McKnight has replaced Betty in the hospital pharmacy, she has been working in the pharmacy for several years now anyway and is working on getting her certifications.
- v. Ray inquired about the COVID employee tax refund for employers. Kody stated he has not heard anything yet from it.
- vi. Ray asked Kody to share information on an agreement with the hospital in Brownfield. Kody stated he met with the CNO of Brownfield. They have a CT Scan and MRI but they don't do very many of them. Kody inquired about using their services instead of referring patients to Lubbock where there can be over a two week wait to have them done, when they can go to Brownfield and have it done same day in most cases. We gain nothing from it, but it is a better service for our patients.
- vii. Kody will be going to a meeting in Austin regarding a system that has every Critical Access hospital in Texas and what they charge. We haven't changed prices on our chargemaster in over fifteen years. This system will help us set a median rate for our services, it will be a gradual increase, which will allow us to see how it will affect patients without insurance, and if need be allow us to lower costs again. The plan is to start with the top twenty lab test, top twenty x-ray, and top twenty procedures so we can better monitor its effect.

3. Personnel

- a. No new business

4. Executive Session

- a. Entered 6:27 p.m.
- b. Exited 6:36 p.m.

5. Adjournment

- a. Motion made to adjourn. Motion seconded. Four (4) votes in favor; zero (0) oppose. Motion carried.
 - i. Meeting adjourned 6:38 p.m.

Cochran Memorial Hospital CEO

Date

Cochran Memorial Hospital President, Board of Directors

Date