Cochran County Hospital District
Board of Directors
**Meeting Minutes**
**December 18, 2024**

Cochran Memorial Hospital
201 E Grant Ave
Morton, Texas 79346

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Hospital Administration
Kody Kitchens

Minutes Taker
Mary McKnight

Guests
Maggie Ramon
Beka Patterson
Matt Patterson

1. **Opening**
    a. Quorum present
        i. Meeting called to order 5:00 p.m.
    b. Invocation led by Richard Houston.
    c. Public Comments
        i. None
    d. Review and Consider Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
        i. Motion made to approve the November 13, 2024, regular session meeting minutes as read. Motion seconded. Four (4) votes in favor of approving minutes; zero (0) votes against. Motion passed; minutes approved as read.
2. **Matters for Discussion and/or Action.**
    a. Opioid Abatement Fund Council
        i. Our facility will receive between $70,000 and $100,000 from the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund this year. One of the requirements needed to get these funds is the CEO needs to be granted the authority, by the board of directors, to act on behalf of the hospital district in all matters related to the Opioid Abatement.
        ii. Motion made to grant Kody Kitchens the sole authority to act on behalf of Cochran Memorial Hospital District in all matters related the Opioid Abatement Funds. Motion seconded. Four (4) votes in favor, zero (0) votes against. Motion passed; Kody Kitchens granted sole authority. Resolution will be signed by Betty Lyon and Kody Kitchens in front of a notary.
    b. Cochran County Foundation Meal Preparation Request
        i. Beka Patterson with the Cochran County Foundation introduced and given the floor.
        ii. The Cochran County Foundation is non-profit specifically for Cochran County to help with the needs in our county as well as the economic growth and development in our county. One of the things the Foundation does with help feed people. What we do is provide meals for people who do not qualify under SPAG. We serve people in Morton and Whiteface. There are people in Bledsoe who would benefit from the meals, as of right now we do not have someone able to deliver to Bledsoe, but we are working on finding a way to meet the needs in Bledsoe.

iii. Previously meal preparation was done through the Senior Citizens Center, however, it has gotten to be a little too much for our Senior Center with the staff they have. A meeting was held December 11, 2024, and it was decided it would be best to do our own thing as not to over-burden them. The suggestion was made to reach out to the hospital to see if perhaps they could help with meal preparation. The Foundation would reimburse the hospital for the meals along with the take-out containers. As of January 1, 2025, the Foundation will no longer go through the Senior Citizens for this program.
iv. The Cochran Foundation's immediate need is having someone able to prepare the meals. The Foundation has people who can deliver in Morton and Whiteface and currently working on finding someone to deliver in Bledsoe. This would be one meal a day, Monday through Friday.
v. A private foundation has been set up to provide funds to meet these needs within Cochran County.
vi. Including Bledsoe, this will be approximately 70 meals a day.
vii. Kody Kitchens spoke with Mary McKnight about the kitchen taking on the meal preparation, we would need additional staff. Kody also spoke with someone who says there is additional state funding and grants that would assist with outreach programs, and that money could go towards helping expand that service. Kody stated he had no doubt we can do it, and Mary is in agreement, and he feels the hospital is in a really good position to help with it.
viii. John Schmidt asked Mary if the kitchen could handle putting out an additional 75 meals a day as far equipment goes. Mary stated there are no real concerns as far as equipment goes, she feels we can handle it but would need additional staff. Beka Patterson stated one of the offers to the Senior Center through the Foundation that would also be available to the hospital is they do grants, if there is equipment needed, we just need to provide three (3) quotes and write up a grant that she will present to the Foundation. This grant would apply to equipment that may be needed.
ix. Ray O'Brien suggested Mary bring a proposal to the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting of what we might can do and what we can't do. Ray would like the logistics of what it will take time and equipment wise to get it done.
x. Topic tabled until the regular session meeting on January 15, 2025. Beka Patterson was invited to attend the January 15th meeting.

**3. Reports**

a. Financials

i. CDs

i. Our twenty-five-month term CD matured. We renewed it at 8 months. It renewed at 4.05% from 2.92%. Don't have another maturing until February. Monthly accrual is around $27,000 on investments.

ii. Kody is working on a new format for the financial pages. Patient receivables is how much money we've brought in for that month. Looking at the trend gives a better overview of our financials than looking at it month to month because we can bill $60,000 in a month, but we may not receive payments for three to four months. Going back and looking at trends from two years ago, it shows a steady increase, meaning we are seeing more patients and getting paid for services provided. Looking back to 2022 we weren't seeing as many patients as we are now, and the ones we were seeing we weren't getting paid for. Hoping to have a new, more user-friendly format after next month.

iii. Billing is improving. Hoping to get even better with the Sliced Health program, we have gotten that data back and it is showing us a lot of valuable information. It is showing why we are getting denials, and it shows where the problems are and allows us to address those issues directly.

ii. Check Registry
    i. Line items discussed.
        a. Line 1: Barbara Covarrubias
            i. Reimbursement for gifts for PA week.
        b. Line 17: Superior Vision
            i. Employee Vision Insurance
        c. Line 59: Kathryn Kitchens $1,676
            i. Reimbursement for EMS flooring, Kody's card was not working, had to pay for it on her card.
        d. Line 70: Diane Seymour
            i. CPA at Mitchell County in Colorado City. She is helping us get our new financial system in place.
        e. Line 71: Door Control Services
            i. Door sensor on the automatic doors in lobby needed serviced.
        f. Line 77: Karen Wood
            i. Training for Tiffany Martinez and Stacy Kirkendall
        g. Line 84: Hobart Service
            i. Dishwasher repair
                1. That is an issue in our kitchen, we do have a lot of older equipment that has never been serviced and is hard to get parts for.
        h. Line 92: Sliced Health
            i. Quarterly fee.
        i. Line 105 and 106: WTPS
            i. Check 105 was voided due to an error, EMS shirts.
            ii. 106 is the correct check, was for EMS shirts, which are required by law.

b. Administrator's Report
    i. EMS
        i. November 21, 2024, we had first EMS inspection, went poorly and we failed. Had the second inspection today (December 18th) and we passed. The inspector has to submit the inspection to the state, typically takes a week to ten days. They will email Rick Perez, our EMS director, the license and they will mail us the actual license. At that point we can get set up with billing and NPI numbers.
        ii. We are well within the timeframe to bill services we have already rendered but will have to do so at the level the City of Morton's license was on. We had forty-seven runs in the first month since we took over EMS.
        iii. Working on taking the trucks from BLS to MICU, we will have more equipment. Must replace radios, may have to replace one of the Life Paks.
        iv. Lost our driver's variance, which means anyone can drive the ambulance, we need reapply for this, typically takes a week or two, but may be longer with the holidays. Issue is, if we have a paramedic in the back providing advanced care and we don't have an EMT, ECM, or ECA, as a driver, we can't bill at the higher level. We do need a couple more EMTs as Bubba does have classes and clinicals so we are paying a couple more EMTs to drive until we can get some of our other drivers certified. Should have a full crew in four months.
        v. Basic level bill here to Lubbock is $400, MICU level will pay $1,800.
        vi. Did have a break-in last week at EMS station, camera system is being installed.
        vii. Do need new radios many are missing and are outdated. Will need a hot spot.
        viii. Improvements and repairs are being done at the station, new lighting, ceiling tiles, and flooring.
    ii. Pharmacy 340B
        i. 340B program is up and running, we made a total of $14,946.26 from November 1 through December 15, 2024.
        ii. We are having to have some patients back in and have prescriptions rewritten so their medications fall under the program.
    iii. Maternal Care Stabilization Operation Grant
        i. $35,000 grant will use it to buy equipment and train staff/providers in the event we must deliver a baby.
    iv. 2024 Audit
        i. Auditors will be here January 15, 2025

**4. Personnel**

a. No new business

**5. Open Forum**

a. No new business

6. **Executive Session**
    a. Entered executive session at 6:18 pm
    b. Exited 6:35 pm
7. **Adjournment**
    a. Motion made to adjourn. Motion seconded. Four (4) votes in favor; zero (0) oppose. Motion carried.
        i. Meeting adjourned 6:36 p.m.

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Cochran Memorial Hospital CEO | Date

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Cochran Memorial Hospital President, Board of Directors | Date