

# Bartlett Regional Hospital

**Minutes**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**June 28, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Kenny Solomon-Gross, Board President. Roll call taken.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT** (*Zoom attendees italicized*)

Kenny Solomon-Gross, President

*Mark Johnson*

Max Mertz

Brenda Knapp, Vice President

*Hal Geiger*

*Lisa Petersen*

*Deb Johnston, Secretary*

Iola Young

**ABSENT** - Lindy Jones, MD

**ALSO PRESENT** (*Zoom attendees italicized*)

*Jerel Humphrey, Interim CEO*

*Dallas Hargrave, HR Director*

*Barbara Nault, Legal Advisor*

*Michelle Hale, CBJ Liaison*

Bob Tyk, Interim CFO

Tracy Dompeling, CBHO

*Robert Palmer, CBJ Attorney*

Anita Moffitt, Executive Assistant

Kim McDowell, CCO

*Joseph Roth, MD*

*John Greely, CCS*

Mr. Solomon-Gross introduced new board members, Max Mertz and Lisa Petersen and Chief Behavioral Health Officer, Tracy Dompeling. Mr. Mertz has been in Juneau for 30 years and has been associated with the hospital for a very long time conducting audits and other business. Ms. Petersen, former BRH employee, has been in Juneau since 2007 and is currently the lead nurse for the Juneau School District. Mr. Mertz and Ms. Petersen both served on the previous CEO Recruitment Committee and are aware of how important the recruitment of the next CEO is. Ms. Dompeling began her role of Chief Behavioral Health Officer on June 20th. She was born and raised in Fairbanks and has been in Juneau for 3 years. Most of her career has been spent working in corrections which provided behavioral health and medical care to youth in congregate, secure settings. Staff has been very welcoming and helpful in getting her settled in.

**APPROVE AGENDA** – Mr. Solomon-Gross stated that Ms. Knapp would have to leave the meeting at 6:00pm for a brief time. If she's not back by the time we get to it, the Planning Committee report will be given when she returns.

**MOTION by Ms. Young to approve the agenda. Mr. Geiger seconded. There being no objections, agenda approved.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Mr. John Greely, Board of Directors President for Catholic Community Service (CCS) introduced himself. He reported that CCS has operated Hospice and Home Health programs in the community since 2003. These vital programs are no longer financially viable for CCS to operate under current funding scenarios. Costs for health care service providers continue to skyrocket. Local nurses and therapists are hard to come by so travelers are used. Costs for CCS to provide Hospice and Home Health services to the community is between \$2.5 and \$3 Million a year. With a revenue shortfall between \$300,000 and \$600,000 in the next fiscal year, a non-profit cannot sustain this type of loss. CCS is confident that the community is supportive of continuing these programs. He stated as CCS's partners in Juneau's healthcare system, it was critical that BRH and other partners be informed. BRH will be greatly impacted if these services cease in Juneau. He asked for suggestions and recommendations that would allow these programs to continue either by CCS or another organization. Erin Walker-Tolles, Executive Director of CCS can provide more details if needed. Ms. Hale asked if there were a timeline that CCS would need to stop providing these services if another entity were able to take this on. Mr. Greely stated CCS doesn't want to stop. The goal is to close the funding gap but if the solution is to transfer these services to someone else, there are a number of options to discuss. Ms. Knapp initiated

discussion about increased costs and other reasons for the deficit. Mr. Humphrey reported discussions have been held with Senior Leadership about this issue. This is an important community service and BRH must give careful consideration to community health programs it can support. Mr. Greely noted CCS has enjoyed a good relationship with BRH and would like to continue it. He stated this is an economic problem and needs to be dealt with by everyone in the community. Mr. Solomon-Gross thanked Mr. Greely and other CCS representatives in attendance for their time and for addressing the board with this issue. Ms. Hale will discuss the matter with the Assembly.

**CONSENT AGENDA - *MOTION by Ms. Young to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Geiger seconded. There being no objection, the May 24, June 1, and June 4, 2022 Board of Directors Minutes and April 2022 Financials approved.***

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Covid-19 Update** - Ms. McDowell reported 1 Covid positive patient in house and 18 Covid positive staff members. It is not widespread in a single department. The ED is seeing a lot of activity again, people coming in for other symptoms but testing positive. We do not have current overall numbers due to home testing. BRH has no supply issues and staffing remains stable. We are seeing a decrease in monoclonal antibody usage and a lot of people taking advantage of Paxlovid. We do not have reinfection rate numbers.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Rainforest Recovery Center Donation** – Mr. Tyk reported that Rainforest Recovery Center received a \$500.00 donation from the Second to None Motorcycle Club to support addiction rehabilitation and recovery programs. Mr. Palmer advised Mr. Tyk get approval from the Board to request an appropriation from the Assembly to accept these funds.

***MOTION by Mr. Geiger to accept the \$500.00 donation from the Second to None Motorcycle Club to support RRC's addiction rehabilitation and recovery programs and to forward to the Assembly for appropriation of the \$500.00. Ms. Young seconded.*** Mr. Mertz expressed appreciation for the donation but questioned the efficiency of this process. Mr. Palmer noted this is the political process and is the best one we have for now. Ms. Hale stated it may seem laborious, but these are put on the consent agenda for the Assembly to approve so it moves through quickly. It's important to recognize the good will in accepting donations from the public relations perspective. ***There being no objection or further discussion, MOTION approved.***

**Committee Assignments** – Mr. Solomon-Gross provided an overview of the Board member committee assignments included in the packet. Max Mertz will serve on the Finance and Planning Committees. Lisa Petersen will serve on the Governance and Quality Committees. Deb Johnston has volunteered to serve as Liaison to the Bartlett Regional Hospital Foundation Board.

**MEDICAL STAFF REPORT** – Dr. Roth noted the minutes from the June 7<sup>th</sup> Medical Staff meeting are in the packet. Concerns had been expressed about Radiologist recruitment with Dr. Shanley terminating her contract. It's important to have radiologists on campus and not rely on tele radiology. Discussion held about recruitment for Orthopedic surgeons also. In response to Mr. Geiger, Mr. Humphrey stated that BRH is working with Dr. Strickler to recruit radiologists and has had a conversation with Dr. Shanley about her plans and future services. Dr. Roth requests Mr. Humphrey or Ms. McDowell discuss telehealth services at the next Medical Staff meeting and to obtain the Medical Staff's feedback, not just the Hospitalists feedback. He also asked what the need was for a Physician Assistant to be hired for the Bartlett Medical Oncology Clinic. Mr. Humphrey will address this at the next Medical Staff Meeting. Dr. Roth reported he may have to leave the meeting before tonight's executive session.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee** – Ms. Johnston reported the minutes from the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, included in the packet, accurately reflect the discussions from the meeting. She noted that we did get, as a follow-up to our audit, a good understanding of the inroads that we have made in reviewing, updating and closing the gaps in our internal controls. She thanked Mr. Tyk for the thorough report.

**Compliance and Audit Committee** – Ms. Young reported the minutes included in the packet accurately report what took place at the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Compliance Officer's report is also present in the CEO packet included in the packet. Mr. Solomon-Gross acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the various committees that have been created with the recommendations of the Compliance Committee. The Committee has been very proactive.

#### **MANAGEMENT REPORTS:**

**Legal Report** – Ms. Nault reported the following: Since the last meeting, her office has assisted Human Resources and Physician Services with an Allied Health contract issue. Consulted with Senior Leadership on provider contracting and call coverage issues. Worked with Risk Management and Compliance on a patient informed consent issue. Project still pending: working with contracts management and the Medical Staff Services department on a Master Services Agreement for a contract credentialing specialist to support the Medical Staff Services office. Working with Compliance to finalize the 340B Corrective Action. Senior Leadership has been working with Verity, a 340B contract pharmacy administrator to complete the calculation of the refunds for the manufacturers. Ms. Nault and her team are assisting in drafting notice letters to the individual manufacturers informing them of the proposed refund amounts they are to receive. A status report is due to HRSA on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**HR Report** – Mr. Hargrave reported there is a tentative schedule in place for site visits to take place the week of July 18<sup>th</sup> for the 3 CEO candidate finalists. Ms. Moffitt has sent preliminary information to Board member calendars. Mr. Hargrave will touch base with Mr. Mertz and Ms. Petersen to get them up to speed on the process. He and Mr. Solomon-Gross met with BE Smith earlier today to receive the latest updates. Everything appears to be coming together as planned.

**CCO Report** – Ms. McDowell highlighted from her report that our teams are doing great with increased patient volumes due to cruise season. They are really pulling together. She also shared information about a Fireweed Award. Staff, physicians, patients and visitors are given the opportunity to recognize any employee throughout the hospital for a job well done. Names will be drawn quarterly for the award.

**CBHO Report** – Ms. Dompeling reported patient numbers have dropped in Rainforest Recovery Center (RRC) due to Covid positive patients and staff. We will work on getting the numbers back up soon. The Withdrawal Management Unit (WMU) opening has been pushed back to July 11<sup>th</sup> due to the Covid cases in RRC. This delay allows for additional training of staff. Mr. Geiger noted that the Grants Manager has resigned and asked how that will affect the WMU grants. Ms. Dompeling will work with Blessy Robert and others to manage grants currently in place and will work on obtaining new ones when a new manager is hired. In response to Ms. Young, Ms. Dompeling reported there has been a decline in the number of people on the wait list for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) but she does not have the number at this time. The number will be included in future reports. In response to Mr. Johnson regarding the 1115 Waiver, Ms. Dompeling and Mr. Tyk reported that we are maximizing our billing opportunities and getting as much out of it as we can.

**CFO Report** – Mr. Tyk reported that he has reached out to Meditech to have them send representatives to BRH to meet with stakeholders about the issues experienced with Expanse. They are to look at what Expanse is supposed to supply to us, what it is supplying us and how the build happened. Dissatisfaction with our EMR (Electronic Medical Records) system could be due to the way the system was built. If system is not built correctly, Meditech is to help rebuild it. One issue experienced, is provider specific customizations are built but when an update is done, the customizations disappear. This should not happen. In order to make this right, it's important to have Meditech come in and tell us how it's supposed to work. Mr. Solomon-Gross wants to be sure Dr. Jones is included in these meetings. He asked about the site visit, Dr. Jones, Ms. McDowell and others were supposed to go on. Mr. Tyk reported scheduling site visits has been unsuccessful so far due to the limited number of sites that used the Meditech system and the T-System that had a successful conversion from the T-System to Meditech. It has been determined to put a site visit on hold until after Meditech comes here and provides their feedback and assistance. Mr. Solomon-Gross still feels that it's very important for Dr. Jones, Ms. McDowell and others go on a site visit to see the system live and to be able to ask question directly to the users. Ms. Johnston asked if bringing Meditech onsite is included as part of our current contract or if there would be an additional

charge for them to come. Mr. Tyk's expectation is that there would be no additional charge. Ms. Johnston would like to know, at some point in the future, what extent the customizations have been done in the initial implementation. In response to Mr. Mertz, Mr. Tyk reported that nobody has suggested waiting on some construction projects to see if cost of materials comes down.

**CEO Report** – Mr. Humphrey reported that through the generosity of Joan Degen, a \$25,000 donation has been made to the BRH Foundation to replace the beds, mattresses and coverings in all of the rooms of Bartlett House. There may even be enough to replace the carpet as well. Ms. Hagevig's estate has donated over \$600 worth of framed prints that will be hung in the Bartlett House rooms as well.

**Planning Committee Report**– Ms. Knapp rejoined the meeting at 6:38 and reported the following: Draft minutes from the June 13<sup>th</sup> Planning Committee meeting in the packet. Committee members were asked to review the ECG report to familiarize themselves with the recommendations for consideration. ECG had stressed that we have to keep our strategic goal of remaining independent in mind. Three things we need to do: We have to be able to recruit physicians. We have to prevent or minimize leakage of services. We have to have access to expanded care options, such as an affiliation agreement. The new CEO's input on how to approach these challenges is critical.

**PRESIDENT REPORT** – Mr. Solomon-Gross reported that he is looking forward to July since there's lots going on with the hiring of a new CEO. The next hire of a CEO is probably the most important one of the last 20 years. It's important to get the right person and not just fill the chair. He encouraged any Board members not currently registered to attend the Leadership Conference in September to do so. They are very informative. Anyone attending that would like Ms. Moffitt to make their airline reservations for them, is to let her know.

**CBJ LIAISON REPORT** – Ms. Hale reported that the Assembly has passed a budget. They learned today that the legislature reinstated the school bond debt reimbursement that was taken from communities around Alaska. (this is somewhere between \$14 - \$16 Million for CBJ). The Assembly now has to decide what to do with that money. Ms. Hale and others are advocating for seriously thinking about the best use of fund balances, possibly for risk management. Last night, the Assembly went through the 1% sales tax list. This is the ballot measure to approve the 1% sales tax for an additional five years. It is usually used for maintenance type projects but also on the list is adding money to the affordable housing fund, childcare funding, CCFR ladder truck replacement and a JPD radio system replacement. A survey will be sent out post-election about whether we should remove a sales tax on food rather than put the question on the ballot. There is talk about a potential recreation bond that might also be on the ballot.

**BOARD COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS** – Mr. Johnson apologized for being late to the meeting.

**BOARD CALENDAR** – July calendar reviewed. The Planning Committee meeting moved from July 1<sup>st</sup> to 12:00pm on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Physician Recruitment not needed at this time, Mr. Humphrey is working with Dr. Strickler to recruit radiologist. A Governance Meeting will be held at 12:00pm on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Place holders are on the calendar for the CEO candidate public meet and greets and interviews with the Board. CEO Candidate interviews are scheduled to take place on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Deliberations will take place after the final interview on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Board members that are able to be here in person are encouraged to do so but Zoom option will be available for those that can't. Agendas will be posted for each of these meetings.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – *MOTION by Mr. Geiger to recess into executive session to discuss several matters as written in the agenda:*

- *Those which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential or involve consideration of records that are not subject to public disclosure, specifically the Credentialing report, Medical Staff Meeting minutes and patient safety dashboard.*

*And*

- *To discuss possible BRH litigation, specifically a candid discussion of facts and litigation strategies with the BRH and Municipal attorney. (Unnecessary staff and Medical Chief of staff may be excused from this portion of the session.)*

**Ms. Young seconded.** The Board entered executive session at 7:05 p.m. after a 5-minute recess. They returned to regular session at 7:18 p.m.

***MOTION by Mr. Geiger to approve the credentialing report as presented. Ms. Young seconded. There being no objections, MOTION approved.***

**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:19 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** 5:30 p.m. – Tuesday, July 26, 2022