

**HUMBOLDT GENERAL HOSPITAL
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OCTOBER 20, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING
MEETING VIA PERSON--TELECONFERENCE--VIDEOCONFERENCE**

BOARD PRESENT:

Alicia Cramer, Chair
Michelle Miller, Secretary
JoAnn Casalez, Member
Gene Hunt, Member
Ken Tipton, County Comm. Member
Lewis Trout, Member

Tim Powers, CEO (via phone)
Robyn Dunckhorst, CNO
Mike Bell, IT Director
Alicia Wogan, Executive Assistant
Kim Plummer, CFO
Andrew Loveless, EMS Chief
Jeanette Grannis, Revenue Cycle Director
Janet Sturtz, OR Manager
Tori Stephen, MM Manager
Jackie Wilson, CIO
Duane Grannis, Maintenance Manager
Laura Shea, Marketing (via phone)
Theresa Bell, Project Director
Bertha Higbee, ACNO
Shelly Smith, Senior Accountant
Theresa Willis, EMT (via phone)
Jessica Villarreal, Credentialing Specialist
Becky Tissue, ER Manager

Kent Maher, Legal Counsel

BOARD ABSENT:

None

MEDICAL STAFF PRESENT:

Rommel Adajar, MD
Veronica Janhunen, MD
Jeffrey Meter, MD (via phone)

STAFF PRESENT:

GUESTS:

Paul Schlehr, Millie Custer (via phone) and Ashley Maden (Humboldt Sun).

CALL TO ORDER:

Board chair Cramer called the October 20, 2021, board meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lewis Trout reminded of the November 11 Veterans Day parade and luncheon, and thanked the Employees Committee for their assistance to the organization.

Paul Schlehner read a letter from Richard Robie which commented on the experience Robie's wife had at the hospital. Schlehner commented about his family's experiences at the hospital and the high turnover, in his opinion, of primary care physicians at the facility. Schlehner said the EMS is well thought of in the community.

Board member Miller stated she has asked questions in texts and did not receive a response. Miller commented about the progressive discipline policy discussed at the September 24, 2021 meeting, the exit interviews apparently being conducted by board members, agenda items being removed from the agenda and the role of the CEO in the organization.

Theresa Bell, Program Director at HGH, expressed her appreciation for CEO Powers and suggested that Robyn Dunckhorst would bring needed stability to the organization in the CEO position.

BUSINESS ITEMS-OTHER REPORTS:

1. District Administration/review and evaluation of: (i) resignation of Timothy Powers as hospital administrator as chief executive officer; and, (ii) interim chief executive officer; and, (iii) hiring/transferring of chief executive officer position /Board of Trustees

CEO Powers commented a lot of different things have been done over the past couple of years which could not have happened without support. Powers believes the organization is headed in the right direction. Stability and a steady course are needed, and Robyn Dunckhorst is the right person because she has the support. Powers is disappointed he will not be here to see it through.

Motion by board member Hunt and second by board member Casalez to approve CEO Timothy Powers resignation. Motion carried with Board members Hunt, Casalez, Cramer, Miller and Tipton voting aye and Board member Trout voting nay.

Board member Trout asked if the position was open to all staff. Board member Miller said that typically the CNO has stepped up. Miller likes Dunckhorst and thinks highly of her, she is compassionate and tough. In the past, an interim was appointed and then solicitation was made for a permanent replacement. It was suggested giving Dunckhorst six months to see how she does and if she likes it. Board chair Cramer has asked Dunckhorst for goals.

CNO Dunckhorst remarked she is honored to be considered for both the temporary and permanent positions. Dunckhorst said turnover in the CEO and leadership positions are difficult and suggested her plan is to stabilize the rev cycle, get the clinic workflows in order, develop the staff and leadership positions, resolve the Lab Quest interface problem, and improve Medical Staff communications. Dunckhorst stated the team has the heart to get it done. Trout asked about her thoughts on the pharmacy and lab funding sources. Dunckhorst suggested pulling back on those areas to get a handle on the rev cycle and do expansion in the current areas until money is coming in. Board member Miller commented on the necessity of setting goals for the administration. Board member Hunt said Dunckhorst has been quick to respond to emails and treats all items the same, whether big or small.

Motion by board member Casalez and second by board member Miller to approve Robyn Dunckhorst as Interim CEO for six month period and have evaluation at that time. Motion carried unanimously.

Board member Casalez asked Powers if he is willing to comment on his reasons for leaving, stating it is important to know what the struggles are that contributed to his leaving. Powers said he would like to discuss those reasons, but having them in an open forum is not a good thing. Dunckhorst said she will solicit coaching with Ron Price.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS-STAFF REPORTS:

Board member Tipton welcomed Dunckhorst. Tipton mentioned attending the Nevada Nurses Foundation Awards and said he hopes there is something in the newspaper about the awards.

Board member Miller welcomed Dunckhorst.

Board member Hunt thanked Powers and welcomed Dunckhorst.

Board member Trout shared Tipton's concerns about cash in and cash out.

Board chair Cramer congratulated Dunckhorst and the staff for receiving the awards.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

Board chair Cramer adjourned the October 20, 2021, meeting of the Humboldt County Hospital District Board of Trustees at 6:16 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Alicia Cramer, Board Chair

Alicia Wogan, Executive Assistant