

**SIERRA VISTA HOSPITAL
GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

February 27, 2024

12:00pm

**Elephant Butte Lake RV Resort
Event Center**

1. The Governing Board of Sierra Vista Hospital met February 27, 2024, at 12:00 pm at Elephant Butte Lake RV Resort Event Center for a regular meeting. Bruce Swingle, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 12:00.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

GOVERNING BOARD -----

SIERRA COUNTY

Kathi Pape, **Vice Chair** – Present
Serina Bartoo, Member – Present
Shawnee R. Williams, Member – Present

ELEPHANT BUTTE

Katharine Elverum, Member – Present
Vacant, Member

CITY OF T O R C

Bruce Swingle, **Chairperson** – Present
Jesus Baray, Member- Absent
Greg D’Amour, Member- Present

EX-OFFICIO

Amanda Cardona, Clerk VofW- Present
Vacant, City Manager EB
Amber Vaughn, County Manager- Absent
Angie Gonzales, City Manager- Absent
Jim Paxon, JPC Chairperson- Present

VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSBURG

Denise Addie, **Secretary** – Present by phone

STAFF

Frank Corcoran, CEO- Present
Ming Huang, CFO- Present
Sheila Adams, CNO- Present
LJ Baker, HR Director- Present
Heather Johnson, HIM Mgr.- Present
Zach Heard, Operations Manager, Present
Lisa Boston, Interim Consultant, Present

GUEST:

Erika Sundrud, Ovation
Brian Hamilton, SVH
Ashlee West, SVH

There is a quorum.

4. Approval of Agenda

Bruce Swingle, Chairperson

Greg D’Amour motioned to approve the agenda. Kathi Pape seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**SIERRA VISTA HOSPITAL
GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

“Are there any items on this agenda that could cause a potential conflict of interest by any Governing Board Member?”

None

5. Approval of minutes Bruce Swingle, Chairperson

A. January 23, 2024 Regular Meeting

B. February 7, 2024 Special Meeting

Kathi Pape motioned to approve the January 23rd and February 7th minutes. Serina Bartoo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Public Input

Ted Kuzdrowski addressed the board and said “thank you” there has been a tremendous amount of improvement in efficiency and the staff’s attitude. We have better doctors and nurses than in Las Cruces. Thank you for reviving the hospital once more.

7. Old Business- Bruce Swingle, Chairperson

None

8. New Business-

A. EMS Ambulance Expenditure - Ashlee West & Brian Hamilton asked for the boards support in purchasing two new ambulances. The cost will be \$553,316 for two brand new trucks. Next year, EMS will apply for capital outlay which, if approved, will pay approximately \$221,326. The average build time is three years. Payment would be due at the time of delivery. The request today is for approval of the full amount in order to proceed with the build.

Greg D’Amour motioned to approve the full amount and encouraged EMS to continue looking for additional funding options. Kathi Pape seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. General EMS Department Update – Brian Hamilton reported that EMS is doing very well. The department currently has 27 staff members and will fill the last two open positions this week. In 2023, EMS ran over 3,800 calls and drove 156,000 miles. Frank Corcoran added that we just signed the annual dispatch agreement with SCRDA which was slightly lower this year than last year. Call volume was higher in 2023 but so were GRT tax so the amount we end up paying is less. Our PRC license has been approved for another three years. The Community EMS program had 245 patient contacts in January this year. 77 of those were transports to SVH and 17 of those to other locations. Brian gave a description of what Community EMS does.

9. Finance Committee- Kathi Pape, Chairperson

A. Finance 101 - Frank Corcoran, CEO, distributed a large blow up of the January income statement and 12-month income statement. He discussed gross revenue, deductions, net revenue, and total revenue. He then discussed total expenses and operational revenue and finished up with net income from operations and depreciation. In New Mexico in 2023, 19 hospitals broke even or made a small profit from operations, the other 40 hospitals did not. We are staying positive. Our focus will be to improve our contractuals and reimbursement amounts.

SIERRA VISTA HOSPITAL GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

B. January Financial Report - Ming Huang, CFO, reported that at the end of January, we had 97 days cash on hand which is equal to \$9,258,328. Accounts receivable net days were 31 and accounts payable days were 28. The net loss for January was (\$503,788) versus a budget income of (\$305,685).

Gross revenue for January was \$5,538,569 or \$143,278 more than budget. Patient days were 122, 5 more than December. RHC visits were 842, 1 more than December, and ER visits were 728, 27 more than December.

Revenue deductions for January were \$3,023,455 or \$328,388 more than budget. Other operating revenue was \$229,241 and non-operating revenue was \$354,985 including \$167,348 of mil levy funds.

Operating expenses for January were \$3,173,548, which is over budget by \$141,726. Contract service expenses were over budget due to the productivity incentive of \$100,000 for the surgery group. Other operating expenses included \$37,500 for CRNA recruitment fees.

EBITDA for January was (\$74,087) versus a budget of \$111,566. Year to date EBITDA is \$1,206,403 versus a budget of \$773,767. The bond coverage ratio in January was 49% versus an expected ratio of 130%.

Bruce Swingle pointed out that we are starting to see the effects of the conversion from Athena to Cerner. Some data is not available as both systems are still in play. We expected and have anticipated this. Dropping revenue is not lost revenue, it is delayed revenue.

Kathi Pape motioned based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee acceptance of the January Financial report. Serina Bartoo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Equipment Sales - Ming Huang, CFO, stated that most of the equipment on this list is ER and OR equipment totaling \$341,860. Some of the ortho equipment and supplies we can sell to AA Medical equipment for a total of \$15,115. The rest will be submitted to the state for disposition with Board approval.

Kathi Pape motioned based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, approval of the equipment disposition list. Serina Bartoo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Board Quality- Denise Addie, Chairperson

A. Med Staff –

1. Policy Review

- a. Form #F-953-01-048: SVH Controlled Substance Contract
- b. Policy #280-03-013: Transfusion, Blood, or Blood Products
- c. Form #F-280-03-013-1: Administration of Blood or Blood Products
- d. Form #F-280-03-013-1: Agreement for Administration of Blood or Blood Products
- e. Policy #184-01-117: Burn Care
- f. Policy #185-01-086: Scope of Services, Emergency Department

Denise Addie stated that Board Quality met on Monday and reviewed all above listed policies. She made a motion based on that meeting to recommend approval of all policies as presented. Greg D'Amour seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Administrative Reports

A. Human Resources - LJ Baker, HR Director, reported that the priority of effort is continued recruitment. Year to date our hires and terminations remain steady and even. We are actively working on the CRNAs to come on board with us which will lower costs compared to what we were paying.

We are still looking for a psychiatrist and physical therapist.

SIERRA VISTA HOSPITAL GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

There were five new hires and five terminations in January. Two terminations were involuntary and three were voluntary. Key vacancies include registered nurses and certified nurse assistants.

Key initiatives include engagement with Government Reps, capital outlay to build EMS and Rehab buildings and behavioral health service capability. The SOAR program has started and the kids currently in it are doing really well. The next group starts in July, and we are hoping that we can hire one or two from either group permanently. Contract and travel staff numbers have not changed since December.

B. Nursing Services - Sheila Adams, CNO, reported that patient care and safety always come first then Cerner. We have hired an LPN in the Infection Prevention/ Employee Health Department. Jamie Robillard and Trish Jankowski will be working on our nurse aid program for students or anyone in the community that wants to become a nurse aid.

Surgery numbers have been soft in February. We are double checking to make sure referrals are not lost in the system with the conversion.

We will have our first clinical rotation of student nurses this spring. This has not happened in a very long time.

C. Med Staff Report – *Dr. Seuffer was not able to attend today's meeting.*

D. CEO Report - Frank Corcoran, CEO, stated that, as LJ mentioned, we continue to search for a psychiatrist. Olive Tree is partnering with a group that does med detox and we have been in talks with them too. We have added a third nurse practitioner, Nichelle Virgil, to behavioral health and Dr. Walker is our employed general surgeon.

The leak in the kitchen ceiling is being repaired. Once we find the right place, we will be installing a baby box with funds from a grant that we received. There are many requirements for the installation of the box including location, power, back up power and alarms.

We are talking with Arena Health to bring pulmonology services to the clinic. There is a 6-month wait to see a pulmonologist in Las Cruces or Albuquerque. Services would initially be half a day per week until we grow to a full day. There is also need for dermatology. Ovation did a perception survey of the community and dermatology was the number one need.

Cerner has been live for about three weeks, and we are finding what isn't working as well as learning the new system. There are lots of little kinks but overall, it's going well.

SB17 is a bill that would cost us about \$900,000 per year and return to us about \$7 million per year through a federal matching program. This bill has passed and is awaiting signature from the Governor. These funds will start coming to us in July 2025. This bill replaces HAP/TAP and DISH funds. SB 161 is for rural hospitals to cover indigent and sick patients in the ER and inpatients. This has a potential \$2.7 million impact for us. SB 161 is a fix until SB17 kicks in. We requested \$1.5 million in capital outlay, and we are on the Governor's list to receive those funds. Those funds will go to building EMS and Rehab facilities on the property.

Our med-malpractice carrier, Coveyers, is pulling out of the state. We are actively looking for another carrier.

Denim and Diamonds will be on April 20th. June 12 through the 14th is the New Mexico Hospital Association's strategic planning retreat and board member education.

Jim Paxon thanked and congratulated Frank on his work in Santa Fe. "You did us well!"

**SIERRA VISTA HOSPITAL
GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

E. Governing Board - Bruce Swingle, Chairperson, gave a summary of the Ovation event in Austin, TX. The three greatest challenges and concerns for hospitals right now are workforce, finances, and behavioral health. Healthcare affordability now and in the future is also a concern.

SVH's board did receive bronze level certification in 2023.

Motion to Close Meeting:

Serina Bartoo motioned to close the meeting and move into Executive Session. Kathi Pape seconded.

12. Executive Session – In accordance with Open Meetings Act, **NMSA 1978, Chapter 10, Article 15, Section 10-15-1 (H) 2,7,9 including credentialing under NM Review Organization Immunity Act, NMSA Section 41-2E (8) and 41-9-5 the Governing Board will vote to close the meeting to discuss the following items:**

Order of business to be determined by Chairperson:

10-15-1(H) 2 – Limited Personnel Matters

A. Privileges Frank Corcoran

RadPartners Initial:

Chukwusomnazu Nwanzem MD
David T. Pilkinton, MD
Daniel Todd Hankins, MD
Amy E. Benson, MD
Jared S. Isaacson, MD
Michael A. Pavio, MD
Elaina M. Zabak, MD

RadPartners Re-Appointment:

John C. Sandoz, MD

Termination:

Shannon L. Baublitz-Smith, LCSW

B. Board Member Matter Bruce Swingle

10-15-1 (H) 7 – Attorney Client Privilege/ Pending Litigation

A. Risk Report Heather Johnson

10-15-1 (H) 9 – Public Hospital Board Meetings- Strategic and long-range business plans

A. Ovation Report to Board Erika Sundrud
B. Novitium Energy Presentation Jeremy Conner

Roll Call to Close Meeting:

Kathi Pape – Y	Shawnee Williams – Y	Bruce Swingle – Y
Greg D'Amour – Y	Denise Addie – Y	Katharine Elverum – Y
Serina Bartoo – Y		

**SIERRA VISTA HOSPITAL
GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

13. Re-Open Meeting – As required by **Section 10-15-1(J)**, NMSA 1978 matters discussed in executive session were limited only to those specified in the motion to close the meeting.

10-15-1(H) 2 – Limited Personnel Matters

A. Privileges

RadPartners Initial:

Chukwusomnazu Nwanzem MD
David T. Pilkinton, MD
Daniel Todd Hankins, MD
Amy E. Benson, MD
Jared S. Isaacson, MD
Michael A. Pavio, MD
Elaina M. Zabak, MD

RadPartners Re-Appointment:

John C. Sandoz, MD

Termination:

Shannon L. Baublitz-Smith, LCSW

Shawnee Williams motioned approval of all above listed privileges. Greg D'Amour seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Board Member Matter

Greg D'Amour motioned to begin the initial censuring process on Denise Addie. Kathi Pape seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10-15-1 (H) 7 – Attorney Client Privilege/ Pending Litigation

A. Risk Report

No Action

10-15-1 (H) 9 – Public Hospital Board Meetings- Strategic and long-range business plans

A. Ovation Report to Board

No Action

B. Novitium Energy Presentation

No Action

14. Other

Note: Shawnee William texted Denise Addie so that she could join the open session following the closed session of the meeting. She did not re-join the meeting.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19th at 12:00. Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 19th at 10:30. Board Quality will meet on Monday, March 18th at 10:00.

Discussion was held regarding a joint meeting with the JPC.

15. Adjournment

Katharine Elverum motioned to adjourn. Greg D'Amour seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**SIERRA VISTA HOSPITAL
GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

JB- Approved _____
Jennifer Burns, Recording Secretary

3/19/2024 _____
Date

Bruce Swingle, Chairperson

3/19/2024 _____
Date