

Sierra Vista Hospital  
 Regular Joint Powers Commission Minutes  
 October 19, 2023 @ 2:00pm

1. The Joint Powers Commission of Sierra Vista Hospital met October 19, 2023 at 2:00pm in the boardroom at Sierra Vista Hospital for a regular meeting. Jim Paxon, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** Jim Paxon, Chairperson

3. **Roll Call** Jennifer Burns, Recorder

**Joint Powers Commission**

**Attendees: City of Elephant Butte**

Edna Trager, Present  
 Kim Skinner, Present by phone  
 Phillip Mortensen, **Vice Chair**, Absent  
 John Mascaro, City Manager, Absent

**City of T or C**

Rolf Hechler, Present by phone  
 Destiny Mitchell, Absent  
 Shelly Harrelson, Member, Absent  
 Angie Gonzales, City Manager, Absent

**Sierra County**

Travis Day, Present by phone  
 Jim Paxon, **Chair**, Present  
 Hank Hopkins, Absent  
 Amber Vaughn, County Manager, Present

**Village of Williamsburg**

Vacant, Member  
 Magorie Powey, Present  
 Deb Stubblefield, Present  
 Amanda Cardona, Ex-O, Absent

**Sierra Vista Hospital**

Frank Corcoran, CEO, Present  
 Ming Huang, CFO, Present  
 Sheila Adams, CNO, Present  
 Bruce Swingle, **Governing Board Chair**, Present

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**PRESENTER**

**ACTION REQUIRED**

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Jim Paxon, Chairperson

Magorie Powey motioned approval of the agenda. Deb Stubblefield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Jim Paxon, Chairperson

A. August 3, 2023 Regular/ Annual Meeting Minutes

Travis Day motioned approval of the August 3, 2023 minutes. Edna Trager seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Public Comment –**

None

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**7. Old Business**

Jim Paxon, Chairperson

None

**8. New Business**

A. July & August Financial Report - Ming Huang, CFO, directed JPC members to page JPC 13. In July, we had gross patient revenue of \$5,149,321 and net revenue of \$2,220,738. Total operating expenses were \$2,579,781. We ended July with (\$37,428) EBITDA, which is a -1% margin.

In August we had \$5,937,549 in gross patient revenue; the second highest in the last 12 months. Total operating revenue for August was \$3,208,500. Operating expenses were \$2,706,574. EBITDA was \$501,926 which is a 16% margin. Year to date (July and August) EBITDA is \$464,498.

At the end of August, we had \$9,294,689 in the bank.

Bruce Swingle stated that we have not received the HAP/TAP funds, nor the property tax funds which total about \$1.5 million.

Frank Corcoran stated that we experienced an increase in our insurance of more than \$140,000. Only two insurance carriers will work with us in the state of New Mexico and one of them will be pulling out of the state next year.

Discussion was held regarding the NMHA, the upcoming Legislative session and efforts to change the current tort caps.

Gross revenue has gone up over the last several months. Gross is everything we charge for in patient care. Deductions from revenue are what insurance won't pay us for. Medicare will only pay us 60%, Medicaid pays us 40% most other insurance pays us 70% of charges. Bad debt write offs are also included in deductions from revenue. In a month where we bill \$6 million, for example, we will typically net \$3 million. EBITDA, which is earnings before interest, tax depreciation and amortization, is what we made from operations.

Magorie Powey motioned to accept the July and August financial report. Travis Day seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. CEO Report - Frank Corcoran, CEO, reported that the walk-in clinic started the first week of September and it's off to a great start seeing an average of 10 patients per day Wednesday through Friday and five on Saturdays. The ER and clinic numbers have not dropped since opening the walk-in option. This allows us to provide better access for the community.

The new generator is in place.

We currently have tele-neurology and tele-psychiatry. We are exploring adding additional services such as infectious disease, endocrine, pulmonology and hematology. It's currently six to eight months to get an appointment elsewhere for these services.

IT-2 testing failed the financial test. Because of this, our go live date has been moved to the last week of January. Everything worked up to the billing side.

We have applied for Senate bill 7 funds and hope to expand surgery to add pain management and wound care, Community EMS, and tele-medicine. The funds offset operational loss for up to three years for new or expanded services.

The hospital received two quality awards from the NMHA. One for our Community EMS services and one for Dr. Walker. SVH received a plaque from the American Hospital Association for being a member for 75 years.

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The DOH was on site August 22 doing our survey. We received two minor findings, and both have been addressed.

Jim Paxon stated that he had an issue that has since been taken care of. He could not get an answer when he called the clinic. When he did, he got transferred and then the call dropped. Kim Skinner explained her experience with calling and scheduling for surgery. She still has not had a call back. Rolf Hechler stated that he is attending by phone today because he couldn't get through to the hospital or the clinic yesterday. Messages were left, but no one ever returned his call. Frank thanked them for letting him know and stated this will be addressed.

C. Governing Board Report - Bruce Swingle, GB Chair, stated that the Governing Board is very excited about the hospital seeking Joint Commission accreditation.

Ovation (formerly QHR) offers education to Board Members and our Board Members have been encouraged to participate and take every advantage of these educational opportunities. The NMHA is offering education in June.

Motion to close for Executive Session:

Deb Stubblefield motioned to move into Executive Session. Edna Trager seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Executive Session – In accordance with Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, Chapter 10, Article 15, Section 10-15-1 (H) 9 the JPC will vote to close the meeting to discuss the following items:**

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

A. Old Building Update

Frank Corcoran, CEO

**10. 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) 9 - Public Hospital Board – Strategic and long-range business plans**

A. Old Building Update

No action required.

**11. Other**

Next Meeting- January 18, 2024 @ 2:00pm

**12. Adjournment**

Edna Trager motioned to adjourn. Deb Stubblefield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.