

Sierra Vista Hospital  
Regular Joint Powers Commission Minutes  
October 28, 2021 @ 2:00pm

1. The Joint Powers Commission of Sierra Vista Hospital met October 28, 2021 at 2:00pm in the boardroom at Sierra Vista Hospital for a regular meeting. Travis Day, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** Travis Day, Chairperson  
3. **Roll Call** Jennifer Burns, (Temporary) Recorder

**Joint Powers Commission**

**Attendees: City of Elephant Butte**

Edna Trager, Present by phone  
Mike Williams, Present  
Kim Skinner, Present by phone  
Vicki Ballinger, Ex-O, Absent

**City of T or C**

Sandra Whitehead, Present by phone  
Frances Luna, Absent  
Bruce Swingle, Ex-O, Absent  
Vacant

**Sierra County**

Travis Day, **Chair**, Present  
Jim Paxon, Present  
Hank Hopkins, Present by phone  
Charlene Webb, Ex-O, Present

**Village of Williamsburg**

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

**Sierra Vista Hospital**

Frank Corcoran, ICEO, Present  
Ming Huang, CFO, Present  
Sheila Adams, CNO, Present  
Greg D'Amour, **Governing Board Chair**, Present by phone

**4. Approval of Agenda-** Travis Day, Chairperson

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

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**A. July 29, 2021 Annual Meeting –**

Jim Paxon motioned approval of the July 29, 2021 minutes. Mike Williams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Public Comment** – No public called in on the number provided.

**7. Old Business**

None

Travis Day, Chairperson

**8. New Business**

Travis Day, Chairperson

**A. Financial Report-** Ming Huang, CFO, the packet for this meeting includes the July, August, and September financials. Ming stated that September includes year to date numbers, and we will look at the details of September. On page 10 (income statement), gross revenue for September was \$4,179,687. After

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subtracting all deductions, the total operating revenue is \$2,603,732. Total operating expenses were \$2,157,300. Salary expenses were the highest expense at \$904,957 which is about \$79,000 more than budget. Contract services is \$81,000 more than budget at \$546,796. Both salary expenses and contract expenses are over budget due to higher labor costs including our employees and agency staff. EBITDA is \$446,432 and the EBITDA margin is 17%; year to date it is 23%. Net income for September is \$15,939; year to date \$597,235.

Travis Day asked how long the increased cost for contract services is expected to continue. Frank Corcoran stated that the trend across the country is still up. Agency nursing rates are as high as \$250 per hour. Las Cruces is paying \$235 per hour while we are paying \$150 per hour. We are looking at several options including international nurses. There is a nursing shortage across the Nation. Edna Trager stated that in Farmington, the hospital there is offering \$20,000 sign on bonuses to nurses.

On page 13, (balance sheet) we have \$11,323,187 in the bank. We have the tunnel remediation project underway which will cost \$1.1 million.

Magorie Powey motioned to accept the financial report. Deb Stubblefield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. CEO Report-** Frank Corcoran, ICEO, the tunnel connects the old building and the new building utilities. The tunnel is collapsing. The plan is to bring all of the services out of the tunnel and run them above ground on posts. Once the utilities are out we will close off the tunnel. This will take another month or more.

Chronic Care management is for patients who have comorbidities such as heart failure, diabetes, COPD, obesity, things that they deal with on a chronic level at home. Chronic Care management is a service we are looking at utilizing through a company called Chartsan. They provide education, medication management and follow up with the patients with a phone call in between their Provider visits. Medicare pays \$65.00 for a 20 minute follow up call. Chartsan will do the phone call, we would bill for the service and pay Chartsan their fee of \$27.00 per call. The goal is to keep chronic care patients healthier at home and avoid readmissions or admissions to the hospital. Our Providers are excited to bring this on. This is not a telemedicine visit and it does not replace home health.

We have applied for the second round of Provider Relief Funds. We do not know if we will receive funds, how much we might receive if we do nor what the conditions are. Some of the funds may be used to off-set the agency nursing costs.

We are tracking the number of patients we test everyday and the number of positives every day. In September, we tested 526 patients and 47 were positive for a positivity rate of 9%. So far in October, up to the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we have tested 430 patients with 67 positives for a rate of 16%. We have definitely gone up and hospitalizations have increased, almost tripled from September. Discussion was held regarding treatment options available here. All employees are being tested every week. In September, we tested 272 employees, four were positive which is a 1.47% positivity rate. In October we have tested 492, two were positive making the rate .4%. Our kits for testing employees expire on November 21. We will have to purchase kits at \$280 per box and contains 38 tests. It will cost the hospital \$1,500 per week to test all employees each week.

Greg D'Amour stated that nationwide, 90% of positive cases are unvaccinated individuals. Boosters will most likely become part of the regime as the effectiveness of the vaccination starts to drop off after six months. Jim Paxon stated that the CDC shows that 74% of people infected in Massachusetts were fully vaccinated.

Many of the hospital staff participated at the County Fair, Elephant Days and the 5K walk/run. We will do more of these community events as they happen. Thanks to the staff who participated.

Wind has prevented the roof replacement at the Community Health Foundation thrift store.

The MRI pad is done, and we will be able to use it after the 30-day cure.

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We will have on site demonstrations from several EHR vendors in November. Our current system, Athena, will stop support of the software system on the hospital side but continue with the clinic side.

Our Laboratory had their survey last week and passed with flying colors. The surveyor commented that we are the most organized hospital she has ever been to. Big KUDOS to Evangeline Hernandez and her staff in the Lab.

Magorie Powey motioned to accept the CEO report. Jim Paxon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Governing Board Report-** Greg D’Amour, Governing Board Chair, the Governing Board meeting was held on Tuesday, October 26. We received 17 applications for the CEO position. After vetting and review by QHR, there were three candidates that were acceptable applicants. Interviews with the three candidates were held on Wednesday, October 27. Three members of the JPC and three members of the Governing Board together interviewed each candidate. A recommendation will be presented to the full Governing Board in a special meeting on Wednesday, November 3. In the meantime, Frank Corcoran, ICEO, is going above and beyond and doing a heck of a job.

We are paying extra attention to our staff through these trying times. We did a two-month, 15% salary increase as hazard pay which we just extended through the end of December. HR will do a salary review to ensure that we are within appropriate ranges. Wal-Mart is starting employees at \$15.00 per hour which sounds good, but they do not have the benefits that we offer.

Scott Towle, QHR, has been with us since the start of the management agreement. He will be retiring within the next couple of months. While his focus was financial, our new leader from QHR will focus more on the quality, clinical aspect of the hospital. We want a culture of caring and healing and an engaged workforce. We have good staff, and we need to keep developing them.

We are working on our strategic plan and the behavioral health program keeping in mind the costs. We have to be able to afford to keep it going so that we can do it properly and provide quality services.

Deb Stubblefield motioned to approve the Governing Board report. Magorie Powey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Paxon motioned to move to Executive Session. Mike William seconded. A roll call vote was held:

**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**

**A. Strategic and Long-Range Business Plans**

**1. Behavioral Health Unit**

Roll call to close meeting:		Jennifer Burns			
Edna Trager	Y	Sandra Whitehead	Y	Deb Stubblefield	Y
Mike Williams	Y	Travis Day	Y	Kim Skinner	Y
Jim Paxon	Y	Magorie Powey	Y	Hank Hopkins	Y

**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**

**A. Strategic and Long-Range Business Plans**

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1. Behavioral Health Unit  
No Action

**11. Other**

Next Meeting- January 20, 2022

**12. Adjournment**

Deb Stubblefield motioned to adjourn. Mike Williams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

JB 1/27/22

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Recording Secretary, Jennifer Burns

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Travis Day, JPC Chairperson