

**Big Sandy Medical Center (BSMC) Board of Directors Meeting
January 18, 2024**

Present:

Current Board Members: Ann Quinn, Anna Bold, Bob Nelson, Amber Terry
New Board Member: Dr. Karen Baumann
Cypress Healthcare: Tony Pfaff, Rob Brandt, Ron Wiens, CEO
Employees: Ashley Allderdice, DON

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

Election of Officers:

- **Bob Nelson** was elected as Chair
- **Anna Bold** was elected as Vice Chair
- **Ann Quinn** was elected as Secretary

Minutes of previous meeting:

- Anna Bold moved and Karen Baumann seconded to accept the minutes of the December 21, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report

- Ron Wiens presented the financial statements by reviewing the one-page summary of key census, balance sheet and income statement statistics. Year to date, BSMC is showing a loss of \$295,548. He identified the primary reason for the loss is the high cost of "traveling" staff to cover both RN and CNA positions. Supply costs have also reason more than expected due to continued inflation pressures. Amber Terry motioned and Anna Bold seconded the acceptance of the financial report.

Director of Nursing Report – Ashley

- Ashley Allderdice reported the current census of 19 LTC patients, 1 skilled swing bed patient. There continues to be a waiting list for the LTC beds.
- The NICHE program has moved into the implementation phase and will focus on identifying fall risks and reducing patient falls

Medical Staff Report –

- Joe Epperson, PA, will be here January 24, 2024 to visit with staff and finalize the employment contract

CEO Report:

- Ron gave an update of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) progress. The first focus group was held at the Senior Center with good response and feedback. More focused groups are being scheduled as well the distribution of survey questionnaires to various places in town for residents to complete.
- The Big Sandy Hospital District II board met on January 18, 2024 and approved a distribution of collected tax proceeds to BSMC in the amount of \$90,000 to go towards current operation costs.
- Ron informed the board that BSMC will be contracting with a Clinical Informatics specialist to help with quality and federal/state reporting requirements. This will greatly improve the quality improvement program at BSMC.
- Ron reported that there have been a number of infrastructure/equipment issues that have come up in the past few months. Most critical are the obsolete call light system and the old HVAC system. Quotes are being obtained to determine the total cost of replacing/modernizing these systems.

- In response to the Board's request to investigate options for assisting employees with education costs to obtain additional/new credentials, Ron reported there are a couple of key programs BSMC can tap into. One is to start an IRS approved Employee Education Assistance Program which would allow BSMC to reimburse employees for education costs up to \$5,250 annually and tax-free. The second program is the National Health Services Corp. loan repayment program available to RNs and providers. The board concurred with Ron that these would be good programs to implement at BSMC as long as there is a written commitment by the employee to work a certain number of years in exchange for the assistance.
- A Conflict-of-Interest form was given to each Board member to complete and return to BSMC.
- A Lactation Accommodation policy was presented for board approval. Amber Terry motioned and Karen Baumann seconded to approve this new policy. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Electrical panel for new clinic building is on track to arrive on Monday, January 22, 2024.
- Draft bylaws are very near to completion and will be sent out to the board members for review before the February board meeting.
- The sale of the Havre house fell through due to the buyer not able to obtain financing
- The generator is very close to being up and running. Waiting on cap to be installed and the system pressure tested.

New Business

- None

Public Comment

- Krystyl Kulbeck, PA shared her concerns with the recent and significant delays in transferring patients to Benefis. Rob and Tony mentioned this is happening across the state due to staffing shortages in the larger hospitals. No easy solutions to this issue.

Executive Session

- Yes

Next Board Meeting

- February 15, 2024 at 5:30pm

Meeting Adjournment



Bob Nelson, Chair



Anna Bold, Vice Chair