

West Ascension Parish Hospital Service District Board Meeting

The West Ascension Parish Hospital Service District Board's regularly scheduled meeting from April 27, 2023 at 12:00 Noon.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Michel Hirsch, Mr. A. J. Gomez, Mr. John Marchand, Mr. Vince Cataldo.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Larry Buquoi, Ms. Loretta Larvadain, Ms. Nobie Landry

ABSENT: Dr. Glenn Schexnayder

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Michel Hirsch. There were no objections to the minutes of the meeting held on March 30, 2023 as distributed. The minutes were accepted as individually read.

2. ROLL CALL

Dr. Glenn Schexnayder was not present.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Nobie Landry presented the financial report and sales tax report for review and discussion. The reports were approved as presented.

4. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Vince Cataldo gave findings of the monthly and quarterly committee reports. No actions were needed.

5. OLD BUSINESS

There are still ongoing problems with nursing service shortages since December, 2020. There is a struggle to fill shifts and most shifts remain shorthanded. Advertising continues. Full time contract nurses are being used to fill the schedule. The director of nurses reported that one full time PRN registered nurse is leaving to take a three month contract with the Baton Rouge General Hospital.

Interfacing to our electronic medical records system with Dr. Nagaratna Reddy and Care South is still in progress. Meetings with Athenahealth are now scheduled every two weeks. Data continues to be collected to meet CMS requirements. We will probably file for an exception.

Athena and LAHIE continue to work on meeting CMS requirements. Data collection by

Athena shows that we are at 59% compliance. An exception cannot be filed until May. LAHIE continues to receive data and continues to report to the state.

Mr. Henry Chauvin and Mr. Glenn Higgins are working on specs for the hospital improvements and renovations. They are meeting with all specialties involved in this project. Mr. Chauvin was invited to attend the May 25, 2023 meeting.

CJ Electric reported that some of the material for the medical office building electrical upgrade has been received. The City of Donaldsonville has grant money to install generators at every sewer lift station. A generator will be installed at the medical office building.

Ethics and Sexual Harassment training continues to be completed by board members and hospital employees.

Our wound care provider, Restorix, was billing Prevoist Hospital for non-reimbursable codes. This billing practice has been discontinued. Prevoist Hospital checks monthly to insure that we are not billed for any non-reimbursable procedures.

On April 26, 2023, Mr. Robert Utley revised the specs to reduce the cost of this project. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2023. The proposal meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2023.

On February 21, 2023, The Joint Commission informed the hospital that it had received accreditation for all services surveyed effective September 16, 2022. Work continues with architects, engineers and others to complete the unfinished corrective action. Mr. Robert Utley will work with hospital staff and an engineer with The Joint Commission to see if TJC will accept an equivalency from the State Fire Marshall.

The Ascension Parish Government approved a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with Our Lady of the Lake Hospital, Inc. individually and on behalf of its wholly owned subsidiaries Our Lady of the Lake Physician Group, LLC and Health Care Centers in Schools, Inc. The approval of this agreement will have negative effects on the west bank healthcare providers.

On February 22, 2023, the hospital received a certified letter from the Sunrise Community Group (Mr. Glenn Price) requesting information/records from Prevoist Hospital. The information requested by Mr. Price was forwarded to hospital attorney Mr. Larry Buquoi on March 6, 2023 and was picked up by Mr. Price the same day. A second certified letter was received on April 24, 2023 from the Sunrise Community Group. The following information was requested.

- a. The number of physicians/doctors on staff
- b. The physician's field of specialty and work hours

c. The physician's salaries

New pay rates started on March 20, 2023. The checks dated April 6, 2023 showed the increases.

Each board member was given a copy of several proposals for ultrasound equipment at the March meeting. The following questions were forwarded to Mr. Louie Pellegran with General Electric.

- a. Will we ever have a need for the A-Bus at Prevost Memorial Hospital?
- b. Should we consider trading the A-Bus for the new organ ultrasound equipment?
- c. Is \$40K a fair trade-in for an unused A-Bus?

The following responses were received.

- a. Mr. Pellegran feels that if we have not used the machine much yet it probably will not happen.
- b. Definitely consider the trade if we will not use the A-Bus. Note: Following the March meeting, we were informed that the A-Bus trade-in value was \$0 dollars. The serial number of our equipment is not listed. This was a refurbished piece of equipment. In three years, the value dropped from \$169,860.00 to \$0.00.
- c. Yes, \$40K is a fair trade. Mr. Louie Pellegran did not know the trade in value was not correct. This is not the first time that General Electric has abused Prevost.

On March 23, 2023, representatives from the Baton Rouge General Hospital/LIHNC visited to explain some of the membership benefits and invite Prevost Hospital to join. Following a discussion, the board agreed to have Mr. Larry Buquoi review the LIHNC Operating Agreement Dues Resolution and Joiner for Prevost Hospital. Mr. Larry Buquoi reported no significant findings in this (LIHNC) agreement. Following a discussion, Mr. Buquoi recommended that Mr. Cataldo call a couple of the existing members of the (LIHNC) and discuss the benefits. A follow up report will be given at the next regular meeting.

Ms. Cinnamon McKey, parish secretary, was notified following the March board meeting about the hospital board vacancy. The vacancy was published in The Donaldsonville Chief on April 13, 2023, April 20, 2023 and April 27, 2023. A follow up report will be given at the next regular meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Each board member was given a copy of a policy for Establishment of Internal Controls Over Calculations and Data Submitted Through HRSA Portal for PRF Funds (PMH-POL-023) and for Federal Awards (PMH-POL-024). These policies were written to comply with federal laws and to satisfy the state wide agreed upon procedures audit. Mr. John Marchand motioned to approve policy PMH-POL-023 as written. Mr. A. J. Gomez seconded the motion and the motion carried. Mr. A. J. Gomez motioned to approve

policy PMH-POL-024 as written. Mr. John Marchand seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The following application was presented to the board for Provisional Privileges

PHYSICIAN	COMPANY	SPECIALTY
Gehrig Harris, M. D.	Blue Angels	ER/Hospitalist

The applicant was reviewed and approved for Provisional Privileges by the board.

The following applications were presented to the board for Full Privileges

PHYSICIAN	COMPANY	SPECIALTY
David Jacobs, M. D.	Statrad	Virtual Radiology
Glenn LaFleur, M. D.	Blue Angels Health	ER/Hospitalist
Mignonne Morell, M. D.	Statrad	Virtual Radiology
Lincoln Patel, M. D.	Statrad	Virtual Radiology

The applicants were reviewed and approved for Full Privileges by the board.


Mr. Robert Utley delivered plans and specs on April 26, 2023 to renovate the domestic hot water system at the hospital. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2023 at 2:30 PM. The proposal meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2023 at 2:30 PM. A follow up report will be given at the next regular meeting.

A vacancy in the Recording Secretary position on the Board of Commissioners was created with the resignation from the board by Mr. Michael Medine. Following a discussion, Mr. A. J. Gomez nominated Mr. John Marchand for this position. Dr. Michel Hirsch seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Following a discussion concerning the sales tax checking account balance, Mr. John Marchand motioned to invest \$1.7 million dollars with Edward Jones. Mr. A. J. Gomez seconded the motion and the motion carried.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. John Marchand and a second by Mr. A. J. Gomez.



Dr. Michel Hirsch, Board Chairman



Mr. Vince Cataldo, Administrator/Secretary