

**LIMESTONE HOSPITAL DISTRICT
LIMESTONE MEDICAL CENTER
701 McCLINTIC, GROESBECK, TX 76642**

MINUTES

November 26, 2024

On this 26th day of November, 2024 the Board of Directors of South Limestone Hospital District convened at the regular meeting place of said District. The meeting, open to the public, and notice of said Board in said District giving the date, place and subject thereof, has been posted as described by Article 6252-17, Section 3A,V.A.T.C.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Danny Hewitt
Martha Stanton
Glenda O'Neal
Arnold Gray
Christina Lockhart
Kent Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tyrell Hobbs

OTHERS PRESENT

Larry Price
Michael Williams
Pam Armstrong
Debbie Brewer
Courtney Harryman
Misty Hutchison
Emily Jones
Brandy Kennedy
B. C. Lee
Allece Lincoln

Karah Medlock
Ken Alpert
Adrienne Rettig
Melanie Richard
Mike Thompson
Hope Wallace
Julie Wilson
Jean Wragge
Robert York
Cathy Knouse

CALL TO ORDER, ESTABLISH QUORUM AND EXCUSE ABSENTEES

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Danny Hewitt at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Mrs. Martha Stanton made the motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Tyrell Hobbs. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kent Wilson and carried.

INVOCATION

Mr. Larry Price offered the invocation.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG

Those present recited the Pledge to the Texas flag.

COMMENTS FROM CONCERNED CITIZENS

There were no concerned citizens in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Sharon Makowski emailed to convey her expressions of sympathy to the House Call Program staff on the passing of David J. Fedro, D.O.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON NOMINATION OF BOARD OFFICER

Mrs. Martha Stanton expressed her desire to step down from her position as vice president of the Board of Directors due to health concerns. She conveyed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve in this role. Mr. Hewitt expressed his appreciation for Mrs. Stanton and her years of service to the Board of Directors. Mrs. Stanton nominated Mr. Kent Wilson for the vice presidency. The nomination was seconded by Mrs. Glenda O'Neal. There were no additional nominations and the nominations were closed. Mr. Wilson was appointed Vice President of the Board of Directors.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The Board minutes, Accounts Receivable report, Compliance Report, Family Medicine Center report, Infectious Disease report, Kosse Community Health Clinic report, Marketing report, Medical Staff Minutes, Nursing report, Patient Safety/Risk Management/Workplace Violence Committee minutes, Physician Credentialing Committee minutes; Plant Operations report, Rettig Family Health Care report, Rucker Clinic report and Inservice were presented. The motion was made by Mr. Arnold Gray, seconded by Mr. Wilson and carried to approve the consent agenda.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Environmental Services

There are no changes.

Infection Control

The Employee Immunization policy and procedures have been updated

For employees that have the approved flu vaccine declination, the policy reads that the employee has to wear the mask in the patient care areas and clinical areas. The declination form that they signed says "all times". It was changed so the policy and declination form reads the same and employees who have declined the flu vaccine will wear a mask at all times.

Legal Compliance

Section 2.11 to add oversight of the Section 1557 rule.

Section 2.14 remove compound pharmacy verbiage from policy.

The members of the Board examined each policy and procedure and the motion was made by Mr. Gray to approve the revised and existing policies and procedures as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Christina Lockhart and approved.

QUALITY, RISK AND REGULATORY DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The November 13, 2024 minutes of the Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Committee were reviewed.

Newly appointed Patient and Family Engagement Committee member Mr. Ricky Logan was introduced to the Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Committee members. Mr. Logan will be an invaluable resource in the role of patient family advisor.

A nurse is needed to serve as a member of the Population Health team addressing health disparity and priority populations. The initial team meeting was held Wednesday, November 20, 2024 with Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH)/CVS Accountable Care Organization (ACO) and population health training as part of the agenda.

The committee reviewed the flu vaccine policy with regard to vaccine mandates and mask requirements. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends flu vaccines for everyone and recommends that hospitals and health care facilities mandate employee flu vaccines and employees that decline the vaccine will be required to wear a mask.

The patient consent registration package has been updated to include consent to participate in the CommonWell national health information exchange. CommonWell is a non-profit organization that operates a nationwide network for exchanging health information, allowing health care providers to access patient data across different systems and locations. Participation is not required if the patient chooses not to participate.

Immigration status has been added to the Hospital Emergency Department and inpatient packet effective Friday, November 1, 2024, as required by the Governor's Executive Order for Texas.

Departmental reports were reviewed.

INVESTMENT REPORT

The South Limestone Hospital District invested funds report was presented by Mr. Michael Williams. The Hospital has a total of \$83,124,019.95 invested in texpools and certificates of deposit as of October 31, 2024. Currently the Hospital has three texpool accounts, two for the general fund and one for the ambulance. The Hospital has five certificates of deposit in terms of 12 months or less. The year-to-date interest is calculated beginning with the first day of the Hospital's fiscal year October 1. The Hospital is in compliance with its investment strategy and the Public Funds Investment Act.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Michael Williams presented the Financial Report for the month ending October 31, 2024. Quality Incentive Payment Program (QIPP) payments for year eight have not yet posted. Total inpatient revenues for the month of October were \$200,172.29 and the amount budgeted was \$329,721 which is 39.29% less than budget. The prior year inpatient revenues were \$266,701.98. Swingbed revenues for the month of October were \$398,209.42 and the amount budgeted was \$271,364 which is 46.74% more than budget. The prior year Swingbed revenues were \$190,904.18. Outpatient revenues for the month of October were \$6,851,907.26 and the amount budgeted was \$6,217,130 which is 10.21% more than budget. The prior year outpatient revenues were \$5,633,551.68. The total revenues for the month of October were \$8,411,482.66 and the amount budgeted was \$8,055,450 which is 4.427% more than budget. The prior year total revenues were \$7,248,593.44. Total revenue deductions for the month of October were \$4,968,262.43 and the amount budgeted was \$4,583,213 which is 8.40% more than budget. The prior year deductions from revenue were \$4,316,778.85. Expenses for the month of October were \$2,621,599.19 and the amount budgeted was \$2,716,828 which is 3.51% less budget. The prior year expenses were \$2,357,057.42. The actual net operating profit for the month of October was \$821,621.04 and the amount of \$755,409 was budgeted which is 8.77% more than budget. The prior year net operating profit was \$574,757.17. A report of collections and expenses reflects that in the past twelve months collections total \$29,486,790.70 and expenses total \$29,976,328.84 and that 98.37% of Hospital expenses are covered by collections. The directors reviewed the most recent Quality Incentive Payment Program (QIPP) report.

LMC FOUNDATION REPORT

LMC Foundation members met Monday, November 18, 2024. Foundation members reviewed the financial statements. Mr. Jason Milstead has been elected to the LMC Foundation Board. The primary meeting focus was fundraiser planning.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON TWO ADDITIONAL NURSING HOMES FOR QIPP

Management staff members of two nursing homes previously owned by City of Ennis have reached out to Mr. Price to inquire about interest in affiliating with the Quality Incentive Payment Program (QIPP). The Brazos of Waco is located in Waco and EPIC Nursing & Rehabilitation is located in Corsicana. The motion was made by Mr. Wilson to approve opening checking accounts for the Quality Incentive Payment Program (QIPP) for banking transactions with Mr. Larry N. Price and Mr. Michael F. Williams designated signers if management determines that the appropriate partnership criteria for the proposed addition of the nursing homes is met. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gray and carried.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RUCKER CLINIC

Prior to the Board of Directors meeting, there was discussion concerning the Hospital possibly paying a monthly lease amount for Rucker Clinic. Since that time, a new lease has been prepared providing that the Hospital does not pay a monthly rental amount similar to the lease for Kosse Community Health Clinic. The Hospital will furnish the personnel, supplies and equipment. Management is agreeable with the new lease and it will be executed and become effective January 1, 2025.

Management is hopeful of updating the Clinic to the standards required for certification as a Rural Health Clinic within the next year. Ceiling tiles have been repaired and the roof is no longer leaking. Parking spaces are limited but patients are scheduled to allow for parking.

The science building that Mart Independent School District donated to Rucker Foundation for use as a clinic cannot be utilized as a clinic after all. The building has a sewage system with a reservoir. Repairs needed to remove and convert the sewage system will cost approximately \$500,000. As a result, this will not be a successful location for Rucker Clinic.

David J. Fedro, D.O. served as supervising physician for Emily Witt, FNP-C prior to his passing. Eduardo Gonzalez, M.D. agreed to serve as Ms. Witt's supervising physician. Medicaid has not yet issued a provider number for Dr. Gonzalez and as a result, patients with Medicaid coverage cannot have prescriptions filled and the Rucker Clinic patient census has decreased. It is expected that Medicaid will issue the provider number for Dr. Gonzalez soon.

Patients are being educated concerning Medicare Advantage Plan changes that will become effective January 1, 2025. The Advantage Plans are listing Emily Witt, FNP-C as an approved provider but she is not an approved provider. To become an approved provider, Ms. Witt would have to be approved as an Ascension Providence plan provider. Patients can continue to see Ms. Witt, but will be required to pay personally for the services. Rucker Clinic staff members are educating patients about changing from the My Blue Health Plan.

Limestone Medical Center is committed to staying in Mart and providing medical services in the community.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

The Insurance Claim Recovery Support (ICRS) representative has informed management that Chubb has agreed to send another engineer to Limestone Medical Center to re-examine the roofs. The engineer has scheduled that inspection on December 6, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Texas Department of State Health Service has granted TORCH funds to provide tele-psychiatry consultation services to Texas' rural hospital systems when patients present with mental health symptoms to hospital owned emergency departments, acute centers and outpatient clinics. This program is intended to improve access to psychiatric services in rural communities, increase response times to individuals that are in behavioral health crises and access to all with no barriers by coverage status. Services by Texas Tech psychiatry providers are for patient assessments and consultations to hospital-employed rendering providers. Patient encounters will happen within hospital owned facilities. The referral process is simplified. When a hospital employed rendering provider wants to refer a patient for consultation, a referral is created and scheduled in the TORCH telehealth application. Using the app's workflows, patients are connected to providers at the appointment date and time. Providers document assessment and a downloadable document is available in the app to the team at the place of service. Texas Tech providers will be credentialed through the Medical Staff and Board of Directors. Texas Tech providers neither bill nor provide direct care, only assessment and consultation to rendering providers.

The Chartis Center for Rural Health has announced that Limestone Medical Center has received the 2024 Performance Leadership Award for Quality. This award is based upon the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX, the Performance Leadership Awards celebrate top quartile performance (75th percentile or above) in quality outcomes and/or patient perspective. The award winners were announced publicly on Thursday, November 21, 2024 as part of National Rural Health Day.

The House Call Program that David J. Fedro, D.O. established at Limestone Medical Center continues to operate out of Rettig Family Health Care. Currently there are four nurse practitioners serving as providers for the program. Jeffrey Rettig, D.O. has assumed the role of medical director for the program in the interim. Program services will continue and management will monitor the patient census through the end of January 2025.

Mr. Price expects to meet with Mr. Bobby Reed on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 to execute the closing documents related to the purchase of the Rettig Family Health Care building and property located at 204 W. Trinity Street, Groesbeck.

Limestone Medical Center collaborates with Texas A&M University in a variety of projects. The Rural Engagement Scholarship at the College of Nursing provides \$375,000 annually to support rural nurses seeking to complete advanced nursing education. Mrs. Brandy Kennedy has applied for a scholarship and has been awarded \$12,000 for the spring and summer semesters to further her education.

The 340B profit for the month of October was \$97,902.35 and \$449,871.72 calendar year to date. The split billing savings for inpatient pharmacy services is \$89,718.

A luncheon has been scheduled for the Medical Staff to meet with Emily Wagner, M.D. on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. Mr. Larry Price met with Dr. Wagner on Monday, November 4, 2024 and she has expressed interest in Limestone Medical Center.

The Hospital will be receiving a Lucas device which is an automatic compression device. This device is being provided through state funds issued by Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council (HOTRAC). It will be added to an ambulance.

The renovations of the building located at 621 McClintic Drive are nearly completed. When completed, IT staff, Clinical Informatics staff and Medical Records Department staff will be relocated to this building. Plans are being made to begin the Laboratory renovation project on Monday, December 2, 2024. It is anticipated that this project will be completed by mid-January. The new equipment is expected to be delivered the last week of January. In addition, management will be relocating offices to accommodate pelvic floor therapies. Every effort will be made to make this move prior to the arrival of the recently purchased hi-lo treatment table.

Job offers have been made to two individuals to fill the positions of infection preventionist and Emergency Department manager/Trauma Program manager. Management will also be hiring a clinical informaticist.

The annual Christmas lighting celebration will be held Tuesday, December 10, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Mr. John Henderson, TORCH President, has informed Mr. Price that he was nominated and successfully appointed to the TORCH Board of Directors.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Directors of South Limestone Hospital District did not enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code “Consultation with Attorney”.

The Board of Directors of South Limestone Hospital District did not enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code “Deliberation Regarding Real Property”.

The Board of Directors of South Limestone Hospital District entered into Executive Session at 3:46 p.m. This closed session is held pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code “Personnel Matters”.

The Board of Directors of South Limestone Hospital District did not enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.085 of the Texas Government Code “Governing Board of Certain Providers of Health Care Services”.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

The Board of Directors adjourned from closed session at 4:16 p.m. and returned to open session. The 2024 Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal was presented to Mr. Price for review. The directors expressed their appreciation for Mr. Price and the manner in which he performs his duties. The motion was made by Mr. Wilson to approve the annual evaluation of the chief executive officer and to compensate the chief executive officer with a 9% pay increase and longevity bonus effective the payroll period beginning January 12, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mrs. O’Neal and approved.

CANCEL DECEMBER MEETING

The motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Gray and unanimously approved to cancel the December 31, 2024 meeting of the Board of Directors.

SETTING OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The next regular meeting of South Limestone Hospital District Board of Directors was set for Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Hospital’s Board Room.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

_____/s/_____
Glenda O'Neal
Secretary/Treasurer