

West Ascension Parish Hospital Service District Board Meeting

The West Ascension Parish Hospital Service District Board's regularly scheduled meeting from May 25, 2023 at 12:00 Noon.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Michel Hirsch, Dr. Glenn Schexnayder, Mr. John Marchand, Mr. Vince Cataldo.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Larry Buquoi, Ms. Loretta Larvadain, Ms. Nobie Landry, Mr. Glenn Price, Mr. Donald Price, Mr. Henry Chauvin, Ms. Alicia Falsetta

ABSENT: Mr. A. J. Gomez

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 April 27, 2023 as distributed. The minutes were accepted as individually read.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. A. J. Gomez 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 committee reports. No actions were needed.

5. OLD BUSINESS

There are still ongoing problems with nursing service shortages since December, 2020. We are struggling to fill shifts and are continuing to look for registered nurses.

Interfacing to our electronic medical records system with Dr. Nagaratna Reddy and Care South continues. Meetings with Athenahealth are now scheduled every two weeks. Data continues to be collected to meet CMS requirements.

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 is writing the specs for the first phase of the hospital renovations and improvements. He spoke of different options available and remarked at how costs for this project have risen. He estimated the cost of the project to be thirty (30) million dollars not including equipment. Specs could be completed in about two months.

There is no new information to report on the revitalization of Donaldsonville and the west bank of the parish.

CJ Electric is scheduled to do the work in the last week of May and switch to the new service on June 2, 2023. The clinic will be closed on June 2, 2023 when Entergy is scheduled to make the switch to the new service.

Ethics and Sexual Harassment training continues to be completed by board members and hospital employees. One trustee self-assessment is pending.

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. A follow up report will be given at the next regular meeting.

On February 21, 2023, The Joint Commission informed the hospital that it had received accreditation for all services surveyed effective September 16, 2022. The Joint Commission also recommended the organization for continued Medicare certification effective September 16, 2022. Prevost is working with architects, engineers and others to find a solution to complete the unfinished corrective action.

There is no new information to report on the Ascension Parish Government Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with Our Lady of the Lake Hospital, Inc.

On February 22, 2023, the hospital received a certified letter from the Sunrise Community Group (Mr. Glenn Price) requesting information/records from Prevost Hospital. The information requested was obtained 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

A third request was received by telephone message on May 11, 2023 requesting a tour of the hospital prior to a meeting. On May 12, 2023, an email was received from Mr. Price for a tour of the facility and to take photos. Mr. Cataldo forwarded this request to Attorney Larry Buquoi for review and to advise.

No information has been received from Dr. John Sparks regarding the A-Bus ultrasound machine. A follow up report will be given as information is received.

In regards to the Baton Rouge General/Louisiana Independent Hospital Network Coalition, LLC (LIHNC), Mr. Vince Cataldo contacted two hospital administrators that are members of LIHNC. Both had positive comments for the coalition. Following a discussion, Dr. Glenn Schexnayder motioned to join the LIHNC. Mr. John Marchand seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Cinnamon McKey, parish secretary, was notified of a vacancy on the hospital board of commissioners. After publication in The Donaldsonville Chief on April 13, 2023, April 20, 2023 and April 27, 2023, one west bank resident applied for the board vacancy. This applicant was interviewed by the personnel committee of the parish council. A follow up report will be given at the next regular meeting.

A pre-bid meeting was held on May 11, 2023 at 2:30 PM at the hospital for the renovation of the domestic hot water system. No contractors were present for this pre-bid meeting after contacting fourteen contractors. 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.

Ms. Nobie Landry reported that the amount approved for investment with Edward Jones was invested.

6. NEW BUSINESS

The following applications were presented to the board for reappointment to the medical staff.

PHYSICIAN	COMPANY	SPECIALTY
Darrin Breaux, M. D.	Baton Rouge Cardiology	Cardiology
Boyd E. Helm, M. D.	Baton Rouge Cardiology	Cardiology
Evans Rodney, M. D.	Baton Rouge Cardiology	Cardiology
Venkat Surakanti, M. D.	Baton Rouge Cardiology	Cardiology
Gloria Coker, M. D.	Gloria Coker, M. D.	Pathology

The applications were reviewed by the MEC at the May 16, 2023 meeting. The applications were reviewed by the board on May 25, 2023. The applications will be reviewed and approved at the next regular meetings

The MEC By-laws were sent to Mr. Larry Buquoi for review of proposed revisions. He had no objections to the revisions. The by-law revisions were posted at the hospital for 30 days. At the May 16, 2023 MEC meeting, Dr. Glenn Schexnayder motioned to approve the revised by-laws. Dr. Sumanth Punukollu seconded this motion and the

motion carried. The MEC forwarded the revised by-laws to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. Dr. Glenn Schexnayder motioned to approve the revised by-laws. Mr. John Marchand seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Alicia Falsetta gave price quotes for software upgrades for the Shimatzu x-ray unit and the Shimatzu portable x-ray machine. The cost of the upgrade for each unit would be \$5,000.00.

She expressed the need for a new digital plate. This would eliminate the sharing of the digital plate between the x-ray room and the portable machine. This would provide some redundancy. If a new digital plate is purchased, the upgrades that are necessary will be included in the price which would be \$49,500.00.

Following a discussion, Dr. Glenn Schexnayder motioned to approve the purchase of a new digital plate with the upgrades. Mr. John Marchand seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Each board member was given a handout prepared by Mr. Michael Cataldo for a microbiology analyzer. The current analyzer is nine years old. Support on this machine will be discontinued at ten years or the annual cost will increase. The two panels that are currently used will be discontinued soon. The Joint Commission (TJC) has also changed the rules since the last inspection. The upgraded equipment would eliminate a duplicate set-up for the new TJC rules. The cost of the microbiology analyzer is \$78,745.00. Following a discussion, Mr. John Marchand motioned to upgrade the microbiology analyzer. Dr. Glenn Schexnayder 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