

Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Lori Penner
Jeff Yarrow
Richard Cott

OTHER PERSONS PRESENT

Austin Gillard, CEO
Dr. John Kelley, CMO
Julie Noah, Director of Inpatient Services
Ashton Kruse, Quality Assurance/Risk Manager
Roy Palmer, Respiratory Therapy Director
Brenda Bohnenblust, Speech Therapy Director
Amy Burr, Meadowlark Hospice Director
Melissa Spellman, RHC Clinic Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Lori Penner called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lori Penner asked if there were any corrections to the board minutes from May 30, 2022. Motion made by Richard Cott, seconded by Jeff Yarrow, to approve the board minutes from the May 30, 2022. Motion carried 2-0.

AGENDA REVIEW

Kidney Dialysis

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to add

NEW BUSINESS

a. Laptops, Desktops, and Renewals

Chris Wolf presented a proposal to purchase new desktops, new laptops, and additional memory storage. These items are needed due to Windows 11 requiring newer processors (8th generation or newer). The desktops and laptops being replaced are three years old or older. A few desktops and laptops will be reused in other areas until their end of life. The proposal for 71 desktops, 21 laptops, 24 monitors, and additional memory storage will cost \$107,378.26. After discussion, motion made by Jeff Yarrow, seconded by Richard Cott, to approve the purchase of new desktops and new laptops for \$107,378.26 as presented. Motion carried 2-0.

b. Quality Projects

- Brenda Bohnenblust presented on the Speech Therapy quality improvement projects. The department continues to provide infant swallowing services for OB and Outpatients, they have implemented the International Dysphagia Diet Standardization Initiative, and they are insuring appropriate outpatient speech therapy referrals are taking place.
- Amy Burr presented on the Meadowlark Hospice quality improvement projects. Over the last 12 months of CAHPS surveys, the department has an overall positive rating of 92% and a likelihood to recommend rating of 93% definitely yes. Meadowlark has moved to a new pharmacy called Enclara. They continue to monitor the medication cost per day, per hospice patient. Their QAPI plan is designed to address areas of concern from the CAHPS survey.
- Melissa Spellman presented the Rural Health Clinic quality improvement projects. They now have a very good process and procedure in place for all Coumadin patients, clinic registration is now scanning in the driver's license of patients for address verification, a plan is in place if we need to move into the CCFP Suite again for infectious patients, and they are working on adequate supplies the clinic basement supply room.

- c. HCAHPS & Improvements
Ashton Kruse and Julie Noah presented our recent HCAHPS scores. We continue to focus on our patient discharge process by scheduling follow-up appointments prior to the patient being discharged. A follow-up phone call from our Social Worker or Discharge Planner to the patient within 24-48 hours after discharge is now taking place as well. During the phone call, we are addressing questions about their care, helping to identify any additional care needs, etc.
- d. COVID-19 Update
Dr. John Kelley gave an update about COVID-19 numbers in the region, COVID-19 vaccines, and our new facility wide COVID-19 policy relating to masking. Starting in July 2022, we will only provide COVID-19 vaccines to inpatients, if requested. All outpatient COVID-19 vaccines will be directed to the Health Department and local pharmacies.
- e. Cardiac Monitor for Surgery
Austin Gillard presented a quote for a new cardiac monitor for Surgery. This Nihon Kohden Monitor with Nellcor SPO2 will cost \$5,508.34. This unit will allow our surgery team to do EKG's and monitor after cardioversions more effectively. Currently, the surgery team borrows a monitor from Med/Surg, but have run into conflicts when it is needed in Med/Surg. After discussion, motion made by Richard Cott, seconded by Jeff Yarrow, to approve the purchase of a new Nihon Kohden Monitor with Nellcor SPO2 for a cost of \$5,508.34 as presented. Motion carried 2-0.
- f. Kidney Dialysis
Lori Penner received a call regarding the dialysis conversations the board has had over the last eight months. The caller was in favor and felt this would be a very beneficial service to the community.

AUSTIN GILLARD, CEO

- a. Chronic Care Management
We now have 404 patients enrolled.
- b. Senior Life Solutions
We have started the demo process of the main therapy conference room for Senior Life Solutions. Austin Gillard and Jessica Badsky are working through the 'to do list' that Senior Life Solutions provided. This new program will start in November 2022.
- c. Dialysis
Austin Gillard and Steve Gurney met with Brandon Gibson last week to review the White House and the Assisted Living portion of Advena Living of Clay Center. Both locations would be viable options, but the remodel costs might be cost prohibitive. We also discussed a Wardcraft home and a Morton building. Austin sent the dialysis design plans to Wardcraft and Morton for their review.
- d. Medicare Sequestration
During the first quarter of 2022, there was not sequestration, the second quarter we moved to 1% sequestration, and for the third and fourth quarter there will be 2% sequestration. For 2023, sequestration will increase by 4% to a total of 6% on January 1, 2023 without congressional action. As a Critical Access Hospital, Medicare Sequestration hurts us as we now only receive 99% of our cost to treat Medicare patients. If it moves to 6%, the viability of hospitals in rural America is not sustainable due to the majority of our patients being Medicare.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Upcoming board meeting: June 27, 2022 at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Austin M. Gillard