

**TAOS HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 26, 2023**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Lucille Gallegos, Xahra Gilbert, Cristina Martinez, Don Mooney, Paul Sands, Menice Santistevan, Jonathan Moran, MD, Lynn Skall, and Chris Stagg

**Members Absent:** Carl Gilmore, Cipry Jaramillo, MD, Peter Selzer, MD, and Trinidad de Jesus Arguello

**Administration:** James Kiser, Connie Prewitt, Sue Romansky, Renee Laughlin, Rob Stultz, Brittany Lamendola and Dayna Duran

**Guests:**

- I. **Call to Order** - Holy Cross Hospital, a division of the Taos Health Systems, Inc., Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, 2023, by Paul Sands, Board Chair. Attendance was recorded and a quorum was present.
- II. **Approval of Agenda** - The agenda was presented for review and approval. Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- III. **Public Comments** – There were no public comments presented.
- IV. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest** - There were no conflicts of interest reported.
- V. **Approval of the March 29, 2023 Taos Health Systems (THS) Board Minutes** - Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the March 29, 2023 THS Board Minutes as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- VI. **Lifewings Quality & Safety Council Report – Brittany Lamendola, CNO** - March 2023 – Brittany Lamendola, CNO, VP of Patient Care Services

- Lifewings Quality & Safety Council Report – March 2023 – March S & Q Card

Quality Report

- Overall hospital rating score decreased to 72.20%.
- Left without being seen increased to 3.30%.
- Inpatient Readmission Rate decreased to 3.17%.
- Patient Satisfaction: Communication w/Doctors decreased to 80.70%.
- Patient Satisfaction: Communication w/Nurses decreased to 80.70%.
- Patient Satisfaction: Instructions for Care at Home increased to 88.20%.
- Survey return numbers:
  - Outpatient – 97
  - Inpatient – 19
  - ER – 45
  - Ambulatory Surgery – 45

Following review and discussion, motion was made and seconded to accept the Lifewings Quality & Safety Council Report as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried.

- DNV Update/Findings
  - 3 NC-1s (we submit evidence we corrected the issue)

- 3 NC-2s (a lower level of concern than the NC-1s)

We will receive the official report no later than 1 week from tomorrow. After which, we will submit our corrective action plan in 10 calendar days.

VII. **Finance Report** – Connie Prewitt, Interim CFO

- March 2023 Financial Statements – Connie Prewitt, Interim CFO, presented the March 2023 financials for review and acceptance. (Refer to CFO's Narrative Report).

Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the March 2023 financials as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried.

- Approval of Physician Employment Agreement Tiziano Scarabelli, MD – (Cardiology) – Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the agreement as presented by Administration. All were in favor and motion carried. The agreement was reviewed by legal.
- Approval of Physician Employment Agreement (Renewal) for Michael Darnell, MD – (Surgery) - Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the agreement as presented by Administration. All were in favor and the motion carried. The agreement was reviewed by legal.

VIII. **CEO Report** – James Kiser reported on the following:

A. CEO Report

- HR Update – Rob gave an update on Team Taos and hard to recruit efforts. He asked the board to continue to help to recruit locally. Rob and James attended the joint Town Council/County Commissioner meeting and presented the Team Taos efforts.

HCH has hired seven RN's. One of them is a rehire. Have converted four travelers to full-time employees and have hired one new grad. Had 60 travelers and now have 41. Going to visit with the UNM Taos graduating class and hope to recruit all 14 of them. James and Rob will be attending a meeting this evening at UNM in hopes to encourage students to go into the medical field. HR is also planning to go the High Schools to speak to the students about going into medical careers. Rob shared a copy of a letter and flyer that will be going to the nurses who use to work here and hope they will consider coming back.

Patient Transport Summary – James reported that Cardiac is our number one medical transfers. Working on exploring Cardiosolutions regarding the possibility of setting up a Cath Lab. More to come. James shared data from Air Methods regarding our increase in air transports. Air Methods is also working with the Taos County Ambulance regarding a solution. Brittany gave a brief update on the patient transfers in March. We had about 17 peds transports.

- Access to Data: Meditech Expanse (portal, site visits) EPIC (Dr. Jaramillo as COS)
- We are exploring a Rural Health Clinic Opportunity.
- Board Strategic Planning – Saturday, July 8, 2023 at the Don Fernando Hotel.
- NMHA Strategic Planning – June 21-23, 2023 at the Tamaya Resort in Bernalillo. Let Lenora know if you are interested in attending.
- Board Nominating Committee – Lucille reported that we have five solid candidates. The committee will be interviewing the five candidates on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We have two slots open this year.
- Brittany reported that our COVID prevalence is high, CDC guidelines: We have required masking again in direct patient care areas.

- Updated the board on the Annual Diabetes Advisory Committee: Met with our Endocrinologist: Dr. Friedman and Robert Russel Donor, regarding the diabetes program.
- Landscaping Update – We have engaged Rocky Mountain Youth Corps to do the HCH landscaping project. We have hired Geiko to do the landscaping plan.
- Met with Commissioner Miguel Romero last week and hope to get a lunch meeting scheduled with Commissioner Ron Mascarenas soon.
- Updated the board on the ROAMS future grant funding.
- Budget - Connie is working on the FY24 Budget with the Leadership Team.
- IT Update - Renee – Still exploring the Expanse System. We are hoping to get a demo scheduled. Updated the board on our badge access system; we are on our way to implement the new system. Implementing a cost savings process and inventorying all the IT equipment in the hospital.
- Risk Management Update – Renee to give an update the board next month.

B. Medical Staff Report – Sue Romansky, VP of Physician Practices, reported on the following:

- Cardiology – Dr. Scarabelli is very interested in the position and hope he will sign the contract. He is inquiring about housing, schools and hope he will come on board. His wife is also a Cardiology NP who may also be interested in working in Taos. There is also one other Cardiologist who may be interested on a part time basis.
- Pediatrics – Dr. Gelfand has tendered her resignation. Her last day is end of July. She will be moving closer to family. Sue will be starting to recruitment efforts for another Pediatrician.
- FPOB – Had a candidate here (Dr. Taylor) and he has decided not to come. We will continue to pursue recruiting for FPOB's. Hope to get another FPOB in order to get appropriate coverage in the community.
- Concord Radiology – Still on track with Concord to provide radiology services at HCH.
- Hospitalist – Dr. Ngole has resigned due to medical reasons. We will be recruiting for another Hospitalist.
- Wound Care Director – Doug Kast, NP has stepped down as the Wound Care Manager. Sari Peterson, NP, has taken the new manager role.
- Endocrinologist – Sue spoke to an Endocrinologist today and hopes this may be a service we may want to look at in the community.
- Primary Care – There is a big need in the community. Looking at other potential office space to house our clinical services.
- Lynn Skall shared her husband's experience with the Imaging Department. Sue to follow-up with Lynn on the details. James and Sue asked the board members to share any issues they may have with HCH as this is the only way we can fix what is broken. Menice and Xahra shared their positive experiences with the Imaging Department. Sue mentioned that they will be getting a lead person in the imaging scheduling to take care of the processes in the Imaging Dept. which should improve the flow and processes in the department.
- GRT Campaign – James has met with our Marketing team to work on a campaign plan for the upcoming GRT request.

IX. **Ovation Healthcare Report** – Eric Jones, Ovation Healthcare, AVP – No report.

X. **Medical Staff Recommendations – Dr. Moran on behalf of Cipry Jaramillo, MD, COS**

- Credentialing – A motion was made and seconded to accept the Medical Staff recommendations to the Board for privileges and memberships as listed below. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**INITIAL APPOINTMENTS:**

- **Hewitt, Brigitt CRNA (Locum)** – Appointment in the Surgery and Anesthesia Department.
- **Krause, Heather MD (Emergency Medicine)** – Appointment in the Emergency Medicine Department.

**REAPPOINTMENTS:**

- **Lucero, Stephen MD (Urology)** – Reappointment in the Surgery and Anesthesia Department.
- **Hussein, Omar MD (Teleneurology)** – Reappointment in the Pediatrics and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Torbey, Michael MD (Teleneurology)** – Reappointment in the Pediatrics and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Girotra, Tarun MD (Teleneurology)** – Reappointment in the Pediatrics and Adult Medicine Department.

XI. **New Business**

Nominating Committee Report – Lucille Gallegos presented an update on the Nominating Committee under item VIII., CEO Report.

XII. **Old Business**

Strategic Planning has been confirmed for July 8, 2023 at the Don Fernando Hotel. Discussion was held regarding what other community leadership should be invited to attend the Strategic Planning Meeting.

XIII. **Executive Session**

- a) A motion was made and seconded at 4:20 p.m. to enter into Executive Session discuss legally protected matters. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- b) A motion was made and seconded to reconvene into open session at 4:40 p.m. All were in favor and the motion carried.

- XIV. **Adjournment** - There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 p.m. All were in favor and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Lenora Cisneros Approved by: Menice B. Santistevan  
Lenora Cisneros, Recorder Menice Santistevan, Secretary