

TAOS HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
September 25, 2023
2:00 p.m.

Present: Abe Balsamo, Robyn Chavez, Lucille Gallegos, Cipry Jaramillo, MD, Cristina Martinez, Paul Sands, Peter Selzer, MD, Lynn Skall, Chris Stagg,

Members Absent: Carl Gilmore, Don Mooney, and Trinidad de Jesus Arguello

Administration: James Kiser, Connie Prewitt, Sue Romansky, Brittany Lamendola, Vivian Santistevan and Mitsy Carruth

Guests: Wanda White, Ovation Healthcare, Jeannie Ross, and Dayna Duran

- I. **Call to Order** - Holy Cross Hospital, a division of the Taos Health Systems, Inc., Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 25, 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 August 30, 2023 Taos Health Systems (THS) Board Minutes** - Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the August 30, 2023 THS Board Minutes as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- VI. **Outreach Department Presentation – Jeannie Ross, Outreach Director-** Jeannie presented on the four community Health Services Departments under the umbrella of the Hospital Outreach Department:
 - **First Steps**
 - Served 190 families and 157 Children
 - 1,993 Home visits
 - 1,939 Referrals made to community organizations to meet clients' needs for additional supportive services.
 - Funded by the Early Childhood Education and Care Program.
 - Contract award was \$576,500 to serve families in English and Spanish.
 - Donation totaling \$20,000.
 - **Children's Trust Fund**
 - Served 124 families with 175 children
 - 16 Parenting class series
 - 2 Support groups
 - Funded by the Children Youth, and Families Department: Child Protective Services Div.
 - Contract Award: \$90,000
 - **Benefit Navigation Program**
 - Completed 316 Medicaid and 45 Medicare enrollments.
 - Completed 213 BeWell NM Health Exchange enrollments
 - Conducted 364 education appointments.

- Funded by the NM Primary Care Assoc. with a matching grant totaling \$85,115.10.
- Funded by BeWell NM Health Exchange with a grant totaling \$96,074.
- **Taos Alive**
 - Served 2,075 students with Botvins Life Skills classes in five schools.
 - Supported 27 mentees.
 - Distributed 524 boxes of Narcan.
 - Gave 26 Adverse Childhood Experiences presentations to 326 professionals and community members.
 - Referred 20 students to local businesses for work opportunities.
 - HIDTA Funding of \$220,000.
 - National Assoc. of County and City Health Officials \$227,088.
 - Congressional Directed Spending from Senator Martin Heinrich via the Office of National Drug Control Policy \$86,000.
 - Three Workgroups (School Wellness, Alcohol, and Substance Misuse).
- **Taos Cancer Support Services**
 - Served 150 clients.
 - 1,086 office visits.
 - FY23 total earnings of \$111,437.
 - Fundraising
 - Paint Taos Pink - \$34,269.
 - For the Health of It - \$45,961.

VII. **Lifewings Quality & Safety Council Report – Misty Carruth, Quality Director** - August 2023

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

Quality Report

- Overall hospital rating score decreased to 65.22%.
- Left without being seen decreased to 3.40%.
- Inpatient Readmission Rate increased to 5.60%.
- Patient Satisfaction: Communication w/Doctors decreased to 76.48%.
- Patient Satisfaction: Communication w/Nurses decreased to 82.41%.
- Patient Satisfaction: Instructions for Care at Home decreased to 81.00%.
- Survey return numbers:
 - Outpatient – 169
 - Inpatient – 23
 - ER – 66
 - Ambulatory Surgery – 41
 - Scorecard Response Rates – 14.6%

Patient Experience Updates

- PGFusion training for Leadership Team
- August response rate = 14.6%
- 2939 Sent, 251 Returned, 532 Undeliverable (working with Registration and clinics)

Social Drivers of Health

- Housing
- Food
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Abuse

Health Equity (Mandatory Reporting for 2023)

- Equity is a Strategic Priority
- Data Collection

- Data Analysis
- Quality Improvement
- Leadership Engagement

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.

VIII. **Finance Report** – Connie Prewitt, CFO

- August 2023 Financial Statements – Connie Prewitt, CFO, presented the August 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 August 2023 financials as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Approval of Physician Employment Agreement for Adam Spring, MD (Hospitalist) – Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the employment agreement as presented by Administration. All were in favor and motion carried.

IX. **CNO Report** – Brittany Lamendola, CNO reported on the following:

- The volumes in the OR have declined partly due to one of the Orthopedic physicians out.
- The ER saw 1,130 patients in August. There was a 5-6% drop in patient transfers.
- The Competency Carnival is coming up in October.
- Carl Gilmore and Brittany presented an update on their meeting with a ground transfer group who are interested in providing the service in Taos.

X. **HR Report** - Vivian Santistevan, CHRO reported on the following:

- Presented the HCMC Employee Stats.
- HR Update:
 - Hired five more nurses under Team Taos initiative, which brings us to a total of 23.
 - Position vacancy rates have decreased significantly in Nursing.
 - Voter Registration events have begun.
 - In person New Employee Orientation occurred on Sept. 11th.

XI. **Medical Staff Report** – Susan Romansky, COO reported on the following:

- **Cardiology** - Dr. Tiziano Scarabelli started August 21st. Carol Chen-Scarabelli, NP to join us October 30th.
 - New echo tech Michael started and recruiting for a second echo tech.
 - Considering a second echo machine to keep up with the volume.
 - Looking at a second Echo station for remote reading in the clinic.
- **Surgery** – Dr. Robert Brown withdrew 8/21/23, citing that he was unable to fine the appropriate school support for his special needs child.

We are actively recruiting again. So far, I have made calls to the following:

- Dr. Nizzi might be interested, he is a friend of Dr. Slikkers. Has a high school age daughter that is holding him back from moving. We are suggesting doing 10 days a month until he could move full time.
- Dr. Silk – Practicing in upstate NY moving to Santa Fe and wants to work 10 days a month.
- Dr. Singleton - Currently practicing in Alabama waiting for a call back.
- Dr. Gold – Might be a great fit, he is not able to start until spring of 2024.

- **Pediatrics**

- Dr. Patterson is providing locum coverage for the clinic.
- Dr. Cynthia West experienced pediatrician is scheduled for an onsite interview in September 18th . Currently in Oklahoma and wanting to make a move.
- Morgan Verkuilen – NP program, starts September 5th.
- Dr. Jeremy Hassan - Pediatrician is also showing interest.
- Hospital call is being covered by locums, Rembecki, Mullen, Williams, Weinstein, Webb, Lujan, Mannheimer and Leshchiner.

- **OB/GYN/FPOB**

- Dr. Moore has given his official date of retirement as October 1st. Reception held on the Sept. 21st .
- Dr. Smith is starting October 16th. She has already met with the WHI medical staff and the dynamic is very positive. She and Dr. Singh will be co-medical directors of the clinic for six months and then Casey will be taking on the responsibility.

- **Hospitalist**

- Dr. Adam Spring, Hospitalist has been working in CAH in Whitefish Montana, interviewed 8/22 and has accepted an offer. He will start in January.
- We are also working with Dr. Nesh to see if he would be interested in employment verses independent contractor.
- Dr. Bassat one of our independent contractors is also interested in working here more.

- **ED**

- We added three PRN NPs in the ED
 - Melissa Tingue, NP, started and training is complete.
 - Lisa Spero, NP starts October 2nd .
 - Staci West, waiting for credentialing to be completed.
- Dr. Townley, independent contractor has signed her offer as an independent contractor. She will be moving to Taos this fall and wants to start as PRN. Currently working in Phoenix and Flagstaff

- **Radiology** – recruiting for local radiologist- no applicants yet.

- **Primary Care** –

- Dr. Mary Jo Young's start was delayed due to licensing; she is scheduled for October 2nd.
- Interviewed several candidates.
- Dr. Robert Whipple primary care doctor has started his own clinic previously but wants to get out of Las Vegas.
- Our limiting factor is office space; we have outgrown our current location. We looked at an office building on Salazar that is being converted to a medical office. The space would be able to house six plus practitioners. We may be able to combine Primary Care and Cardiology and others.

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

- NMRHN, NMHA Legislators, Media: Saving Rural Healthcare
- GRT: EHR, Med. Equip. Facilities (All Staff meetings, next week; Vivian arranging voting registration)
- UNM-Taos Strategic Planning; Luis Reyes wearing 'Team Taos' lanyard

- Radio Talk Shows (Dr. Jaramillo, Oct.)
- Contract Labor; Travelers: Cost overruns, vs. Budget; Dr. Brown, but Ortho.
- James completed his one-year anniversary.
- Strategic Plan: Stakeholder Interview sessions, great turnout from Business Leaders, Community Members
- Chemotherapy Update
- Capital Outlay - (UNM-Taos to develop all of us, workers) CDL certification for Kit Carson, healthcare professionals, in addition to Nursing.
- HRO; pursue as Patient (and Staff) Safety
- Foundation, GRT election 5 weeks away;
- Dr. Adam Spring; reference, Flathead, my former CMO
- SB-7 Ambulance pursuing; Staffing, Can sustain with distant transfers.
- ROAMs sustainability; Hilton Foundation, HRSA, 1 year (Maternal Health) partnering Christus St. V's; El Centro, Las Vegas, will not pursue.
- Trinidad; Grant Writer (Mental Health) update on incarceration
- MEC, Stakeholder Meeting: More Specialty Care: GI, ENT, Psychiatrist, Neurology, CME for Med. Staff (Dr. Jaramillo); Build Relations with El Centro FQCHC and Nursing Home.

XIII. **Ovation Healthcare Report** – Wanda Wright , Ovation Healthcare, AVP – Wanda reported on the following:

- Commended Blake and Ginnie for their great work with the Stakeholder meetings.
- Reported about the changes in the insurance plans.

XIV. **Medical Staff Recommendations – 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:

- **Bolton, Robert MD (Locum – Pediatric Hospitalist)** - Appointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine.
- **Barkley, Ariana MD (Teleneuro)** - Appointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Bostos, James MD (Teleneuro)** - Appointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Kogan, Michael MD (Teleneuro)** - Appointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Cole, Chad MD (Teleneuro)** - Appointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Ninneman, Alexandra MD (Hospitalist)** - Appointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Scarabelli, Tiziano MD (Cardiology)** - Appointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Chen-Scarabelli, Carol CNP (Cardiologist)** - Appointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Tingue, Melissa CNP (Emergency Medicine)** - Requesting appointment in the Emergency Medicine Department.

REAPPOINTMENTS:

- **Guillory, Tesha MD (Pathology)** – Reappointment in the Surgery & Anesthesia and Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Smith, Theresa MD (Pathology)** – Reappointment in the Surgery & Anesthesia and Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Singh, Rameet MD (OBGYN)** – Reappointment in the Surgery & Anesthesia and Perinatal Department.

XV. **New Business**

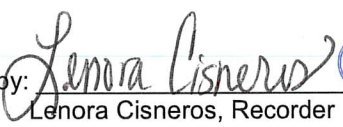
- **December Board Meeting Date** – The consensus of the board is to schedule the December Board Meeting on December 6th.


XVI. **Old Business**

XVII. **Executive Session**

- a) A motion was made and seconded at 4:16 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 5:00 p.m. All were in favor and the motion carried.

- XVIII. **Adjournment** - There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 p.m. All were in favor and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: 
Lenora Cisneros, Recorder

Approved by: 
Cristina Martinez, Secretary