

**TAOS HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**December 6, 2023**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Trinidad de Jesus Arguello, Abe Balsamo, Robyn Chavez, Lucille Gallegos, Carl Gilmore, Cipry Jaramillo, MD, Cristina Martinez, Don Mooney, Paul Sands, Peter Selzer, MD, Lynn Skall, Chris Stagg

**Members Absent:**

**Administration:** James Kiser, Connie Prewitt, Sue Romansky, Vivian Santistevan, Mitsy Carruth, and Mercedes Burns

**Guests:** Eric Jones, Blake Seitz, Ginnie Berg - Ovation Healthcare, State Representative Bobby Gonzales, Bob Romero, Taos County Commissioner, Larry Naples, Taos Chamber of Commerce, and Dayna Duran, HCMC Controller.

- 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, December 6, 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. **Approval of the October 25, 2023 Taos Health Systems (THS) Board Minutes** - Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the October 25, 2023 THS Board Minutes as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- IV. **Public Comments** – There were no public comments presented.
- V. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest** - There were no conflicts of interest reported.
- VI. **Review and approval of the Draft HCMC Strategic Plan – Blake Seitz & Ginnie Berg, Ovation Healthcare** – Mr. Seitz and Ginnie Berg presented the Draft Strategic Plan (copy attached to minutes). They also presented the Health Equity Plan which aggregates all the health equity and social drivers of health strategies which is based on the new CMS requirements. Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the Health Equity Plan with the mental health working change. All were in favor and the motion carried. The HCMC Strategic Plan will be presented for final approval at the January 2024 Board Meeting.
- VII. **Finance Report** – Connie Prewitt, CFO
  - **October 2023 Financial Statements** – Connie Prewitt, CFO, presented the October 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 October 2023 financials as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**Leadership Risk Based Compensation Program** – Connie reviewed the FY23 Compensation program and reported that the main trigger for days of cash on hand was not met. Also, four of the five metrics was not met as well. Therefore, there was no Risk Based Compensation for FY23 paid out to leaders. Connie presented the FY24 Risk Based Compensation metrics for their review and approval. Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the

FY24 Risk Based Compensation program as presented by Administration. All were in favor and motion carried.

VIII. **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

- Risk Management Q3 2023 - Renee Laughlin, VP Risk Mgmt./Compliance
- 2023 November Compliance Program Update – Renee Laughlin, VP Risk Mgmt./Compliance

Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried.

IX. **Lifewings Quality & Safety Council Report – Misty Carruth, Quality Director** - October 2023

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

Quality Report

- Overall hospital rating score decreased to 76.47%.
- Left without being seen decreased to 2.30%.
- Inpatient Readmission Rate increased to 2.27%.
- Patient Satisfaction: Communication w/Doctors decreased to 84.31%.
- Patient Satisfaction: Communication w/Nurses increased to 88.24%.
- Patient Satisfaction: Instructions for Care at Home increased to 100%.
- Survey return numbers:
  - Outpatient – 156
  - Inpatient – 15
  - ER – 46
  - Ambulatory Surgery – 54
  - Scorecard Response Rates – 14.20%

Patient Experience Updates

- October response rate = 15.2%
- 3,244 Sent, 404 Returned, 590 Undeliverable
- Solution Starters being rolled out to all staff in areas that we struggle in on the Star Rating.

Misty reported that in order to improve the hospital star rating, we will implement hospital-wide education tool to include the question “Would you recommend this hospital to family and friends?”

Health Equity CMS Measure (Quarterly reporting) – Measures that we will start up on December 31<sup>st</sup> (to be reported to the board on a quarterly basis)

- 2023 Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI) Reported to NHSN
  - 1.0 (White) 1.0 (Hispanic/Latino) - October 2023
- 2023 Gastrointestinal Infections (GI) Clostridium Difficile Reported to NHSN
  - 1.0 (Hispanic/Latino) 1.0 (White) - September 2023
- 2023 Surgical Site Infections (Colon/Hysterectomy) Central Line Assoc. Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI) Methicillin Resistant Staph. Aureus Infections (MRSA) Reported to NHSN
  - No Report
- 2023/2024 Flu Vaccination Given for Inpatients >65 Years
  - 3.0 (White) 3.0 (Non-Hispanic/Latino) - October 2023
- 2023/2024 Flu Vaccination Refused/unknown Status for Inpatients >65 years
  - 5.0 (White) 1.0 (Hispanic/Latino) 4.0 (Non-Hispanic/Latino)

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

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

- Presented the HCMC Employee Stats.
- HR Update:
  - Team Taos initiative remains steady at 24 hires with several offers in the works.
  - HR Policy redo are about 60% complete.
  - Leadership training will begin in January 2024.
  - GRT voting initiative was evident in our Yes Votes.
  - Veterans Day lunch was a total success. 65 Veterans were served. CEO and CHRO personally handed out Veteran Day cards with a "day off" to our Veteran employees.

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

**Surgery**

- On site interview took place on December 4<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Douglas Cook. He has been practicing since 2006 and is a very strong surgeon. He currently covers call for two CAH and understands limited resources. He was almost the perfect fit but he didn't share the same vision for the laparoscopic and da Vinci program that our other two surgeons are building.
- Vetting three other general surgeons Dr. Gold, Dr. Devereux and Dr. Malit.
- Looking for an APC to assist with TSS/Urology.

**Pediatrics**

- Dr. Leshchiner locums from Albuquerque started in November. She is providing call coverage two weeks a month starting in January may also provide same day sick coverage at TCCY. She is also interested in employment. Sue will be meeting with her next month.
- Dr. Robles scheduling a site visit in January. He is currently working in Phoenix, Arizona.
- Dr. Carter signed on as an independent contractor. She will be working a week each month covering call starting in January. Sue will be meeting with her about converting to permanent status. She is finishing a fellowship at UNM.
- Dr. Krist is interviewing on site January 8<sup>th</sup>. He has spent most of his career in the southeast but eager to relocate to the rocky mountain region. Currently in Mississippi. Working since 2019 to present (24 yrs). Very used to working in rural communities and taking call.
- Dr. Wallig is currently finishing her residency at UNM and will graduate this Spring. She is scheduled to be on site January 15<sup>th</sup> for an interview.

**OB/GYN/FPOB**

- No changes in OB/GYN/FPOB this month.

**Hospitalist**

- Dr. Adam Spring, Hospitalist has been working in a CAH in Whitefish, Montana. He interviewed on 8/22 and has accepted an offer. He will start in January.

**ED**

- Dr. Townley starts as an independent Contractor in January.

**Radiology** - Recruiting for local Radiologist - no applicants yet.



## Primary Care

- Waiting for SB7 funding to renovate office space.
- In conversation with several doctors and NPs. Waiting to move forward until we have office space we can commit to for primary care.

Oncology – Met a second time with St Vincent's this month and are schedule to meet a third time with Presbyterian in January. To be a good partner with either group Senior Leadership decided we had to have additional information. One item needed is market data that would show us the number of patients we could potentially serve with this service and secondly what are the true startup costs. Connie is working patient numbers and Sue is working on startup cost. We have engaged architect Doug Patterson to help us with this project. He will provide us with a preliminary plan in the next month.

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

- Capital Outlay – Discussion was held around concerns regarding state vs. the federal capital outlay. James mentioned that the County Manager has informed him that they will have to pass a resolution to allow the hospital to go forward.
- GRT Funds available from County until 9/1/24.
- Commissioner Bob Romero and Senator Bobby Gonzales spoke on GRT. The board thanked both Mr. Romero and Mr. Gonzales for all their hard work on the GRT.
- Cerner will be here next week to do their demo.
- A free holiday meal for staff will be served on December 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The Annual Medical Staff Meeting is scheduled for next week.

## XIII. **Ovation Healthcare Report** – Eric Jones, Ovation Healthcare, AVP – Mr. Jones reported on the following:

### Advisory Services Board Report

- GPO/HealthTrust Purchasing Compliance
  - Trending Scorecard Report – Period Ending: 7/31/23 - 6-month Average is 83.3%
- Annual GPO Savings & Rebate Review – Savings of \$1,034,441 in 2022.
- Ovation Consulting Support
  - Planning in 2024
    - ❖ High Reliability Organization Quality/Patient Experience/Safety
    - ❖ FY2024 Medicare Cost Report Review
    - ❖ Vantage Workforce Efficiency (Refresh)
    - ❖ Master Facilities Planning
- Economic Benefit of Hospitals on your Community
  - Impact of Community Hospitals on US Jobs
  - National Perspective
  - NM Statistics – NM Hospitals represent 10.66% of total employment. For every \$1 spent by a NM hospital, \$1.60 in additional business activity.
- 2024 Leadership Conference
  - February 20-22 – Austin, TX

## 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:

### Locums

- Jeffrey Stevens, MD (Radiology) – Appointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- Raleigh Johnson, MD (Radiology) – Appointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- Mir Zulfiquar Alikkhan, MD (Radiology) – Appointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- Christian Ricks, MD (Tele Neurosurgeon) - Appointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- Anish Deshmukh, MD (Tele Neurlogy) - Appointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.

## REAPPOINTMENTS:

- Maryam Hosseini-Farahabadi, MD (TeleNeuro) – Reappointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- Farid Radmannesh, MD (TeleNeuro) – Reappointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- Masoom Desain, MD (TeleNeuro) - Reappointment in the Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.

### XV. New Business

### XVI. Old Business

### XVII. Executive Session

- a) A motion was made and seconded at 4:10 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 5:10 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 5:11 p.m. All were in favor and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Lenora Cisneros, Recorder

Approved by:

  
Cristina Martinez, Secretary