

TAOS HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
April 30, 2025
2:00 p.m.

Present: Trinidad de Jesus Arguello, Abe Balsamo, Andrew Chavez, Robyn Chavez, Lucille Gallegos, Eileen Lujan, Cristina Martinez, Jonathan Moran, DO, Don Mooney, Paul Sands, Peter Selzer, MD, and Chris Stagg

Members Absent: Carl Gilmore

Hospital Staff: James Kiser, Connie Prewitt, Sue Romansky, Vivian Santistevan, Brittany Hamilton, Margaret Lynch, Lenora Cisneros, Mercedes Burns, Jeannie Ross

Guests: Eric Jones, Kylie Lattimore, Ovation Healthcare, Cindy Brown, Taos News, Daniel Cordova, Taos County Democratic Chairman

Call to Order - Holy Cross Hospital, a division of the Taos Health Systems, Inc., Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m., Wednesday, April 30, 2025, by Paul Sands, Board Chair. Attendance was recorded and a quorum was present.

- I. **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.
- II. **Approval of the March 12, 2025 Taos Health Systems (THS) Board Minutes** - Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the March 12, THS Board Minutes as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- III. **Public Comments** – Mr. Daniel Cordova, Taos County Democratic Chairman introduced himself and expressed support for the hospital and any community efforts needed. Ms. Sue Brown, freelance writer for the Taos News introduced herself and reported that she was attending the meeting to cover the hospital board meeting for the next few meetings to learn more about the hospital.

Mr. Kiser acknowledged Mr. Paul Sand's retirement from Edward Jones and reported that he, Lucille, and her spouse had attended a reception in his honor the night before. Mr. Kiser also thanked him for his years of service at Holy Cross Hospital.

IV. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest** – There were no conflicts of interest presented.

V. **Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) – Kylie Lattimore and Jeannie Ross** – Ms. Kylie Lattimore from Ovation Healthcare introduced herself and provided an overview of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). She reported that the CHNA is conducted every three years and involves community surveys, secondary data analysis, and an implementation plan.

The top health priorities identified by the community include mental health, access to local healthcare services, and cancer support. The board discussed the need for more mental health providers and the challenges of accessing services. The board emphasized the importance of community partnerships and outreach to address health priorities.

Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the Community Health Needs Assessment as amended to add the UNM Rural Psychiatric Residency Program resource to the community partners under the Mental Health section. All were in favor and the motion carried.

VI. **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

- CNO Report
- CAPS Report
- COS Report
- CHRO Report

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.

VII. **Lifewings Quality & Safety Council Report** – Misty Carruth, Director of Quality, Risk & Compliance

- Lifewings Quality & Safety Council Report – April 2025

Ms. Carruth presented the quality and patient satisfaction update for March. She highlighted the improvements in inpatient satisfaction and communication with doctors. Ms. Carruth shared positive patient comments and areas for improvement in patient care.

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.

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

- March 2025 Financial Statements – Ms. Prewitt, CFO, presented the March 2025 financials for review and acceptance. (Refer to CFO's Narrative Report).
- Approval of Capital Request – Ms. Connie Prewitt presented the request to purchase a used truck for the facilities department. Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the request as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried. Ms. Prewitt reported that she will bring back the truck specifics back to the board and/or James will present it to the Board Executive Committee.

Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the January 2025 Financial Report as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried.

IX. **CEO Report** - Mr. James Kiser reported on the following:

- Strategic Plan Update
 - Reported on the progress of the Strategic Plan focusing on workforce, medical staff and community engagement and future goals.
 - Chemotherapy Services and the potential for additional revenue through a new service line. and Fundraising
 - Orthopedic Service Line Growth

- Collaboration and Contracting with insurance providers.
- Importance of maintaining good relationships with large employers like the county, town, and school district.
- Discussed the importance of philanthropy and community support for funding future projects. The board plans to explore various funding options, including federal and state grants, to support the new facility and other initiatives.
- Mr. Kiser discussed the need for better ground transport services and better transport services in areas without ambulances.
- Reported on the importance of having an electronic record to improve data-driven decisions in healthcare.
- Highlighted the social determinant health issue of transportation in the community.
- Discussed the need for infrastructure to ensure long-term sustainability and the prioritization of medical equipment replacement.
- Primary Care Physicians and Community Impact.
- Updated the board on the MOB and land transfer.
- Ms. Margaret Lynch updated the board on the EMR. The go live date is June 2026.
- Workforce: Recruitment of staff continues to progress positively with the efforts of the HR team and the Directors. The use of travelers continues to decline. Ms. Vivian Santistevan has led four Leadership Boot camps and is looking at hosting our very own job fair. Mr. Kiser also mentioned that Administration continues to have a great relationship with the Union.
- Medical Staff Recruitment: Mr. Kiser reported that Ms. Sue Romansky has done an outstanding job in recruiting physicians. Ms. Romansky reported that with the addition of new Primary Care physicians to the community, this will have a potential impact on reducing patients from coming to the emergency department. She also mentioned that most of the 650 new patients that were on a waiting list to get in to the primary care clinic have been scheduled appointments with our new providers.

X. **Medical Staff Recommendations – Jonathan Moran, DO, Chief of Staff**

Initial Appointments:

- **Mixon, Joel, MD (Telerad)** - Appointment in Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Sarver, David MD (Telerad)** - Appointment in Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.

Reappointments:

- **Girotra, Tarun, MD (TeleNeuro)** - Re-appointment in Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Hussein, Omar, MD (TeleNeuro)** - Re-appointment in Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.
- **Krause, Heather, MD (ED Services)** - Re-appointment in Emergency Medicine Department.
- **Lucero, Stephen, MD (Urology)** - Re-appointment in Surgery and Anesthesia Department.

- **Ngole, Richard, CNP (Hospitalist)** - Re-appointment in Pediatric and Adult Medicine Department.

Locums:

- **Covey, Sean, CRNA**
- **Gee, Ryan, CRNA**
- **Burk, David, MD (Ortho)**
- **O'Guinn, Justin, MD (Ortho)**

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

XI. **Ovation Healthcare Report** – Eric Jones, Ovation Healthcare presented on the following:

- Jessie is continuing to work on developing a med tech user group. Holy Cross and all of the NM and Southwest clients will benefit from being a part of this.
- With our fiscal year end coming up next month, and with the cost report being filed some months after that, David Perry, will be doing the review in advance. They will also be planning in the coming weeks, a meeting with David Perry and his team to discuss some opportunities for rural health clinic designation, which will allow us to get some additional reimbursement from Medicare.
- Reported on the concerns raised on exposure on supply cost with all of the upcoming tariffs. He mentioned that we are isolated from the increase from tariffs.

XII. **New Business**

- **Approval of appointment of Pam Burton as the Infection Preventionist** - Following review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the appointment of Pam Burton as the Infection Preventionist as recommended by Administration. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

XIII. **Monthly Board Committee Meeting Calendar (May 2025)** – Informational.

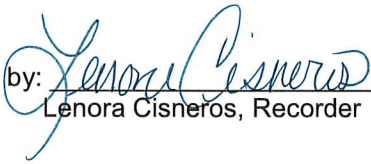
XIV. **Old Business** - There was no old business presented.

XV. **Review Meeting Effectiveness** – Stayed in our lane for the most part. Good discussion relating to the transport issues and mental health. Good minimization of reports.

XVI. **Executive Session**

- a) A motion was made and seconded at 4:15 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to 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 5:15 p.m. All were in favor and the motion carried.**
- c) Following review and discussion in executive session, a motion was made and seconded to have a Finance Committee at 1:00 pm prior the regular board meeting. All were in favor and motion carried.**

XVII. **Adjournment** - There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 p.m. All were in favor and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:  Approved by: _____
Lenora Cisneros, Recorder Cristina Martinez, Secretary

