

**LEWIS COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL
BOARD OF MANAGERS
May 26, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Managers of Lewis County General Hospital was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Michael Young, President. Members present via Google meet.

*Richard Chartrand
Jennifer Jones
Marguertie Mastascusa*

*Howard Meny, M.D.
Philip McDowell
Donald Musnicki*

*Susan Ross
Cheryl Steckly
Michael Young*

**Others
Present**

*Gerald R. Cayer, Chief Executive Officer
Jeff Hellinger, Chief Financial Officer
Michele Prince, Chief Operating Officer
Michelle Kelley, Administrative Assistant
Jessica Skiff, Director of Human Resources
Marcy Teal, Interim Director of Nursing
Frank Pace, Director of Facilities Management
Debra Wurz, Nursing Home Administrator {entered at 4:36 p.m.}
Rob Uttendorfsky, Director of Information Systems
Dr. Sean Harney, CMO, Employed Provider Clinics
Dr. Thomas Birk, President of the Medical Staff
Dr. Steven Lyndaker, Medical Staff Director {entered at 4:36 p.m.}
Mr. Ryan Piche, County Manager
Julie Emery, FNP, Copenhagen Health Center*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT:** The health system's Vision and Mission Statement were read with the group at the start of the meeting by Board member Mrs. Marguerite Mastascusa.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

- #41.** Motion by Mrs. Steckly, seconded by Mr. Musnicki, the Board excused Mr. John Lehman and Karen Rennie from the meeting. Approved.

VOTE: yes 9, no 0.

- INTRODUCTION:** Dr. Sean Harney introduced and welcomed Ms. Julie Emery, FNP-C, to the Board. Ms. Emery will provide a full range of primary health care services for the entire family at the new renovated Copenhagen Health Center, which reopened on Monday, May 17, 2021.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

- #42.** Motion by Mrs. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Ross, the Board congratulated Trista Mullin, Controller, as the Employee of the Month for the month of March.
Approved

VOTE: yes 9, no 0.

- CONFLICT INQUIRY:** No known conflicts were identified on tonight's agenda for any board member.

- PUBLIC COMMENT:** Anyone wishing to send a public comment may do so by sending an email to info@lcgh.net. Mrs. Michelle Kelley noted no emails were received.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ✓ None

❑ **GENERATIVE DISCUSSION:**

- ✓ **Mandatory Covid-19 Vaccine Discussion – Part 3:** Mr. Cayer shared a few vaccine metrics with the Board along with an article regarding Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccine Explained.

He reported 34.4% of Lewis County's population have completed the vaccine series as a Monday, May 24th and the current positivity rate is 4.4% and 5.8% for the last 7 and 14 days, respectively. He added as of May 19th, 58% of the health care work force have been vaccinated in Lewis County, which is the lowest in NYS. He shared other health care facilities in NYS are not currently mandating the Covid-19 vaccine for their workforce and we will continue to encourage and provide ongoing education supporting Covid-19 vaccination.

Dr. Thomas Birk, a provider at the Beaver River Health Center, then offered his point of view on the mandating of vaccines and what can be done to regain the trust of our community members in order to increase clinic visits at the health center clinics. He shared he is not currently vaccinated against Covid-19 and has no intention of being vaccinated. He also offered ideas on how to treat Covid-19 patients as outpatients and how to boost their immune systems, together with our nursing home patients, in order to keep them healthy. He added the nursing home residents need to be with their loved ones as they are lonely and depressed from the pandemic. Dr. Birk provided a handout to the board supporting his point of view.

❑ **STRATEGIC FOCUS ISSUES:**

- ✓ **IT:** Mr. Rob Uttendorfsky, Director of Information Systems, shared information with the Board on the following topics regarding IT:

Before (1998)

- 30 computers
- 1 server
- Mechanical
- 9-track tape storage
- Pre internet (1994)
- Fewer Positions
- Meditech Magic & 6.0
- Pre-pandemic
-

Now (2021)

- 700 computers, tablets, printers, copiers, digital phone system
- 80 servers
- Digital
- Complete Healthcare Information System
- Fiber connections
- Currently 10 positions (2 open positions)
- Meditech Expanse (expect to have fully web based system in 2022)
- Pandemic support
- Installed new Fetal Monitoring System in OB (Obix)

Future (2022 – 2023)

- Information security remains primary focus
- Meditech updates and enhancements
- New construction support and development

□ OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

- Patient Safety/Quality: Mrs. Karen Rennie, Chair of the Quality Committee, was excused from tonight's board meeting. She will be rescheduled to discuss quality at the June Board meeting.
- Finance Update – Jeffery Hellinger, CFO:
 - ✓ Period 4 Review:
 - There was a gain of \$39,986 versus a budgeted loss of \$163,821 for the month of April. The YTD loss is \$292,100 versus a budgeted gain of \$476,289.
 - Mr. Hellinger noted we continue to struggle on the revenue side of the budget in the following areas: Nursing Home, Clinics and 340B program. He noted, however, we are doing better on the expense side. One area we saw an improvement in was the monthly charges for Quest (lab testing for Covid-19). He added we are no longer sending Covid-19 testing to Quest to complete. We are managing this task internally.
 - We received a \$125,000 donation from Hospice in April.
- Human Resources: Mrs. Jennifer Jones, Chair of the HR Committee, shared the following updates from the May 10, 2021 HR Committee Meeting:
 - No new position cards this month
 - Recruitment of CNA's for the Nursing Home remains constant

New Hires, Resignations, Retirements & Terminations: The organizations new hires, resignations, retirements and terminations for the period of April 8, 2021 – May 10, 2021 were included in Board packets.

□ CHIEF'S EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- ◆ Copenhagen Health Center Update: Mr. Cayer noted the newly renovated Copenhagen Health Center is up and running with our newest provider, Julie Emery, NP, who began seeing patients on Monday, May 17th. He noted it will take Ms. Emery time to build a new patient panel as the clinic has been closed for nearly 2 years.
- ◆ Surgical Pavilion and M/S Capital Project Update: Mr. Cayer noted to continue to work with CMS and the DOH regarding the CAH accreditation status for our facility and noted the project is targeted to go before the CON unit at the NYSDOH on June 8th.
- ◆ May Volumes: Mr. Cayer noted volumes are projected to be lower in May. He noted the first four (4) months of 2021 the acute census was strong due to COVID 10, but now May's census is back to the historic normal which will impact revenue. He added we are experiencing lower than anticipated revenue in the Nursing Home and clinic practices in the month of May.
- ◆ Provider Recruitment Update: We continue to focus our recruitment efforts on primary care and OB/GYN providers. He added we remain reliant on locums in OB.
- ◆ RHCF Update: Mr. Cayer shared with the group we continue to struggle with recruitment and retention of CNA's for the nursing home. He added you cannot run a LTC facility without CNA's. They have the hardest and most stressful position in the health system. Due to the critical need, Mr. Cayer, Mr. Hellinger, Mrs. Skiff and Mrs. Prince met and developed a new pay scale for the CNA's and LPN's to include a sign on bonus for these two titles in the nursing home. He added the bargaining unit leadership is currently reviewing the proposal.

□ PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- ◆ Strategic Topics for June 2021:
 - ✓ None
- ◆ News In General: The Board received a copy of the May 2021 News In General.
- ◆ News Notes: The Board received a copy of the News Notes from the media for the month of April.
- ◆ Other: None

□ CONSENT ITEMS:

#43. Motion by Mr. Chartrand, seconded by Mrs. Mastascusa, to approve the April 28, 2021 Board of Managers' meetings and acknowledge receipt of the following minutes (all minutes were previously distributed with the board packets):

- 04/22/2021 Standards Review Committee Minutes
- 04/28/2021 Environment of Care Committee Minutes
- 05/10/2021 Human Resources Committee Minutes
- 05/12/2021 Quality Assurance / Performance Improvement Committee Minutes
- 05/17/2021 Executive/Finance Committee Minutes

Approved.

VOTE: yes 9, no 0.

□ OTHER: None

□ MEDICAL STAFF: Dr. Birk, Medical Staff President, provided the following update.

- ◆ Credentialing/Recredentialing on tonight's agenda will be discussed in Executive session.

#44. Motion by Mrs. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to enter executive session at 5:48 p.m. for credentialing and personnel matter. Approved.

VOTE: yes 9, no 0.

#45. Motion by Mrs. Ross, seconded by Dr. Meny, to return to regular session at 5:55 p.m. Approved.

VOTE: yes 9, no 0.

☐ Credentialing/Recredentialing:

#46. Motion by Mrs. Steckly, seconded by Mrs. Jones, to approve the following:

Reappointments:

- Gerard Crawford, M.D. – Active Staff, OB/GYN Service, with Clinic privileges as requested
- Toby Davis, Ph.D. – Adjunct Staff, Family Practice Service, with Psychiatry (Category I) privileges as requested
- Orakwao Dowuona, M.D. – Courtesy Staff, OB/GYN Service, with Clinic privileges as requested
- Vinod Garg, M.D. – Courtesy Staff, Emergency Medicine Service, with privileges as requested
- Gerry Love, M.D. – Consulting Staff, Internal Medicine Service, with Cardiology privileges as requested
- Steven Lyndaker, M.D. – Active Staff, Internal Medicine Service, with privileges as requested
- Matthew McLain, N. P. – Adjunct Staff, Internal Medicine Service, with privileges as requested

Appointments:

- James Mason, D.O. – Associate Staff, Surgery Service, Orthopedics, with Clinic privileges as requested
- Jonathan Mizgala, N.P. – Initial Provisional Adjunct Staff, Internal Medicine Service, with privileges as requested
- Pirett Paas-Holland, M.D. – Associate Staff, Emergency Medicine Service, with privileges as requested
- Vaibhav Singh, M.D. – Associate Staff, Emergency Medicine Service, with privileges as requested

Advancements:

- Christie Kopidlansky, N.P. – Permanent Adjunct Staff, Family Practice Service, with Clinic privileges as requested

Approved.

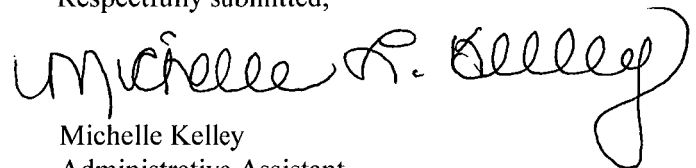
VOTE: yes 9, no 0.

☐ Other: None

#47. Motion by Mr. Musnicki, seconded by Mrs. Mastascusa, to adjourn at 5:56 p.m. Approved.

VOTE: yes 9, no 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Kelley
Administrative Assistant

Countersigned:

Philip McDowell, Secretary
Board of Managers