



**Lewis County
Health System**
Your Health Partner

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: October 18, 2022

Call to Order: 5:02 p.m.

Adjourn: 5:50 p.m.

Present: Richard Chartrand, Marguerite Mastascusa, Cheryl Steckly, Michael Young, Gerald Cayer, Kerry Herbine, Jeffery Hellinger, and Michelle Kelley (Recorder)

Excused: Philip McDowell

Guests: Jennifer Jones, Karen Rennie, Dr. Howard Meny, Donald Musnicki, Susan Ross, Dr. Sean Harney

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting was called to order by the Chair of the Finance Committee, Mr. Michael Young.

FY 2023 BUDGET

Discussion:

Mr. Young shared with the group the Finance Committee last met on Monday, October 17, 2022, and discussed the FY 2023 budget which was presented with a \$3.679M loss. He noted that it is the board's responsibility to submit a balanced budget to the County for inclusion in their FY 2023 budget and wanted to know how the members of the Committee wanted to proceed before voting on the budget at the regular Board of Managers meeting scheduled for October 26, 2022 as a full board. He added without the inclusion of the maternity service line in the FY 2023 budget we would be submitting a breakeven budget to the County.

Mr. Cayer reminded the group that maternity was not in the FY 2022 budget and explained the on-going search process for OB providers that has been unsuccessful, not only for our health system, but for others in the region as well. Mr. Cayer shared another facility very similar to our health system will be down to one OB/GYN provider from two in the next couple of months and noted that this facility does receive a subsidy for the maternity service line from their county government.

Dr. Sean Harney added we do have two Nurse Practitioners joining our Women's Health Clinic in January of 2023 who will offer GYN services to women in Lewis County and surrounding areas. He also shared with the group several other models the team has looked at for OB coverage over the last several months in trying to re-open maternity but to no avail. He added other facilities are also short staffed and don't want to share providers or we are too far geographically for other models to work.

A discussion ensued around several other service lines that the health system currently subsidizes and where the health system should devote their efforts at this time based on staffing and market challenges.

Mr. Jeff Hellinger, CFO, shared the following points with the group regarding the FY 2023 budget:

- The County has not offered any financial support for maternity in the budget.
- We must submit a balanced budget to the County for inclusion in their FY 2023 budget.

- We can exclude maternity at this time from the FY 2023 budget, but continue to work on reimplementing it in the near future. He added we can make adjustments to our budget when necessary.
- Continue to promote what a great Women's Health service line we have.

Mr. Kerry Herbine, COO, shared the following points with the group regarding the FY 2023 budget:

- We have to be fiscally responsible and have to present a balanced budget to the County.
- Ultimately, the Board decides on the strategy for maternity; however, we are unable to subsidize the service line at this time. The full Board needs to meet, develop and commit to a strategic plan based on the needs in the community and have goals that link to the plan.
- Continue to recruit nurses and providers for maternity.

Mr. Hellinger shared with the group the County voted earlier today at their Finance Committee meeting to increase the cost of health insurance by 10%. Mr. Hellinger added this will be an additional annual cost of ~\$800k. Mr. Cayer noted that a work session has been for Thursday, October 20th, scheduled to discuss this increase, and he is optimistic this will be decreased.

The members of the Finance Committee Mr. Young, Mr. Chartrand, Mrs. Steckly and Mrs. Mastascusa mutually agreed to forward a balanced FY 2023 budget, not including a Maternity service line, to the full Board of Managers for their review and approval at the October 26, 2022 meeting, with the acknowledgement of working to add Maternity back into the budget in the near future.

OTHER BUSINESS

- None

On motion by Mrs. Mastascusa, seconded by Mrs. Steckly, the committee adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle L. Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Kelley, Admin Assistant to CEO