



Lewis County Health System

Your Health Partner

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: February 19, 2024

Call to Order: 10:59 am

Adjourn: 12:29 pm

Present: Jennifer Jones, Marguerite Mastascusa, Philip McDowell (Chair), Dr. Howard Meny, Karen Rennie, Michael Young, Ryan Piche, Eric Virkler, Gerald Cayer, Kerry Herbine, Jeffery Hellinger, Dr. Sean Harney, and Trista Mullin

Not Present: ---

Guests: Donald Musnicki (via Google Meet), and Susan Ross

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting was called to order by Mr. Philip McDowell.
- Mr. McDowell read the Lewis County Health System Vision & Mission statements.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Due to 3rd Party Payer:** Mr. Hellinger reviewed the line-item detail trial balance of this balance sheet liability with the committee. It was noted that the ~\$1.3M NYS DPT advanced funding was returned to the State in January thus reducing the cash balance as well as the liability on the balance sheet.

FINANCIALS

- Mr. Hellinger reviewed the January financial results which showed a deficit of \$403,753 for the month which was 8.5% better than the budgeted target of a \$441,457 deficit.
- The uploaded finance packet includes an overview of the Executive Summary Sheet, Statement of Operations, Key Statistical Report, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow, OR Daily Stats, and RVU data.

NEW BUSINESS

- **IGT – 2023 Hospital Payment:** Mr. Hellinger discussed in detail the IGT reconciliation for the year ending 2019 through 2023. A copy was provided in the Finance packet.
- **Health Insurance Premiums:** Mr. Hellinger reviewed a worksheet which showed the current health insurance cost for all 3 plans that are offered. The worksheet then compared that to a potential 25% premium increase which is recommended by the actuarial firm who reviews our health insurance plan. An in-depth discussion by the committee, involving Mr. Piche and Mr. Virkler, was held. The County Legislators will start to discuss the possible increase at the next County HHS Committee meeting on February 20th as it is ultimately their decision on what the health insurance premiums are set at.

- **Maternity – Revised Projections:** Mr. Hellinger provided a worksheet showing original projections of women’s health services without maternity, with maternity and then revised with maternity. Changes to physician and nurse staffing, offset by an adjusted delivery volume, project an increase to the original 12-month deficit of \$1.8M. (Total deficit \$3.6M.)
- **Travel Nursing Expense:** Mr. Hellinger reviewed current hourly rates of traveling staff to employed staff. The current RN market rate is from \$100 to \$140 per hour.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. McDowell provided to committee members a Chartis Study on rural hospitals, in which the research showed 50% of America’s rural hospitals are operating in the red.
- Mr. McDowell asked the committee for ideas on what they would deem as helpful information in regards to the budget development and timeline.
- Mr. Young suggested budget lines be adjusted to reflect more accurate expenses if we are anticipating full year variances (example: Utilities, Salaries and Purchased Services).
- Mr. Young requested a breakdown of the Surgery stats budget by area to actual cases.
- **RVU Data:** Mr. Hellinger noted RVU’s for primary care have steadily increased for the past three years.
- **Cash Balance:** Mr. Hellinger noted that the cash reserve required by the County resolution (2 month’s of expenses) increased to \$15.3M based on the 2024 budgeted expenses.

Respectfully submitted,



Trista M. Mullin
Controller