

DECATUR COUNTY HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 24, 2019  
5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Linda Chastain, Denise Elefson, Sheri Frost, Guy Clark, Teri Foster, and Larry Griffin

ABSENT: Travis Miller

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Johnston (CEO), Tara Spidle (CFO), Amy Sherman (CNO), Jo Beth Smith (CHRO), Arlene Ranes (CQO), Dr. Erika Brown (CMO), and Traci Kreuziger (Mercy Rep – by phone)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Linda Chastain called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**II. AGENDA APPROVAL**

It was moved by Larry Griffin to approve the meeting agenda and seconded by Denise Elefson. Motion carried.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Guy Clark reported to the board on the positive experience of a pain management patient who recently received services at Decatur County Hospital. Sheri Frost commented on a patient of her close acquaintance who recently received treatment at large hospital in Des Moines. The quality of the care and service received at DCH were reported to rank comparatively superior to this larger facility and the patient expressed their wish that had been cared for in Decatur County instead of Des Moines. Larry Griffin related positive comments received from an Emergency Department (ED) patient on their experience and care. Jo Beth Smith relayed statements she had received through Decatur County Public Health concerning a patient who offered high praise for the care she received in the ED and specifically for Dr. Van Maanen.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by Sheri Frost and seconded by Teri Foster to approve the following Consent Agenda items: (1) Meeting Minutes March 2019 (2) March Accounts Payable \$650,525.06 (3) March Payroll \$432,438 (4) Accounts Receivable Write-Offs March \$15,899.91.

**V. MEDICAL STAFF REPORT**

Dr. Wehling was unable to attend the meeting due to a surgical case.

**VI. MERCYONE REPORT**

Tracy Kreuziger gave the MercyOne Report.

**VII. CEO UPDATE**

Mike Johnston gave the CEO Update as follows:

An update was provided to the Board on the implementation of the FY 2020 Strategic Plan to include the status of several of its objectives:

- As of April 23, 2019, Decatur County Hospital has engaged three (3) new services for the Outpatient Clinic. Dr. Earle Pescatore's Urogynecology clinic is set to open on May 14, 2019. Rheumatology and Neurology will follow in the summer of 2019. Additional services are currently under negotiation. The addition of these services follows closely with the overall objective of keeping community residents close to home for their care instead of having to travel to locations more distant.
- The renovations to convert the existing whirlpool room on Med Surg to a new clinic treatment room are proceeding on schedule and nearing completion. The new exam room is expected to be finished before the end of April.
- In the first two (2) months in which our new Emergency Department (ED) physicians (Drs. Brown and Van Maanen) have been employed the non-psychiatric transfer rate out of the ED to other hospitals has dropped sharply. In February and March of 2019, the rate was 6% and 6.7% respectively; down from the previous 10% to 12% range we had been seeing. Again, this aligns with the overall strategy of providing care close to home for our community.
- Several aspects of our new "Employee Investment Program" have now been implemented with more to follow in the new fiscal year. We want to be the employer of choice for our region and promote not only recruitment but also retention of the best-performing employees at DCH.
- The Employee Council, a component of the overall "Employee Investment Plan" has been formed and held its first (1<sup>st</sup>) meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2019. The council is composed of sixteen (16) front-line staff members, representing nearly every department within the hospital, and the group will meet on a monthly basis with the CEO. These meetings will be used not only as a conduit for information between hospital administration and the employees, but also for furthering staff education on hospital financial and operational matters. The idea is that promoting understanding and open communication will enhance employee satisfaction as well as their individual ownership of the hospital mission.
- Decatur County Hospital's three (3)-year "Ignite the Patient Experience" program will commence in May of 2019. This was previously approved by the Board of Trustees and is aimed directly at enhancing all aspects of customer service provided by the hospital and to substantially elevate the internal culture.
- Three (3) staff members from DCH, to include the Chief Nursing Officer, our Care Coordinator, and a front-line nurse are currently participating in extensive case management training. Upon completion and assuming a successful testing procedure, all three will receive the "Accredited Case Manager" designation from the American Case Management Association. Three (3) employees can be trained in each cycle. The goal is to put multiple nursing staff members through the program and start care coordination in the Emergency Department as soon as possible.

#### Mercy Management Agreement:

- The Mercy Management Agreement will be up for renewal as of July 01, 2019.
- Mercy is proposing multiple changes to the agreement that were reviewed with the network CEO's at their regular monthly meeting in April of 2019.
- Mike Johnston briefed the Board on the proposed changes though emphasized that these issues were purely tentative at this point and further information would follow.

#### ACTION ITEM – New Telemetry System

- Mike Johnston discussed with the Board the limitations of the hospital's existing telemetry system. The tools currently in place are out-of-date from a technological and functional standpoint. In addition, telemetry needs to be extended to multiple areas of the Surgery Department to provide for enhanced patient safety and quality of care.
- The existing telemetry system is not capable of interfacing with the proposed E-ICU program through St. Luke's in Kansas City. This capability is part of the hospital's FY 2020 Strategic Plan and will allow DCH to successfully and safely treat patients with higher acuity levels as opposed to transferring

them to other facilities. As with multiple other objectives, this is consistent with the hospital's mission of providing "Exceptional Care, Close to Home" for our community.

- Negotiations are currently underway with Decatur County Hospital's existing vendor, Fukuda Denshi, for modernization and expansion, as well as two (2) additional vendors, for a completely new system. Demonstrations by each vendor will be scheduled for the staff to preview each product and provide input before a final selection is made.
- Mike Johnston requested that Board of Trustees authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$357,000 for this project with final selection of the specific vendor to be made by the hospital administration based on negotiation for the best value.
- Sheri Frost made a motion to approve the expenditure as requested which was seconded by Guy Clark. Motion carried.

## **VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Tara Spidle presented the financial report for March 2019.

Total Gross Revenue was \$2.3 million in February. Operating gain of \$242,050 in March, and a net gain of \$325,853 after taxes.

A motion was made by Teri Foster and seconded by Denise Elefson to approve the financials for March 2019. Motion carried.

## **IX. CLINICAL SERVICES AND QUALITY REPORT**

Amy Sherman and Arlene Raney gave a report on Clinical Services and Quality Improvement Initiatives.

- STEMI/ Stroke education will be rolled out to the staff in May of 2019. The Mercy coordinator will be at DCH on May 23, 2019 to provide staff education. Decatur County Hospital will begin conducting drills on STEMI/ Stroke incidents as well as community education on signs/ symptoms and when to call 911.
- DCH has acquired a new training mannequin. This will be utilized for ongoing education and skills testing, hands-on skill assessments for tracheotomy care, NG tube placement, catheter placement, as well as for education and skills related to IVs and injections.
- Med/ Surg posted one (1) open employment position for a full-time, night shift RN.
- Infusion/ Surgery posted one (1) open employment position for a full-time RN.
- Infusion volumes have increased and Dr. Jawa will be adding one (1) extra day per month to his clinic schedule. A further increase in infusions is expected when the new Rheumatology Clinic opens.
- The Pain Management Clinic has increased frequency to two (2) days per month. More than one hundred (100) flyers were mailed out to providers educating them on the availability, frequency, and capabilities of this clinic service.
- Our next "Dine with DCH" will be April 30, 2019 here at Decatur County Hospital. Dr. Wehling will be presenting his community education session entitled "Why Do My Legs Hurt?" on vascular health.
- The previously posted position for a Med/ Surg Manager has been withdrawn due to a reassessment of the internal nurse leadership model. The designation of "Clinical Nurse Leader" will be revived to utilize current nursing staff as well as to provide opportunities for leadership and professional growth.

- Decatur County Hospital hosted students from the Central Decatur Agricultural Job Shadow Program on April 24, 2019 from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm.
- The community Care Coalition meeting is held at DCH on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Thursday of each month from 11:30am to 12:30pm. Thirteen (13) caregivers representing multiple area health care agencies attended the previous meeting. Each session will include a presentation from one (1) of the different agencies within the group. At the last Care Coalition meeting, representatives from the Senior Life Solutions program at Decatur County Hospital provided education to the group.
- Surgery will initiate a “time-out” at the patient bedside, prior to the individual being placed under anesthesia such that the patient can provide input in the process.

## **X. HR UPDATES**

Jo Beth Smith gave the HR Update.

- DCH welcomes our newest RN, Shaley Miller who will be working full-time nights on Med/ Surg and in the Emergency Department. Decatur County Hospital also welcomes Tanya McLain who began her employment as a cook in the Dietary Department on April 22, 2019.
- Open enrollment for employee health insurance will be held on May 14, 2019. Information was presented as to the increased cost to DCH because of the annual rise in premiums and the apportionment of cost between the hospital and employee-paid portions thereof.
- Hospital Week activities have been scheduled by the Activity Committee. On Friday, May 10, 2019, a food truck from Big J’s BBQ will be on-site at Decatur County Hospital to serve lunch to everyone. The DAISY award winner will be announced on the same day at 12:00pm during lunch.
- One of our Med/ Surg staff nurses, Anita Brooks, has taken the initiative to represent DCH at the SWCC job fair in Creston on April 25, 2019. She is a recent graduate of SWCC and has insight as to what students are looking for at these job fairs. Anita has created a brochure as well as a checklist of items to take with her.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

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Sheri Frost, Secretary