

**BAY AREA HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

July 10, 2024

Bay Area Hospital Spruce Fir Conference Room @ 11:30 to 12:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER

The Bay Area Hospital (BAH) District Board Work Session was called to order at 11:30 am.

BOARD ATTENDANCE

Chairperson Troy Cribbins; Dr. Tom McAndrew; Barbara Taylor; Carma Erickson-Hurt; Patrice Parrott

ABSENT

Renee Nelson (*excused*)

STAFF ATTENDANCE

Brian Moore, CEO; Denise Bowers, EA

LEGAL COUNSEL

Megan Kronsteiner, Esq. was not present

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

None

Discussion Summary

This session of the board was used for open discussion on communications surrounding the strategic announcements. The board discussed the need for a better way to communicate with the community at large. There is the perception that our website is not user friendly, and a request was made that Frequently Asked Questions and Answers be posted online for the community to access. The board was made aware that there is a special page on our website entirely dedicated to updates on the strategic exploration project – [\[www.bayareahospital.org/hereforgood\]](http://www.bayareahospital.org/hereforgood)(<http://www.bayareahospital.org/hereforgood>). Mr. Moore announced that our new website launches in August and will be much more user friendly.

There was discussion on a potential Executive Summary narrative document being prepared for the board on strategic updates, like what's provided to the Quality and Finance Committees. The statement was made that "transparency is a real problem, it's hard for the community to catch up on what has gotten us to the place we are now (financially). There was a recommendation to advertise updates on the strategic process in The Shopper, with a link to the "Here for Good" page on our website. Also expressed was a general concern that employees who spoke at the Public Input Session didn't know key details and facts surrounding strategic exploration and other subjects. There was discussion on creating a card for the board to pass out to the public which gives website information, At the conclusion of this brainstorming, there was not a specific directive from the board as an action item on the topics discussed.

Also mentioned was the recent patient experience that was posted on social media regarding the recent cath lab downtime. The management was asked if it is a trend for the cath lab to be closed down. Mr. Moore replied that it is a very rare occurrence. The social post stated that the cardiologists were all on vacation and Ms.

Taylor pointed out that there was a good letter in the packet complementing a recent patient's experience. Mr. Moore stated that both letters point to the importance of our cath lab

There was a robust discussion on physician recruitment, with questions asked and answered. Dr. McAndrew shared that years ago, physicians would see up to 20 patients per day. Today's new physicians are looking to see about 8 to 10 patients a day, seeking a better work/life balance and this works against recruiting to independent practice. It was noted the market vs. physician expectations is difficult.

There was some discussion on the impact that our EHR system (Epic) has had on our financial situation. History was provided for the newer members of the board, with Ms. Taylor sharing the considerations of COVID and training in a COVID environment; the impact that had on strategic planning work vs. our ability to provide safe patient care, and subsequent financial losses due to service line closures. Dr. McAndrew shared the large cost of building our new tower (\$40M). In the final analysis, the financial difficulty that we found ourselves in is too complex to blame on any one event or challenge, including the costs of contract labor, Epic, and COVID. It was expressed that it may be of benefit to provide this history to the community and for management to consider a link to the story on our Here for Good page. Chairperson Cribbins pointed out that, at some point, the public must be responsible for doing the work to read what is put out on our website to help educate themselves on the history that has led to the current strategic exploration, and that the board is still responsible for the final decision. Mr. Moore stated that management is actively working to ensure the board can face the public with pride and confidence in the communication supporting their work making the decisions to come. This brainstorm focused discussion ended with no action item assigned to management.

Chairperson Cribbins reminded the board to review the Mid-Columbia dossiers and contact their peer board members informally to discover their experiences in their mergers and acquisitions experience. Each board member will take notes and the board will gather after meetings and share their findings with each other.

Mr. Moore shared that we need also to help educate the community on the massive effort required for the operations, staffing, equipment repairs and how capital purchases are necessary to keep the hospital up-to-date and safe for patient care. We are currently at the end of life with our plumbing in the old portions of the facility.

Chairperson Cribbins stated that management will be working with him on a communications plan for next steps.

ADJOURNMENT

The District Board Work Session meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

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Troy Cribbins, Board Chairperson



Patrice Parrott, Secretary

Date: 8/20/21