

BAH AREA HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD EDUCATION SESSION MINUTES

June 10, 2025

SPRUCE FIR CONFERENCE ROOM/TEAMS HYBRID @ 5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Troy Cribbins, Board Chairperson, called the Bay Area Hospital (BAH) District Board Education Session to order at 5:27 pm.

BOARD ATTENDANCE

Troy Cribbins; Patrice Parrott; Renee Nelson; Darin O'Bryan, DDS; Arlene Roblan; Dr. Tom McAndrew

ABSENT**STAFF ATTENDANCE**

Brian Moore, CEO; Jennifer Collins, CNO; Kelli Dion, CQO; Gretchen Nichols, COO; Mitch Watson, interim CFO; Kim Winker, Marketing & Communications Director; Denise Bowers, EA

LEGAL COUNSEL

Megan Kronsteiner, Esq. not present.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

Members of the public were in attendance in person.

GUEST PRESENTERS

Devin Turney, Director of Surgical Services and Therapy Dog Program Manager

Virginia Cannon, Community Member and Therapy Dog Handler

BB, Devin's dog

Jessie, Virginia's dog

Chairperson Cribbins opened the meeting by welcoming the Therapy Dog team, following a request from the board to meet them in person. Brian Moore, CEO, introduced Devin and invited her to provide an overview of the Therapy Dog Program, including its background and current impact.

Devin shared that the program, now in its third year, was developed in response to the challenges faced by healthcare staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative was part of a broader effort to support employee well-being, particularly in high-stress environments. While pet therapy for patients has long been part of care models, this program is distinct in its focus on supporting healthcare workers. The dogs are specially certified to provide emotional support and are trained to respond to the needs of staff in clinical settings.

Devin introduced Virginia and her therapy dog, Jessie. Virginia joined the team in 2022 and has been working toward certifying her own dog. She described the 11 hours of specialized training focused on the mental health needs of first responders, EMS personnel, and healthcare professionals. The program officially launched on April 11, 2023, following a particularly difficult day in the ICU. A therapy dog was brought in to support the care team, reinforcing the value of the program. As demand for therapy dog visits increased, additional team members were added, including David from the Emergency Department with his dog, Buddy. All three dogs are now actively engaged and regularly requested across departments.

Virginia provided a brief demonstration of the dogs' training and responsiveness, highlighting the discipline and preparation involved in their certification. Devin also noted that the dogs are trained to provide tactile pressure, a recognized support technique for individuals experiencing stress or anxiety.

The program has gained visibility in the community, with local media coverage and growing interest from external groups. As awareness has increased, so has the number of requests for therapy dog visits. Board members asked questions about how the program operates and how requests are managed. Devin and Virginia responded with details about the training, scheduling, and coordination involved in delivering these services.

The presentation offered a clear view of how the Therapy Dog Program has become a valued part of the organization's broader employee support strategy. Our Therapy Dog team has connected with many other teams in our community. Devin invited everyone to come and meet the team at any therapy dog event they are at. Jenn Collins noted the depth of the dog and handler training, as well as the value of the volunteer hours dispensed in support of this program.

Legislative Update

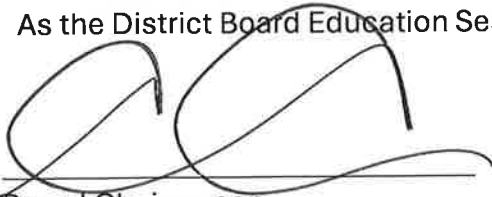
Brian Moore provided an update on recent legislative advocacy efforts, noting that the session is entering its final days. A key focus has been advancing legislation – Senate Bill 1214 - to support rural hospitals through enhanced Medicaid funding. The current draft proposes an increase to 150%, a significant improvement aimed at providing meaningful financial relief.

He acknowledged the instrumental role of Melissa Cribbins in identifying and supplying the language from a successful Washington state statute, which served as a foundation for the Oregon proposal. Brian was able to track down and have a conversation with the CFO of the facility who successfully passed this legislation in Washington state. Collaborative work with Senator David Brock Smith and legislative counsel led to the development of a draft bill tailored to the needs of three qualifying hospitals in our state. The strategy behind the bill was to strike a balance—securing enough funding to make a tangible impact while keeping the scope modest enough to ensure passage during this session. As Brian described it, the team “Goldilocks” the bill to the right size for success.

We have support from Representative Nosse, one of the few officials who reached out to us in 2022 as we were about to close our APU, and he is very supportive of this bill. It will take multiple sessions and years to get this work complete. These conversations are already happening, and there may be a special session in November or even September to get this work completed. This could translate into \$15M a year for BAHD. This would be meaningful money to help stabilize the organization.

ADJOURNMENT

As the District Board Education Session meeting was at time, it was adjourned at 5:58 pm.



Board Chairperson

Date: 7/8/2025



Secretary

Date: 07/08/2025