

BAH AREA HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD EDUCATION SESSION MINUTES

August 12, 2025

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Education Session was called to order by Simon Alonzo, Chairperson at 5:27 pm.

BOARD ATTENDANCE

Simon Alonzo; Tom McAndrew; Patrice Parrott; Kyle Stevens; John Uno; Brandon Saada (*via Teams*)

ABSENT

None

STAFF ATTENDANCE

Kelly Morgan, interim CEO; Doug Dickson, interim CFO; Kelli Dion, CQO; Tom Fredette, HR Director; Gretchen Nichols, COO; Mel Stibal, interim CNO; Kim Winker, Marketing & Communications Director; Dr. Paavani Atluri, COS; Denise Bowers, EA

LEGAL COUNSEL

Megan Kronsteiner, Esq. not present.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

Members of the public were in attendance in person.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS**1. Education Session Format**

- Simon Alonzo proposed eliminating routine education sessions unless a specific topic requires attention.
- Board members agreed that sessions should be more focused and strategic, especially given the ongoing fiscal crisis.
- Future education sessions will be scheduled only when necessary, with topics submitted via email to Denise Bowers, Executive Assistant.

2. Work Session Timing

- Proposal to move work sessions to occur the Monday before board meetings instead of after.
- This change aims to allow strategic discussions and public input to inform board decisions more effectively.
- General agreement that pre-meeting work sessions would be more productive and aligned with governance best practices.

3. Governance Institute Training

- Denise Bowers is coordinating Governance Institute training for board members.
- Training is expected to be available in September or October.
- The board pays \$40,000 annually for access to Governance Institute resources, which are currently underutilized.

4. Transparency Committee Proposal

- Brandon Saada proposed forming a Transparency Task Force to address community concerns.
- Goals include improving access to board materials, simplifying website navigation, and increasing public engagement.
- Actions already taken:
 - Board contact information posted online.
 - Additional microphones ordered.
 - Printed board packets made available at meetings.
 - Agendas including board packet posted online in advance.
 - Efforts underway to record meetings.

5. Outreach and Foundation Discussion

- Discussion on reviving the hospital's dormant foundation to support fundraising and community outreach.
- Ideas included donor engagement, volunteer recruitment, and events like banquets and golf tournaments.
- Board agreed to consider reactivating the foundation committee and exploring the creation of a 501(c)(3) entity.

6. Community Communication

- Suggestions to create a "Friends of Area Hospital" group or newsletter to improve communication with the public.
- Challenges noted include lack of a central email database and the need for opt-in systems.
- Brandon Saada offered an existing website (savebayahospital.org) with newsletter capabilities for future use.

Conclusion

- The session concluded with consensus to prioritize fiscal recovery while keeping transparency and outreach initiatives in view for future action.
- The board will reconvene in 14 minutes for the regular board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

As the District Board Education Session meeting business was concluded, it was adjourned at 5:51 pm.

Simon Alonzo, Board Chairperson

Patrice Parrott, Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____