

Montezuma County Hospital District Special Board Meeting

July 17, 2023

Present:

Also Present:

Brandon Johnson, Chairperson	Shirley Jones, SHS Chair	Kim Percell, County Clerk
Bill Thompson, Vice Chairperson	Dan Valverde, SHS Director	
Rob Dobry, Secretary/Treasurer	Jim Candelaria, Montez Cty Commissioner	Excused/Absent:
Bill Thompson, Board Member	Kent Lindsay, Montez Cty Commissioner	Kelly McCabe, MCHD Attorney
Gala Pock, Board Member	Gerald Koppenhafer, Montez Cty Commissioner	Bryson McCabe, MCHD Attorney
Sean Flaherty, Board Member	Ian MacLaren, County Attorney	
Orly Lucero, Board Member	Travis Anderson, County Administrator	

Agenda Item/Topic	Findings and Discussions	Conclusions, Recommendations, Actions, and/or Motions	Follow-up Responsible Party
Call to order	MCHD Board meeting was opened at 1:45pm		
Roll Call	Roll was called for the Board.		
Work Session to discuss current situation of healthcare in Montezuma County	<p>Montezuma County Commission Chair Jim Candelaria requested updated information from SHS Chairperson Shirley Jones regarding the recent press releases and operational changes affecting Labor and Delivery temporary pause and the subsequent decision not to pause services. It is the wish of the County to support the broadest level of services possible for the community.</p> <p>Ms. Jones explained the financial and operational challenges for Family Birthing services including the need for contracted, outside physicians (Locums) which are extremely expensive. In addition, there are challenges to Pediatric call, which is required for Family Birthing coverage for the newborn. Both require a physician be “on call” at rates that can cost the health system upwards of \$5,000 per day. After the public forum, in which, the community expressed concern regarding the closure of these services, the SHS Board changed their decision and did not pause services. Though the services are not paused, Ms. Jones advised that unless the current operational model can be changed with recruitment of permanent physicians to cover call and other adjustments, it will remain financially unfeasible to keep the department open. Many other critical access hospitals, of which SHS is classified, do not provide this care because of the large financial burden and lower volume than possible to be profitable.</p>		

Agenda Item/Topic	Findings and Discussions	Conclusions, Recommendations, Actions, and/or Motions	Follow-up Responsible Party
	<p>SHS is looking at other avenues to cut costs to keep this service open in spite of the net operating loss of the department. Ms. Jones reviewed the cash requirements under the 2016 Revenue Bonds utilized to build the new patient wing, medical office building and EMS/Plant Operations. SHS is required to maintain 80 days cash on hand. SHS is currently under 70 days cash.</p> <p>Montezuma County Attorney Ian MacLaren advised that he believed the 2016 Revenue Bond documents require SHS to provide more than the income statement and balance sheets to the Commissioners, and additionally, this financial information must be provided monthly. He feels the detail provided is insufficient.</p> <p>MCHD Secretary Treasurer Rob Dobry advised that MCHD wishes to support and assist in their complimentary mission as the Special Tax District providing, in partnership with SHS focusing on healthcare facilities. MCHD would like to find ways to strengthen and build the SHS Board. Mr. Dobry recommended that SHS consider the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) If there are challenges with services currently offered, of which, SHS is considering terminating, MCHD requests advanced notice as they may be able to find a way to assist with these services. 2) Mr. Dobry suggested quicker response of interested board candidates so they are communicated with timely, especially since additional board members would benefit the SHS board. 3) The group discussed the SHS board composition and bylaws, of which Ms. Jones stated that other governmental entities could not be on other governmental boards while on SHS board because it would be a conflict of interest. 4) Recommendation that SHS board members attend and join community stakeholder meetings to provide updates and current challenges as well as positive information to those groups. This could be to get additional community support for SHS. <p>Ms. Jones was invited to join the MCHD Board for a special meeting on Wednesday, July 19th at 6pm, in which they're discussing lease amendments and finalizing amortization schedule.</p>	<p>The Commissioners requested introduction to Mr. Theine upon arrival as permanent SHS CEO in late July.</p> <p>Ms. Jones stated this could be considered, however, 30 days may not be possible.</p> <p>Ms. Jones will confirm the reasoning with SHS legal counsel.</p> <p>Ms. Jones will advise if she's able to attend.</p>	

Agenda Item/Topic	Findings and Discussions	Conclusions, Recommendations, Actions, and/or Motions	Follow-up Responsible Party
	<p>Ms. Pock provided financial challenges due to some third-party payors denying claims after giving preauthorization for services. These total in the millions and cause significant financial burden to the hospital. These burdens contribute to the challenges that force decisions such as family birthing services.</p> <p>In addition, Mr. Dobry recommended that the group message to our community be to encourage the community to utilize all ancillary services offered by SHS. These services offer more lucrative reimbursement to the hospital than emergency services. By our community supporting SHS in receiving ancillary services, they are ensuring SHS has the finances to continue to provide net loss services such as family birthing.</p>	<p>This recommendation was affirmed by all three boards in attendance.</p>	
Next Multi-Board Discussion		<p>It was agreed by MCHD, SHS and County Commissioners that they would meet again for continued discussions amongst the three entities on Monday, September 19, 2023 at 6pm in the Commissioner meeting room at 109 W Main Street (same location).</p>	
Adjournment		<p>It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 2:49pm. Motion carried.</p>	

Bridgett Jabour, Secretary

Rob Dobry, MCHD Board Secretary/Treasurer