

BENEWAH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, February 25, 2021, 7:30 a.m.  
Francie Walters Board Room, Benewah Community Hospital, St. Maries, Idaho

MINUTES

Attendees:	Dan Hammes	Carol Humphrey	Mike LaPlante
	Ron Hodge	Dave Cox	Richard Schumacker
	Peggy Cuvala	Phil Lampert, County Commissioner	
Staff:	Lori Minier	Rebecca Plante	Rachel Ewert
	Chuck Lloyd	Dr. Bill Wheeler	

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Humphrey opened the meeting at 7:46 a.m.
2. **Regular Session**
3. **Approve Minutes** – A **motion** made by LaPlante, second by Hammes, to approve the meeting minutes from January 28, 2021. The motion passed.
4. **Open Forum/Visitors** – No visitors present.
5. **Medical Staff** – Dr. Wheeler brought up the benefit of the new mail-in medication program for employees. Wheeler stated that due to the OR/IP crew, the community vaccine clinics have been running very smoothly; discussion followed. Dr. Wheeler explained an article written by an Epidemiologist in England with statistics on missed services/delayed screening tests/procedures due to COVID. Due to postponed services, within the next 12-18 months, we may start seeing higher volumes; discussion followed.

**5.1. Reappointments**

- 5.1.1. **Terese Fandel, MD** – Dr. Wheeler stated that Dr. Fandel is the Pathologist who oversees our Laboratory; reappointment file complete with no concerns. A **motion** made by Cuvala, second by Hodge, to approve Dr. Fandel's reappointment to the Medical Staff. The motion passed.
- 5.1.2. **John M. Ukich, DDS** – Dr. Wheeler stated that Dr. Ukich is our Pediatric Dental Surgeon who comes to BCH about once a month; reappointment file complete with no concerns. A **motion** made by Hodge, second by Cuvala, to approve Dr. Ukich's reappointment to the Medical Staff. The motion passed.

**6. Board Committee Reports**

- 6.1. **Performance Improvement Committee** – Schumacker gave an update from the most recent PI Committee meeting on February 9, 2021, to include highlights from Chemotherapy's project, (*trained 8 nursing staff on port-access during the skills-fair*), Med/Surg's project (*wound documentation*) and Radiology's project (*calling patients overdue for mammograms. In January, they called 22 patients, and 9 of those patients were scheduled*).

**6.2. Finance Committee** – Hammes stated that finance report was given in the Finance Committee meeting prior to the Board meeting.

**6.2.1. January Financials** – A **motion** made by Hammes, second by Cuvala, to approve the January Financials. The motion passed.

**6.3. Medical Staff Committee** – Hodge stated that Dr. Melendez has retired, and Dr. Grauke is now the Medical Director for Radiology. The new SpaceLabs telemetry system was discussed at the Medical Staff meeting as well.

**6.4. Board Nominations and Bylaws/Policy** – Cox stated that the BNP Committee spoke briefly after the last board meeting. They still plan on looking at the sample bylaws from Hawley Troxell soon.

## **7. Contracts**

**7.1. Rebekah Myers, FNP Contract Amendment** – Minier stated that Myers' current, temporary amendment ended last week. Myers has agreed to extend this arrangement until May of this year. A **motion** made by Hodge, second by Cuvala, to approve the temporary contract amendment for Rebekah Myers, FNP, extending her part-time status. The motion passed.

**8. Administrative Reports/Questions** – The Board and Administration had conversations regarding the following topics: Orthopedic Surgeon recruitment (Plante and Machado spoke with a practice in CDA); potential upgrades needed for ortho. equipment. *Wheeler exited at 8:05 a.m.* New telemetry system (will be able to have eyes on all patients in ER, will upgrade OR/PACU, and four units on the med/surg floor); St. Josephs meeting (adult mental health services); New Ultrasound Tech starts mid-March; Nurse staffing; Visiting specialists (OBGYN needed); Growing revenue; Positive feedback about Dr. Sutherlin; Census up this week. Lampert stated that the county is very happy the hospital has been making the bond payments. Lampert added that at the last Commissioner's meeting, they discussed how the county can help the hospital. The Commissioners want the hospital to be able to financially support itself.

**9. Follow-Up Items** – No additional items.

## **10. Communications**

**10.1. BetterCARE Report** – Humphrey reported that Kristi Masterson is the new Board Chairman for BetterCARE.

**10.2. IHA Updates** – Cuvala participated in an IHA meeting on Monday. The Melaleuca Bill was discussed (6-month grace period). Cuvala discussed current legislative item in House (Bill 140) regarding vaccination of hospital employees. Other legislative issues currently being discussed: medical cannabis, PA supervision, and abortion. Also discussed hospital discharge data; hospitals in the North are not currently submitting data (will be helpful in the future).

**10.3. Board Education** – Cuvala asked about access to the AHA Board education; discussion followed.

Humphrey called for a short recess. *Ewert and Minier exited at 8:26 a.m.*

Meeting reconvened at 8:30 a.m.

**11. Executive Session**

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At 8:30 a.m., a **motion** made by LaPlante, second by Hodge, to adjourn into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) Personnel and Idaho Code 74-206(1)(j) Provider Contract & Other Contract Manners. Roll Call Vote: All ayes. The motion passed.

*Present at this time: Hammes, Humphrey, LaPlante, Cox, Hodge, Cuvala, Schumacker, Lampert, Lloyd and Plante.*

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*Plante exited at 8:30 a.m.*

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

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Rebecca Plante, Board Secretary

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Carol Humphrey, Board Chairman