

BENEWAH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Thursday, March 27, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
Francie Walters Board Room, Benewah Community Hospital, St. Maries, Idaho

MINUTES

Attendees:	Gary Coats	Tom Ebert	Suzy Epler
	Carol Humphrey	Mike LaPlante	Gary Green, <i>Via telephone</i>
Staff:	Burt Keltner, <i>CEO</i>	Lori Minier, <i>CFO</i>	Becca Plante, <i>Board Secretary</i>
	Carleen Walker, <i>DNS</i>		

1. Call to Order –Chairman LaPlante opened the meeting 7:39 a.m.

LaPlante requested a motion to amend the agenda, adding action item #9.6 under contracts: Payr Advisors: Insurance Contract Negotiation Company. Reason item was not previously posted on agenda: Administration was originally going to hold-off on this agreement until after progress with the LifeMed contract, which was approved at the Board last month. Oracle Cerner is not able to integrate LifeMed into our billing software as of yet, hence why we need to move forward with this project.

A **motion** made by Humphrey, seconded by Ebert, to add action item #9.6 Payr Advisors: Insurance Contract Negotiation Company to the agenda. The motion passed.

2. Regular Session

3. Introduction to New Board Trustee, Gary Coats – The Board welcomed new Board member Gary Coats. Coats explained his background/experience.

4. Positive Update/Celebrate Wins – Kelter reported that yesterday, we installed/set-up a pilot program for virtually guided ultrasound. A Radiologist would be on camera and nursing staff can run the US machine with their guidance. This would allow for additional US availability, especially after-hours in the ED. LaPlante complimented Plante on Marketing efforts. LaPlante added that he was onsite recently for an appointment, and the Specialty Clinic lobby was full as well as the hospital lobby – which was great to see! Discussion regarding the information desk/door greeter as well as posting the Café Menu in the lobby.

5. Approve Minutes – A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Humphrey, to approve the meeting minutes from February 27, 2025. The motion passed.

6. Open Forum/Visitors

7. Board Committee Reports

7.1. Performance Improvement Committee – Humphrey stated that the PI Committee will meet in April for their quarterly meeting.

7.2. Finance Committee – The finance report was given in the Finance Committee meeting.

7.2.1. February Financials – A **motion** made by Humphrey, seconded by Epler, to approve the February financials. The motion passed.

7.3. Board Nominations and Bylaws/Policy Committee – The BNBP Committee recommended candidates to the Commissioners last month for our Board vacancy, and Gary Coats was selected as our new board member. Plante will send an update on the timeline for 2025 nominations.

7.4. Medical Staff Committee – Epler attended the March Medical Staff meeting and stated that their meetings have been very productive lately. There was discussion at the last two meetings regarding the new pain management CRNA who wants to partner with John Schirmer. The big discussion between the Med. Staff currently is fetal monitoring in the ED.

8. Medical Staff

8.1. Initial Appointments – Plante stated that the Medical Staff approved and is recommending the following providers for initial appointment.

8.1.1. **James Hug, CRNA** – James Hug is a CRNA who would like to work at BCH in conjunction with CRNA John Schirmer in Pain Management, as well as be a backup Anesthesia provider for surgery if our full-time CRNA is out of office. Lengthy discussion regarding pain management training. A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Green, to approve anesthesia privileges for James Hug, CRNA, as well as pain management privileges, (requiring him to become certified in pain management within one year of privilege date), as recommended by the Medical Staff, roll call vote, 5-Yes, 1-Abstained. The motion passed.

8.1.2. **Michael Lee, MD (Telerad)** – A **motion** made by Humphrey, seconded by Epler, to approve the initial appointment of Teleradiologist Dr. Michael Lee. The motion passed.

8.2. Reappointments – Plante stated that the Medical Staff approved and is recommending the following providers for reappointment.

8.2.1. **Douglas Blaty, DO** – Dr. Blaty is a visiting Orthopedic Spine Surgeon. A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Humphrey, to approve the reappointment of Dr. Douglas Blaty. The motion passed.

Teleradiology Physicians– A **motion** made by Green, seconded by Ebert, to approve the reappointment of Teleradiology providers: Matthew Lindstrom, MD, David Moody, MD, Randon Opp, MD, Taylor Reichel, MD, Joshua Smith, MD. The motion passed. The Board stated that they would like to look at the KH Teleradiology contract.

8.3. Privilege Modification

8.3.1. **Jordan Day, PA-C** – A **motion** made by Humphrey, seconded by Ebert, to approve the privilege modification of PA-C Jordan Day, adding Cosmetic Botox privileges. The motion passed.

9. Contracts

9.1. Jordan Day, PA-C Amendment – Keltner stated that the Amendment for Jordan Day, PA-C is adding a section for Botox reimbursement. A **motion** made by Coats, seconded by Humphrey, to approve the contract amendment for Jordan Day, PA-C. The motion passed.

9.2. Alejandro Toscano, DO – Dr. Toscano will be our new, full-time ER Physician with a tentative start date in July. A **motion** made by Epler, second by Ebert, to approve the full-time employment contract for Dr. Alejandro Toscano. The motion passed.

9.3. ER Amendments. Holiday Stipend – The ER Amendments add a Holiday Bonus section for ER Physicians who work on seven-identified holidays. A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Epler, to approve amendments for ER Physicians Stephanie Arar, MD, Jackson Bell, DO, Craig

Burns, MD, Joseph Cooper, MD, Michael Ettner, MD, Patrick Marvil, MD, Joshua Morris, MD, and D. Cooper Wester, MD, roll call vote: 5-Yes, 1-No. The motion passed.

9.4. IT Consulting Agreement, Ross Skinner – Keltner stated that Ross Skinner is an IT professional who lives in St. Maries, and his wife is an accountant for Oracle (working remotely). Keltner stated that the goal is to return to an internal IT department. Skinner would mentor our current IT staff member; discussion followed. We are currently paying Nuvodia for a lot of IT services. A **motion** made by Humphrey, seconded by Ebert, to approve the IT Consulting Agreement with Ross Skinner. The motion passed.

9.5. Oracle Bi-Directional Immunization Registry Query Software – Keltner stated that this item was tabled last month as we thought we could find reporting to satisfy this, but this data must be instantaneous/connected by technology, requiring us to purchase the bi-directional software. This could eventually affect CMS reimbursement as it is a regulatory requirement. Contract cost: \$14,000. A **motion** made by Epler, seconded by Humphrey, to approve The Bi-Directional Immunization Registry Query Software with Oracle, roll call vote, 5-Yes, 1-No. The motion passed.

9.6. Payr Advisors: Insurance Contract Negotiation Company – Keltner stated that this contract would include a monthly retainer cost of \$7,500. Keltner spoke with references who stated that it took approx. five months until they saw their first successful contract renewal. All references saw increased rates. They would charge 20% of savings. Discussion followed. Coats suggest publishing an RFP to try to get three competitive companies. Item tabled.

10. Administrative Reports/Questions – The Board and Administration had discussions regarding the following items: New DNS, RN Amy Edwards, to start April 7th, 2025, and Walker will be moving to Quality/Infection Prevention; Great comments in the community about the Café; Desire for educational articles in the newspaper on services. *Green exited at 8:40 a.m.* CEO conversations with patients and addressing their concerns; Check signatures updated.

11. Follow-Up Items

11.1. Physician Recruitment –Plante stated that we are excited to bring Dr. Toscano on full-time and reminded the Board that we will be required to pay a \$15,000 placement fee to the Medicus Firm.

12. Communications

12.1. BetterCARE Update – Epler stated that BetterCARE’s Easter Bake Sale is coming up, adding that a pickup load of firewood will go with the Golden Egg. Last year, the bake sale made \$3,500. Epler thanked the Board members for their continued support with the purchase of candy to stuff the eggs. Kelter stated that he found an organization that puts grants into a database, and BCH will be requesting BetterCARE purchase a subscription to have these available to us. Plante added that we had a great Grant Writer interview.

12.1.1. Glidescope Purchase – BetterCARE purchased a Glidescope for the ED. Dr. Burns will be setting up training with all providers.

12.1.2. Orthopedic Beach Chair Purchase – BetterCARE also contributed to the purchase of the Beach Chair for Orthopedics. This is now in use!

13. Executive Session

At 8:54 a.m., a **motion** made by Epler, second by Humprey, to adjourn into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) Personnel and Idaho Code 74-206(1)(j) Provider Contract & Other Contract Matters. Roll Call Vote: All ayes. The motion passed.

Present at this time: Ebert, Epler, Hammes, Humphrey, LaPlante, Keltner, Plante, Minier and Walker.

Minier, Walker and Plante exited at 8:54 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Plante, Secretary

Michael LaPlante, Board Chairman