

BENEWAH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
Thursday, January 22, 2026, 7:00 a.m.
Francie Walters Board Room, Benewah Community Hospital, St. Maries, Idaho

MINUTES

Attendees: Kris Brock Suzy Epler Dan Hammes
Mike LaPlante Doug McKelvey Wendy Stansbury

Staff: Burt Keltner, *CEO* Lori Minier, *CFO* Becca Plante, *Board Secretary*
Amy Edwards, *DNS* Julia Kaminski, *Admin. Assistant*

Other: Mark Reynolds, County Commissioner
Community Members: Jen Izzarelli

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Epler opened the meeting 7:00 a.m.
2. **Regular Session**
3. **Positive Update/Celebrate Wins** – Edwards expressed her excitement for the new training platform that will be great for nurse education. Brock stated that the Performance Improvement Committee packet was amazing; the board agreed that the work put into PI is impressive and very much appreciated.
4. **Approve Minutes** – A **motion** made by LaPlante, seconded by Hammes, to approve the meeting minutes from December 30, 2025. The motion passed.

5. Board Committee Reports

5.1. Finance Committee

5.1.1. **December Financial Presentation, Lori Minier** – Minier reported that the December financials are considered draft until all final numbers for year-end have been completed (*due to year-end inventory in supply and pharmacy*). Adjustments will be completed prior to the 2025 audit process beginning. Looking at December, total patient days increased. Radiology services were up 231 visits in 2025 compared to 2024 (*MRI included*). Minier reported that we had savings of approx. \$20,000 with Avista services due to the new ballasts and light bulbs over a one-year period. Minier stated that operating cash is currently very low, adding that we did a transfer from the savings account in December as well as in January. All bond payments are being made. AR stayed flat between November and December. We typically see less revenue in December due to the holidays.

Minier reported that we will start to do mid-year inventories in June, focusing on surgical supplies specifically. We are expecting a large deposit from Jack’s Pharmacy for the 340b program at the end of January. The Space Labs telemetry system will be paid off around March; we are already looking at having to upgrade this system (*looking into other vendors*); discussion followed. In 2025, we saw an increase in revenue of \$6.2 million, with a net of \$1.2 million. Other revenue includes 340b and ERC interest. Expenses in 2025 were higher than previous year by about \$3 million. Minier reported that a bulk of this includes employee salaries and benefits as well as traveling staff.

Minier stated that we changed vendors for Orthopedic implants mid-year. Our new vendor has a much better pricing structure. Our overall loss in 2025 was greater than 2024, but with end of year adjustments, we shouldn't be too far off. Minier asked the Board if they had any questions regarding checks on the check register. #61440 Morris Consulting (*Dr. Morris, ER Physician*); #61621 Randall Hurley (*3rd party administrator for retirement, annual reconciliation for staff*). Minier will be updating the check register to include expense type.

Epler inquired about previously discussed community needs assessment, strategic planning, and workforce performance assessment (*previously tabled items*). Discussion followed regarding a community needs assessment. Administration to move forward with this. Minier will reach out to Banner Bank to see if signature cards have been updated. McKelvey asked about the 3rd party biller that we hired. Kelter stated that this was only 60-days ago; will continue to monitor results.

5.1.2. **December Financials** – A **motion** made by Hammes, seconded by Stansbury, to approve the December financials. The motion passed.

5.1.3. **2026 IHA Dues** – Minier stated that the 2026 IHA dues are \$16,183, which is a \$400 savings compared to last year. Keltner stated that IHA was integral in getting us our Medicaid money for 2022 and 2023. Kelter added that he is currently working with them to get 2024 paid out; Discussion followed. Keltner stated that the value of savings we get through IHA is above what the dues cost. A **motion** made by Hammes, seconded by McKelvey, to approve the 2026 IHA Dues. The motion passed.

5.2. Performance Improvement Committee – The PI Committee met on 01/13/2026.

5.2.1. **01.13.2026 PI Meeting Discussion** – LaPlante went over some of the highlights from the January PI meeting. The Cerner med. reconciliation project was discussed and explained by Edwards. Nursing is improving greatly in this area. Culture results are a big deal as well; discussion followed. We are looking into Cerner upgrades, as we are able to help with processes. Discussion regarding the hand-washing project for infection prevention. LaPlante expressed his thanks for the hard work of all staff.

5.2.2. **1.13.2026 Compliance/Quality/Privacy/Safety Meeting Discussion** – LaPlante went over some of the highlights from the January meeting. We received a \$20,000 flex grant for regulatory software. Our Grant Writer is working on a grant for community education. Brock asked about medication samples as well as multi-dose vials; discussion followed.

5.2.3. **PI Projects & Quality Date** – A **motion** made by LaPlante, seconded by Hammes, to approve the PI Committee Minutes, as well as the Compliance/Privacy/Safety Committee Meeting minutes and all projects, in acknowledgement and support. The motion passed.

5.3. Board Nominations and Bylaws/Policy Committee

5.3.1. **Annual Bylaws Review** – Plante emailed out the Board Bylaws for annual review. If you have anything you would like updated, please reach out to McKelvey. Bylaws to be approved as the February meeting.

5.4. Medical Staff Committee – Epler attended the Medical Staff meeting. The Providers talked a lot about the culture results project that was mentioned above. Epler added that our Medical Staff is a very positive group.

6. Open Forum/Visitors

6.1. Public Comment – No comments/questions.

7. Medical Staff

7.1. Initial appointments - Plante stated that the Medical Staff approved and is recommending the following providers for initial appointment:

7.1.1. **Alexander Sheu, MD** – Teleradiologist. A **motion** made by Hammes, seconded by LaPlante, to approve the initial appointment of Dr. Sheu. The motion passed.

7.1.2. **Denise Struhs, ARNP** – Denise Struhs, ARNP is a pain management provider with Dr. Magnuson’s group. A **motion** made by LaPlante, seconded by McKelvey, to approve the initial appointment of ARNP Struhs. The motion passed.

7.2. Trauma Designation Application – Edwards stated that our Trauma Designation application requires signature from both the Medical Staff and the Board of Directors. The Medical Staff is recommending we complete, sign, and submit the trauma designation level IV application. Edwards added that this is a true community project, working with fire, EMS, dispatch, etc. We have started to work more with Harrison and are trying to help get state training for dispatch; discussion followed. A **motion** made by Brock, seconded by Hammes, to approve the Trauma Designation Level IV application. The motion passed.

8. Administrative Reports/Questions – The Board and Administration had discussions regarding the following items: Keltner’s meeting with a Mechanical Contractor to review any potential future projects as well as grants; Reynolds stated that he thinks things seem to be going very well; Idaho State Representative Dale Hawkins (*waiting for him to call back*); Senator Hart – Stansbury talked to him and he stated he was spread too thin; discussion followed. The Rural Hospital Transformation project (*we have a proposal ready – Kelter will email to the board, biggest push is bond payment*). Our Grant Writer is looking for grants for a new MRI machine (*current is 16-years old*). Wound care with Dr. Sterling (*interviewing a Wound Care RN*). The Pharmacy hoods are ready; just waiting on inspections. Discussion regarding new patients and Botox for Migraines service.

9. Follow-Up Items – Plante discussed recent communications with Physician candidate Dr. Maddy Brown.

10. Communications

10.1. BetterCARE Update – Epler stated that BetterCARE made approx. \$27,000 at the Winter Gala. They are now starting to plan upcoming events for 2026.

11. Executive Session

At 8:28 a.m., a **motion** made by Stansbury, seconded by McKelvey, 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: Brock, Epler, Hammes, LaPlante, McKelvey, Stansbury, Keltner, Edwards, Minier, Plante, Kaminski, Izzarelli.

Edwards, Plante, Minier, Kaminski, and Izzarelli exited at 8:28 a.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:39 a.m.

12. Adjourn – A **motion** made by McKelvey, seconded by Brock, to adjourn the January General Board Meeting. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Plante, Secretary

Michael LaPlante, Board Past Chairman