

BENEWAH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
Thursday, March 26, 2026, 7:00 a.m.
Francie Walters Board Room, Benewah Community Hospital, St. Maries, Idaho

MINUTES

Attendees:	Kris Brock	Tom Ebert	Suzy Epler
	Mike LaPlante	Doug McKelvey	Wendy Stansbury
Staff:	Burt Keltner, <i>CEO</i>	Lori Minier, <i>CFO</i>	Becca Plante, <i>Board Secretary</i>
	Amy Edwards, <i>DNS</i>		Hugh Kelly, <i>Grant Writer/Manager</i>
Other:	Mark Reynolds, County Commissioner		
	<i>Community Members:</i> Jen Izzarelli, Kim Schwanz, Mike Moore, Casey Whelan, Doug Pratt		

- 1. Call to Order** –Chairman Epler opened the meeting 7:00 a.m.
- 2. Regular Session**
- 3. Positive Update/Celebrate Wins** – Kelter reported that we received an anonymous donation from a community member (\$10,000) as they wanted to do what they could to help the hospital financially. The board expressed their appreciation. *Moore entered at 7:01 a.m.* Kelter stated that we will be providing a meeting space for an Al-Anon group (*the family portion of AA*). We have come to an agreement with CIGNA. Moving forward, we should see approx. 35% more revenue on CIGNA claims; discussion followed. Keltner met with BCI last week in person, and they are committed to having a new agreement with us with new terms by the end of April. Kelter’s goal is to have this agreement squared away before the end of May.
- 4. Approve Minutes** – A **motion** made by LaPlante, seconded by McKelvey, to approve the meeting minutes from February 26, 2026. The motion passed.

Discussion regarding a small error in the General Board meeting minutes from October 2025 during the audit presentation. To be taken to the April General Board meeting.

5. Board Committee Reports

5.1. Finance Committee

5.1.1. **February Financial Presentation, Lori Minier** – Minier reported that volumes were down in January and February, but we have seen increased utilization in March. Radiology and Quick Care have remained busy. There was an increase in our Gross AR Days (3-day gain). Part of this increase is due to Medicare software edits creating claim errors. Minier went over the Balance Sheet, reporting that cash at the end of the month was down \$744,000. The State of Idaho Medicaid program paid us a significant portion of our 2024 filed Cost Report (\$650,000 paid in March). Minier reported that as of today, we have 2 days cash on hand (after payroll). We currently have \$154,000 in the reserve account, which is only 20% of a payroll cycle. We issued a check in February for the bond payment, but we have not brought it to the county yet due to cash. There was a gain in plant, property, and equipment of just less than \$10,000 due to the connection of the CT Scanner to the generator; discussion followed. Long-term capital leases and notes are all current. Minier went over the Income

Statement compared to last year. Revenue is down year to date. 340B revenue is looking good this year. Expenses are down except for salaries and wages. *Pratt entered at 7:18 a.m.* Department Managers are really watching expenses. Discussion regarding a straight-lined budget and being significantly off. Stansbury inquired about any salary increases anticipated for 2026. *Whelan exited at 7:25a.m.* Discussion regarding new staff increasing this number but the expense of contract labor going away. *Whelan entered at 7:27a.m.* Keltner discussed PT's success as well as adding additional hours. We budgeted to have less contract labor by July, but if we are not fully employed for Nursing at this point, we will miss this item in the budget. Reynolds asked if we have an anticipated timeline of when we expect to start seeing a difference with the financials (*lack of revenue*). Keltner stated that we have been building our surgical services business (*3-year timeline to see how a business/department will do, and our Surgeons have been here for just over 2-years*). Kelter added that we will be compounding soon (*goal is to start in May*); discussion followed. Physical Therapy is really increasing their volumes, and we should start seeing this revenue increase as we get into the summer. Radiology is also doing very well. Negotiating contracts with payors will also help revenue greatly. Discussion regarding Quick Care volumes and how the new venture across the street affects us. Receivables are higher than our payables. Discussion regarding confidence indicator we could review monthly.

The Board had questions regarding the following checks on the check register: # 62126 Jill Vora, OT (*moving expenses*); Minier reported that all checks from Jan 16 and 23 have been mailed. Minier added that we have communication with all vendors affected by the current financial difficulty. Check # 62060 & 62138 Matrix Trust (*employee retirement contributions*). Kelter stated that he recently attended a meeting with the other CAHs in the area, and we are all struggling.

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

5.2. **Performance Improvement Committee** – The PI Committee meets again in April.

5.3. **Board Nominations and Bylaws/Policy Committee** – McKelvey explained the committee's proposed timeline to post, review, interview, and submit recommendations to the Board and then the Commissioners for open Board positions.

5.4. **Medical Staff Committee** – Epler didn't have anything specific to report from the March Medical Staff meeting.

6. Open Forum/Visitors

6.1. **Public Comment** – Community members in attendance asked questions to the Board. Q: Were rate increases with insurance contracts factored into the current budget? Kelter stated that charge increases on CPT codes were as well as revenue increase expectations, but nothing specifically was included for payor contract changes. Izzarelli met with McKelvey and Hammes regarding the general board meeting minutes from October 2025 and is requesting one minor change from the audit presentation conversation; discussion followed. Discussion regarding PR and comments on a Facebook page from a provider. Question regarding Gary Coats resignation in September 2025 after asking 14 audit related questions, and the Board requesting he pause his meeting with Minier. *H. Kelly entered at 8:00 a.m. Stansbury exited at 8:00 a.m.*

7. **Hugh Kelly, Grant Writer/Manager** –Keltner introduced Grant Writer Hugh Kelly to the Board. *Whelan exited at 8:02a.m. Stansbury entered at 8:02 a.m.* H. Kelly expressed his gratitude for being able to work with BCH staff and gave his background. Kelly stated that the Murdock Foundation grant is looking very positive. *Whelan entered at 8:08a.m.* Kelly stated that we are prepared for a lot of upcoming grants and explained some upcoming events. Discussion regarding the Rural Hospital Grant through the state (BBB monies). Kelley suggested people write to legislature respectfully and politely to advocate for the rural hospital network. Epler added that BetterCARE is separate from BCH; discussion followed. *Moore exited at 8:20 a.m.* Kelly encouraged Epler to have BetterCARE lean into him as needed; discussion followed. *Moore entered at 8:24 a.m. LaPlante exited at 8:24 a.m.* Discussion followed regarding Integrated Strategic, Business, Marketing, and Development Plan document that was distributed. The board would like to see grant initiatives included in the monthly Board packet. *Kelly exited at 8:35 a.m.*

8. Medical Staff

8.1. **Reappointments** – Plante stated that the Medical Staff approved and is recommending the following providers for reappointment with the KH Cardiology group:

Charles Cui, MD, Brett Eliuk, DO, Donald Engles, MD, Kevin Kavanaugh, MD, Mary Larson, MD, Pablo Michel Sanchez, MD, Michele Murphy Cook, MD, Aaron Notestine, MD, Eric Wallace, DO

8.1.1. **KH Telecardiologists** – A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Brock, to approve the reappointment of the above-mentioned Telecardiologists. The motion passed.

8.2. **Modification of Privileges** – A **motion** made by Brock, seconded by Stansbury, to approve the modifications of privileges for Dr. David Moody. The motion passed.

9. Contracts

9.1. **Boiler Tank Repair** – Kelter stated that the 1995 boiler tank above Admitting and Lab needs to be replaced. Quote: \$14,750. Discussion regarding block grant. Discussion regarding the potential of BetterCARE funding this. A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by McKelvey, to approve the Boiler Tank Replacement, and Keltner will ask BetterCARE for assistance (*BCH to still purchase if BetterCARE declines assistance*). The motion passed.

9.2. **Inland RCM** – Keltner stated that at the last board meeting, the board approved sending a termination letter to R1 for billing services and discussed an agreement for Inland RCM to take over our billing. Keltner added that R1 did come back with a counter proposal with some new things they say they have coming. R1's fee was 2.7% of cash collected, and Inland's would be 3%, but we have faith they will collect faster, cleaner, and more. Efficiency and communication with Inland are superior; discussion followed. Total amount payable to R1: approx. \$250,000. A **motion** made by McKelvey, seconded by Ebert, to approve the Inland RCM agreement. The motion passed.

10. **Administrative Reports/Questions** – The Board and Administration had discussions regarding the following items: InReachDx; Streamline database to ensure charges; A Psychiatrist candidate; behavioral health; Nurse staffing with Flint; Dietary lead; possible impact of self-funded insurance with payors adjusting rates; Quick Care status; marketing video being created for us by a marketing volunteer.

11. Follow-Up Items

11.1. Online Bill Pay – Epler stated that the community would really appreciate being able to pay their bills online. Keltner stated that he participated in a webinar with a company who does billing statements and has an online bill pay option. Minier is also looking into a couple companies. Stansbury volunteered to help with this before a contract is signed.

11.2. Strategic Planning – Epler would like to schedule a strategic planning meeting. *Keltner exited at 9:27a.m.* Strategic planning meeting to be 04/17/2026.

12. Communications

12.1. BetterCARE Update – Epler thanked the Board for buying candy and donating to the BetterCARE Bakesale which will be April 3rd at the Eagles. *Keltner entered at 9:29 a.m.*

13. Executive Session

At 9:30 a.m., a **motion** made by Brock, seconded by Ebert, 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, Ebert, Epler, McKelvey, Stansbury, Keltner, Edwards, Minier, Plante, Reynolds, Izzarelli, Moore, Pratt, Schwanz, and Whelan.

Edwards, Plante, Minier, Izzarelli, Pratt, Schwanz, Moore and Whelan exited at 9:30 a.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:30 a.m.

14. Adjourn – A **motion** made by McKelvey, seconded by Stansbury, to adjourn the March General Board Meeting. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Plante, Secretary

Suzy Epler, Board Chairman