

BENEWAH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
Thursday, May 28, 2026, 7:00 a.m.  
Francie Walters Board Room, Benewah Community Hospital, St. Maries, Idaho

MINUTES

Attendees: Kris Brock Tom Ebert Suzy Epler  
Dan Hammes Mike LaPlante Doug McKelvey

Staff: Burt Keltner, *CEO* Lori Minier, *CFO* Becca Plante, *Board Secretary*  
Amy Edwards, *DNS* Dr. Stephanie Arar

Other: *Community Members:* Jen Izzarelli, Mike Moore, Casey Whelan, Bob Grier,  
Amy Boe, Jasmin Rooke, Machellette Petterson  
*Eide Bailly Auditors:* Kevin Smith and Martin Yanushev

**1. Call to Order** –Chairman Epler opened the meeting 7:01 a.m.

Epler requested a motion to amend the agenda, adding item #14 (after executive session and before adjournment), an action item for Family Medicine Physician Contract.  
Reason for amending agenda: Family Medicine Physician was onsite this Tuesday afternoon, and contract was discussed/negotiated at this time.

A **motion** made by Hammes, seconded by LaPlante, to amend the agenda, adding item:  
**14. Family Medicine Physician Contract (ACTION)**. The motion passed.

**2. Regular Session**

**3. Positive Update/Celebrate Wins** – Epler read a thank you note from staff for the Board’s participation in National Hospital Week. Our Trauma IV designation is official! Plante has recruited replacement Physicians for Family Medicine. A Kudos was given to OT.

**4. Approve Minutes**– A **motion** made by LaPlante, seconded by Ebert, to approve the meeting minutes from April 17, 2026, April 23, 2026 (2), May 18, 2026. The motion passed.  
*Rooke and Patterson entered at 7:04a.m.*

**5. Board Committee Reports**

**5.1. Finance Committee**

5.1.1. **April Financial Presentation, Lori Minier** – Minier stated that we have received the 2025 Medicare Cost Report (net receivable of \$430,000). Minier reminded the board that we have been paying Medicare since November after receiving the interim cost report. Minier went over the Financial Scorecard. In the month of April, volumes were lower in most areas, but swing bed and imaging were up. April cash was positive \$114,000 (*due to upper payment limit from State of ID*). R1 is winding down, and Inland RCM is starting to ramp up. AP is sitting at \$1.6 million. Long-term capital leases and notes are all current. We continue to work with Insurance payors. CIGNA has loaded our new rates, and we are back in network. BCI came to the table and reworked their small hospital fee structure for the state of Idaho (*new rates will go into effect July 1, 2026*). Keltner added that this should equate to \$320,000-

\$350,000 (*compared to last year's data*). For BCI, we are at quality level “premium” in the clinic for reimbursement. We are getting paid well by Aetna. UHC came back with a counter last week; discussion followed. Expenses are over budget and are higher than last year. Discussion regarding salaries and traveling staff. Mid-year inventory will be next month.

The Board had questions regarding the following checks on the check register: # 62574 (The Stitch Meister- hospital week staff gift). #62557 (Olympus American- Surgery Endoscopy). Discussion regarding long term debt. Discussion regarding Swing Bed. Discussion regarding fighting with payors to get paid (*providers required to do peer reviews, etc.*). McKelvey asked what Administration is doing to fix issues as the Board only sees high level; discussion followed.

5.1.2. **April Financials** – A **motion** made by Hammes, seconded by Ebert, to approve the April financials. McKelvey abstained from voting. The motion passed.

5.2. **Performance Improvement Committee** – The quarterly PI Committee report was presented last month. Next meeting is in July.

### 5.3. **Board Nominations and Bylaws/Policy Committee**

5.3.1. **Board Appointment Letter to Benewah County Commissioners** – McKelvey stated that we had a strong slate of candidates for our upcoming board positions; discussion followed. McKelvey presented the Committee’s nomination recommendations for the upcoming board positions, in the following order: #1 – Andrew Doman (retired attorney), #2 – Jeff Reich (CEO of large missionary program), #3 – Jessica Sprute (accounting and finance experience), #4 – Gary Green (previous Board Member – business experience of care facilities). A **motion** made by McKelvey, seconded by Brock, to approve the Board Appointment Letter to Benewah County Commissioners, recommending the above stated candidates. The motion passed.

5.4. **Medical Staff Committee** – Brock gave highlights from the May Medical Staff meeting. *Petterson and Rooke exited at 7:58 a.m.*

## 6. **Open Forum/Visitors**

6.1. **Public Comment** – Izzarelli thanked McKelvey for asking to dig deep into financials, expressed appreciation for the October meeting minute modification, and thanked the Board for getting BCH emails set up. Moore asked McKelvey about the Idaho statute regarding board members living within the county (*McKelvey provided a copy of the statute*). Grier stated that he intends to attend board meetings, adding that he thinks we have an adequate board and our CEO seems to be working hard. Grier added that if there is anything he can offer, or volunteer, please let him know. Boe thanked everyone who greeted her with a smile.

At 8:10 a.m., Epler called for a short recess

*K. Smith and M. Yanushev entered at 8:12 a.m.*

Meeting reconvened at 8:14a.m.

7. **2025 Audit Presentation** – Kevin Smith and Martin Yanushev from Eide Bailly presented BCH’s 2025 financial audit. Discussed significant risks that get evaluated during the audit (*management override of controls, revenue recognition, allowance for estimated uncollectible amounts, and potential incorrect determination of third-party payors settlement estimates.*) Smith stated that revenue has been very similar over the last three years, and operating expenses have been up due to contract labor and continued increases in supply costs. Smith and Yanushev reviewed comparative graphs, comparing BCH to other-like hospitals, in the following areas: current ratio, days cash on hand, days in AR operating margin, total margin, deductible ratio, and salaries as a percentage of operating expense. Smith stated that BCH does very well looking at days in AR. *Walen exited at 8:28 a.m. Walen entered at 8:30 a.m.*

Discussion regarding internal controls and compliance. There were not as many adjustments in 2025 compared to 2024. BCH’s 2025 audit does report a “Significant Deficiency,” (*a control deficiency or combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness but warrants the attention of the governing board*). This is due to financial statement preparation and adjusting journal entries (*payroll accrual and compensated absences*). Smith stated that he anticipates these concerns going away next year. Discussion regarding outstanding items (*Medicare cost report entry needs to be booked into the audit and there may be an IT expense that is double accounted for*). Martin and Yanushev thanked Minier for her hard work on the audit. Discussion regarding bad debt. The Board asked a few questions of the Auditors. *Boe exited at 8:46 a.m.* Although BCH has a reported deficiency, Smith stated that with the limited number of personnel, we are doing very well. Smith added that there was nothing really alarming/ nothing needing changed immediately, and the auditors see improvements from last year.

The audit is currently in draft form, and as soon as the last few items are reconciled, the final version will be available. Discussion regarding insurance denials and a trend with all hospitals of more denial and prior authorization issues in 2025 compared to previous years, requiring more work for business office staff. The Auditor’s stated that BCH’s business office is doing very well. We will have a \$430,000 receivable for the cost report (*but also payable from last year mid-year*). Discussion regarding community support, which can be a very significant financial help. Discussion regarding Rural Health transformation dollars for Idaho. A question was asked regarding an internal control audit. Smith stated that Eide Bailly can do internal control audits, however, hospitals do not typically do these. Smith added that based on processes and procedures from the audit, he didn’t have concern.

Smith reported that he will be retiring this summer after 35 years in public accounting. The Board expressed their appreciation for Smith’s work over the years.

At 9:00a.m, Epler called for a short recess.

*K. Smith and M. Yanushev exited at 9:03 a.m.*

Meeting reconvened at 9:06 a.m.

## 8. Medical Staff

- 8.1. **Reappointments** – Keltner stated that the Medical Staff approved and is recommending the following providers for reappointment.

8.1.1. **Coralyn Furr, FNP** – A **motion** made by Hammes, seconded by McKelvey, to approve the reappointment of Quick Care Provider, Cora Furr, FNP. The motion passed.

8.1.2. **Patricia Ojeda, MD** – A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Hammes, to approve the reappointment of Teleradiologist Dr. Patricia Ojeda. The motion passed.

## 9. Contracts

**9.1. John Campbell, MD Contract** – Kelter reported that Dr. Campbell is currently a PRN ED Physician looking to come on full-time and become ED Director (*Dr. Burns will transition away from this position*). A **motion** made by LaPlante, seconded by Hammes, to approve the new contract for Dr. John Campbell. The motion passed.

**9.2. RevSpring** – Benefits of RevSpring: better billing statements and online bill-pay (*would replace merchant services*). Discussion followed regarding anticipated revenue increase due to increased collection efforts/options. A **motion** made by Hammes, seconded by McKelvey, to approve the RevSpring contract. The motion passed.

**10. Administrative Reports/Questions** – The Board and Administration had discussions regarding the following items: RFPs for 2026 Audit (*due to 3 years with current auditors*); Total FTE calculation; Murdock foundation grant (looking positive); RHTP grant proposal status. Edwards stated that recent nursing students from LCSC and Walla Walla have signed contracts with us. One student with the Linda Clark Work of Heart Scholarship will graduate in December, and then another in June. Discussion regarding mock event with Kootenai High School.

### *Continued following 2025 Audit presentation:*

**7.1. 2025 Financial Audit (Draft)** - A **motion** made by LaPlante, seconded by McKelvey, to approve the 2025 Draft Financial Audit. The motion passed.

**7.2. 2025 Medicare Cost Report** – A **motion** made by Hammes, seconded by Ebert, to approve the 2025 Medicare Cost Report to be filed electronically. The motion passed.

## 11. Follow-Up Items

**11.1. Strategic Planning** – Epler has spoken to a facilitator; look at doing this at the July Board Meeting (\$1,000 cost). Discussion followed. The Board directed Epler to move forward with scheduling the facilitator.

## 12. Communications

**12.1. BetterCARE Update** – Epler stated that BetterCARE is trying to coordinate the Memorial Walk with the Golf Tournament this year.

## 13. Executive Session

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At 9:45 a.m., a **motion** made by Brock, 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, Ebert, Epler, Hammes, LaPlante, McKelvey, Keltner, Edwards, Minier, Plante, Arar, Walen, Izzarelli, Moore, Grier.*

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*Edwards, Minier, Arar, Walen, Izzarelli, Moore, and Grier exited at 9:45 a.m.*

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:25 a.m.

**14. Family Medicine Physician Contract** – A **motion** made by Hammes, seconded by McKelvey, to approve the Family Medicine Physician Contract for Michael Abrahams, MD. Roll call vote, all ayes. The motion passed.

*\*Reminder: VVCC's 40-year anniversary celebration is June 16<sup>th</sup> – 11am-3pm.*

**15. Adjourn** – A **motion** made by Brock, seconded by Ebert, to adjourn the May General Board Meeting. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

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Rebecca Plante, Secretary

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Suzy Epler, Board Chairman