BENEWAH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
Thursday, June 25, 2026, 7:00 a.m.
Francie Walters Board Room, Benewah Community Hospital, St. Maries, Idaho

MINUTES

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| Attendees: | Kris Brock | Tom Ebert | Suzy Epler |
| | Dan Hammes | Mike LaPlante | Doug McKelvey |
| | Wendy Stansbury | | |
| Staff: | Burt Keltner, *CEO* | Lori Minier, *CFO* | Becca Plante, *Board Secretary* |
| | Amy Edwards*, DNS* | Aaron Vizcarra, CRNA | |
| Other: | Mark Reynolds, County Commissioner | | |
| | *Community Members:* Jen Izzarelli | | |

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Epler opened the meeting at 7:00 a.m.

2. **Regular Session**

3. **Positive Update/Celebrate Wins** – Two new Physicians are joining the clinic, and we have hired a new Pharmacist**.**

4. **Approve Minutes**– A **motion** made by McKelvey, seconded by LaPlante, to approve the meeting minutes from May 28, 2026. The motion passed.

5. **Board Committee Reports**

***5.1.*** **Finance Committee** – Hammes stated that last month, McKelvey brought up wanting to see more in-depth finance reports. Minier stated that we are talking with a consultant who has Cerner experience *(looking at breaking out financials by department/line item)*. Discussion followed. Keltner reported that we are still in the middle of negotiating contracts with insurance payors. McKelvey expressed his appreciation for progress made, adding that Keltner and Minier have been phenomenal to work with. Discussion followed.

5.1.1. **May Financial Presentation, Lori Minier** – Minier stated that we reported a profit in May ($80,401). We have seen an increase on the inpatient floor to include swing beds, and the ED had an increase as well (summers are typically busier). Radiology volumes are also up. May was a slow clinic month. The clinic is offering free sports physicals over the summer; discussion followed. Keltner added that in talking with other administrators, clinic volumes have been down all over. The $130,000 April payment to county bond fund has not been made. AR is at $5.3 million. The 2024 Medicare reimbursement has been paid in full. Minier went over the income statement. Minier added that this last week, we consistently had 6 patients on the floor each day. Contractuals are currently at 41% (budget 33%). Minier reported that the 340b program is constantly changing. Salaries and wages, contract labor, and physician labor are up. We are still struggling with nurse staffing in the hospital and clinic. Overtime is up due to vacant positions; discussion followed.

Discussion regarding purchase services (tele-pharmacy and additional IT support). Nuvodia phases out some support in July and then the remainder Feb. 2027. Our grant writer continues to work on grants; discussion followed. Utilities are over budget due to current fuel prices.

Discussion regarding supply expenses. Stansbury asked why our CEO is not talking with the County Treasurer; discussion followed. The Board reports to the County Commissioners. Minier and Keltner will start attending county commissioner meetings monthly following the monthly board meeting. Discussion regarding payments to the bond fund. Keltner stated that payroll and clinical vendors will always come first. Discussion regarding formalizing and presenting a plan moving forward to commissioners. The RHTP program has not posted an application process for anything that applies to us at this time. The board asked about the following checks on the check register: #62963 Healthstream *(Edwards explained this education platform);* #62936 Arthrex *(implant vendor for Orthopedic).*

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

5.1.3. **2025 Financial Audit– FINAL** – Minier reported that the final audit is not complete. We are working with Cerner to get a true liability related to RevWorks, billing company. If Cerner does not reply by the first of July, this will be written off ($140,000). Item Tabled. *Reynolds exited at 7:50a.m.*

***5.2.*** **Performance Improvement Committee –** The PI Committee meets on July 14, 2026.

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

5.3.1. ***Board Officers/Committees*** – Epler stated that it is time for new board officers, with an effective date of July 1, 2026; discussion followed.

- **Chairman**: Doug McKelvey
- **Vice Chairman**: Kris Brock
- **Secretary**: Becca Plante
- **Treasurer**: Burt Keltner
- **Past Chairman**: Suzy Epler

*Committee assignments to be discussed once new board members are on board.*

A **motion** made by Hammes, seconded by LaPlante, to approve the Board Officers/Committees, as listed above. The motion passed.

***5.4.*** **Medical Staff Committee** – Epler gave highlights from the June Medical Staff meeting.

**6. Open Forum/Visitors**

***6.1. Public Comment*** – Izzarelli stated that she is glad to hear that Minier and Keltner will be going to commissioner meetings. Comment was made regarding Medicare reimbursement. Izzarelli mentioned how the bond payment to the county is different than the county paying the bond holder, stating that she agrees that operations come before the bond payment, adding that she thinks there should be a threshold set as to how many months we could get behind before county sets a levy.

**7. Medical Staff**

***7.1.*** **Initial Appointment –** The Medical Staff approved and is recommending the following provider for initial appointment:

7.1.1. **Anna Ellermeier, MD (Teleradiology)** – A **motion** made by Hammes, seconded by Ebert, to approve the Initial Appointment of Teleradiologist Dr. Ellermeier. The motion passed

*7.2.* **Reappointments –** The Medical Staff approved and is recommending the following providers for reappointment:

7.2.1. **Stephanie Arar, MD** – A **motion** made by LaPlante, seconded by Brock, to approve the reappointment of ER Physician Dr. Arar. The motion passed.

7.2.2. **W. Eric Chun, MD** – A **motion** made by Hammes, seconded by Ebert, to approve the reappointment of PRN ER Physician Dr. Chun. The motion passed.

7.2.3. **Dane Jackson, MD** – A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Hammes, to approve the reappointment of Teleradiologist Dr. Jackson. The motion passed.

7.2.4. **Cole Ziegler, MD** – A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Hammes, to approve the reappointment of Teleradiologist Dr. Ziegler. The motion passed.

**8. Contracts**

*8.1.* **D. Cooper Wester, MD Contract** – Kelter reported this is Dr. Wester's new contract to include clinic services. A **motion** made by LaPlante, seconded by Hammes, to approve the new contract for Dr. D. Cooper Wester. The motion passed.

**9. Administrative Reports/Questions** – The Board and Administration had discussions regarding the following items: Dr. McGregor conversations (hoping to make this happen); Congrats to Keltner on getting his Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) certification. The Board and Administration thanked LaPlante and Hammes for their service on the Board. Discussion regarding the Harrison Ambulance long patient transport. PT extended hours is going well. Discussion regarding FTEs and nurse staffing.

**10. Follow-Up Items**

*10.1.* **Strategic Planning** – Epler stated that she has spoken with the facilitator as well as other board members regarding strategic planning. The formal Strategic Planning session is to be put on hold due to new board members starting.

**11. Communications**

*11.1.* **BetterCARE Update** – Epler stated that BetterCARE is busy planning the walk and the golf tournament. BetterCARE Board member Tina Flesher is requesting help with the walk (dates: August 14-15). BetterCARE requested an update on grants from the Grant Writer. We received an Innovia grant.

**12. Executive Session**

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At 8:30 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, Stansbury, Keltner, Edwards, Minier, Plante, Vizcarra, Izzarelli.*

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*Edwards, Minier, Vizcarra, Plante and Izzarelli, exited at 8:30 a.m.*

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:22 a.m.

**13. Adjourn** – A **motion** made by LaPlante, seconded by McKelvey, to adjourn the June General Board Meeting. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

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Rebecca Plante, Secretary

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Doug McKelvey, Board Chairman