GOVERNING BOARD MEETING, BENEWAH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
Thursday, July 23, 2026, 7:00 a.m.
Francie Walters Board Room, Benewah Community Hospital, St. Maries, Idaho

MINUTES

Attendees:	Kris Brock Suzy Epler Wendy Stansbury	Andy Doman Doug McKelvey	Tom Ebert Jessica Sprute
Staff:	Burt Keltner, *CEO* Amy Edwards, *DNS*	Lori Minier, *CFO* Dr. Allyson Sterling	Becca Plante, *Board Secretary*
Other:	Mark Reynolds, County Commissioner Nellie Armstrong, Acrisure Jordan Peters, Admin. Intern *Community Members:* Jen Izzarelli, Mike Moore		

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

Amend Agenda – Chairman McKelvey requested a motion to amend the agenda, adding the following items:

- **#4** (between positive updates and approve minutes) – **Nellie Armstrong, Acrisure**

Reason not on posted agenda: We had a previous scheduling conflict with Armstrong and just received confirmation of attendance yesterday (July 22, 2026).

- **#6.2.4** under Finance Committee – **Proposed 2027 Budget** – Action item
- **#6.2.5** under Finance Committee – **Resolution 2026-01** – Action item

Reason not on posted agenda: Letter was received from the County's Attorney on Monday, July 20th requesting these specific items. The letter was discussed during the Board Finance Committee Meeting on July 21st.

A **motion** made by Brock, seconded by Epler, to amend the agenda, adding the items listed above. The motion passed.

2. **Regular Session**

3. **Positive Update/Celebrate Wins** – BCH welcomed its two new Board members, Andy Doman and Jess Sprute.

4. **Nellie Armstrong, Acrisure** – Armstrong shared BCH's 2025 health plan reports as well as a snapshot of Q1 2026. *Sterling entered at 7:05 a.m. Edwards exited at 7:05 a.m. Moore and Edwards entered at 7:06 a.m. Edwards exited at 7:10 a.m. Edwards entered at 7:13 a.m. Armstrong exited at 7:19 a.m.*

5. **Approve Minutes** – A **motion** made by Epler, seconded by Ebert, to approve the June 25, 2026, meeting minutes. The motion passed. Sprute abstained because she did not attend the June meeting.

6. **Board Committee Reports**

6.1. **Finance Committee** – Ebert reported that the Finance Committee met on Tuesday. Minier gave a brief financial update. At the end of June, cash on hand was down to $98,000 with several checks to vendors held. The committee discussed decreases in June and also had discussions regarding marketing ideas. Minier reported that we have been unable to make the county bond payment for April, May, and June. Contractual write-offs are up due to revenue. Discussions regarding budget to present to the county. Minier stated that we requested a line of credit from Banner Bank, and due to the going concern in the audit, we were denied. We have $153,000 in our reserve account. We will have a special meeting for the final audit. Minier added that all changes in the final audit were positive, but our Auditor would like to discuss. Epler complimented Minier on a great job presenting to the commissioners.

6.1.1. **June Financials** – A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Sprute, to approve the June financials. The motion passed.

6.1.2. **2025 Financial Audit– FINAL** – Item tabled.

6.1.3. **Banner Bank Signature Cards** – Minier stated that it is our current policy that the Board Chairman and Vice Chairman are the signers on checks. A **motion** made by Epler, seconded by Ebert, to approve updating the signers on the Banner Bank Signature Cards to Chairman McKelvey and Vice Chairman Brock (Remove Epler and Ebert). The motion passed.

6.1.4. **Proposed 2027 Budget** – McKelvey reported that we received a letter from the county attorney on behalf of the commissioners, requesting a realistic budget submission for inclusion in their 2027 budget year as well as an approved Resolution. Discussion regarding contractual write-offs and salaries and wages. We are currently unable to make the bond payment. Other long-term financing is unavailable. The new, proposed budget includes a realistic view without new services. Minier will make an effort to look at other financial options. Discussion regarding RHTP funds. Discussion regarding charges and how we are reimbursed based on allowable costs. Discussion regarding payor mix and how CAHs are paid. Hurdles also increased from payors to get paid. A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Stansbury, to approve the proposed 2027 budget to submit to the county. Epler abstained from voting; The motion passed.

6.1.5. **Resolution 2026-01 –** The Resolution prepared includes the following: Approving the 2027 proposed Hospital Budget to submit to the county, Requesting Levy Funds for the 2010 Hospital Construction Fund Debt Service Obligation, and Certifying Efforts to Obtain Alternate Long-Term Financing. A **motion** made by Epler, seconded by Doman, to approve Resolution 2026-01. The motion passed. Roll Call Vote – Stansbury: No, All others: ayes.

6.2. **Performance Improvement Committee –** The PI Committee met on July 14, 2026.

6.2.1. ***07.14.2026 PI Meeting Discussion*** – Brock discussed the July PI meeting.

6.2.1.1. Future Board PI Project Discussion – Brock stated that it was suggested the Board have a PI project. Discussion followed; to discuss next month.

6.2.2. ***07.14.2026 Compliance/Quality/Privacy/Safety Meeting Discussion*** – Compliance is very valuable, behind the scenes quality improvement is essential and very important.

6.2.3. ***PI Projects & Quality Data*** – A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Epler, to approve the PI Projects and Quality Data, in acknowledgement and support. The motion passed. *Sterling exited at 8:09 a.m.*

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

6.3.1. ***Creation of Business Development Committee*** – McKelvey would like to propose a new special committee to work with the community (look at service needs); discussion followed. A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Brock, to approve the creation of the Business Development Committee, as a special committee. The motion passed.

6.3.2. ***Board Committee Assignments*** – McKelvey distributed new Board Committee Assignments.

6.3.3. ***Board Conflict of Interest Statements*** – Conflict of Interest Statements are signed annually by Board members. Please return completed form to Plante. Doman stated that although he doesn't think this is a conflict, he wanted to note that his wife retired as a nurse from the clinic several years ago.

6.4. **Medical Staff Committee** – Epler gave highlights from the July Medical Staff meeting. Dr. Campbell will be replacing Dr. Burns as ED Director.

7. Open Forum/Visitors

7.1. Public Comment – Izzarelli stated that she understands and appreciates the situation the hospital is in, as well as a levy for taxpayers, noting that she knows the Board doesn't want to have to levy the county. Izzarelli suggested we look into an asset backed loan (based on receiveables, anticipating better reimbursement rates). Discussion regarding what the tax rate would be. Keltner stated that number would be based on home value, and the exact rate could be asked of the County Treasurer. Discussion followed.

8. Medical Staff

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

8.1.1. **Michael Abrahams, MD** – A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Stansbury, to approve the Initial Appointment of Family Medicine Physician Dr. Michael Abrahams. The motion passed

8.1.2. **Bryan Farnsworth, DO** – A **motion** made by Brock, seconded by Ebert, to approve the Initial Appointment of Teleradiologist Dr. Bryan Farnsworth. The motion passed

8.1.3. **Allison Young, MD** – A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Sprute, to approve the Initial Appointment of Pathologist Dr. Allison Young. The motion passed

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

8.2.1. **Adrian Davis, MD** – A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Epler, to approve the reappointment of Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Davis. The motion passed.

8.2.2. **D. Douglas Gandy, DO** – A **motion** made by Ebert, seconded by Stansbury, to approve the reappointment of Dr. D. Douglas Gandy for future PRN in the Quick Care. The motion passed.

9. Contracts

9.1. **Liability Insurance Renewal –** Minier reported that our Insurance Broker, Chivaroli, was onsite on Tuesday. We will be staying with the same Malpractice carrier (Physician's Insurance); discussion followed. Discussion regarding Management Liability and Directors and Officers as well as Security and Privacy. Overall, comparing 2025 to the current renewal, we have a small savings of $5,588. Discussion followed. A **motion** made by Stansbury, seconded by Sprute, to approve the 2026/2027 Liability Insurance Proposal. The motion passed.

10. Administrative Reports

10.1. ***Chief Executive Officer*** – Keltner reported the following:

- Our RNs are going above and beyond. Edwards is doing a great job recruiting.
- Pharmacist replacement will be full-time in September. Pharmacy Tech. is getting her compounding certification today. Discussion regarding infusion.
- Jordan Peters is an Operational, Administrative Intern as he is finishing his MBA program.
- Inpatient + Swing bed trend, 45-day average: 2.43. Adding obs.: 3.16. Infusions are up. Clinic volumes are low. Surgery volumes have remained flat.
- Wound Care LPN starting in September. Discussion regarding wound care. A $15,000 grant from Innovia was received for wound care nurse training.
- PT volumes look great.
- Insurance negotiations continue; UHC last week (dealing with since December).
- Rev Spring and InReach DX project still in the works. *Stansbury exited at 8:43a.m*. Discussion followed.
- RHTP funds (hope mid-August can proceed with requests). *Stansbury entered at 8:45a.m*. Keltner added that we have lots of grants out.
- Blue Eagle Consulting (optimize use and reporting in Cerner).
- Epler inquired about grants applied for under BetterCARE vs BCH. Foundation wants full Board Report.
- Cafe will be closed on Mondays due to staffing issues.

10.2. ***Director of Nursing Services*** – Edwards reported the following:

- Excited for new Pharmacist and Wound Care Nurse. Wound LPN and RN Shenelle Pugh will complete wound training, to include Lymphedema.
- Dr. Campbell, ER Board Certified Physician, will be a great ED Director. He is great to work with and is also adding some office days. A lot of trauma experience.
- Community comments about HIPAA – Edwards stated that staff are great about HIPAA laws. Any questions, please let us know. Stansbury added that our hospital is in very high compliance according to compliance audit.
- Our staff work very hard here. One new grad nurse passed her NCLEX yesterday and one more takes theirs soon. Infusion RN will be working with Oncologist Dr. Bartels for some hands-on chemo. training (middle to end of August).
- Overview of ER transfers. CAH's purpose is to stabilize and transfer. Transfers are reviewed by the Medical Staff.

10.3. ***Clinic Manager/ Medical Staff Coordination*** – Plante reported the following:

- Dr. Abrahams and Dr. Wester start Sept. 1st, and their schedules are open.
- Dr. Gandy's last day is July 29th. Jordan Day's last day is Aug 5th.
- Quick Care has remained steady, averaging about 9 pts./day.
- Hospital ER Tech and CNA have been helping in Quick Care due to being short staffed.
- The Clinic will be closed for half a day for our annual skills day Aug. 27th.
- Clinic CMA starts in September.
- Dr. Toscano has resigned and will be done at the end of September. Current PRN ER Physicians will cover this void.

- Marketing Assistant Julia Kaminski is doing very well. Videos have been going great.
- Several SMFM staff members have been cross trained to help in Reception.

11. Follow-Up Items – The Board asked Management to please make sure staff know how much the Board appreciates them.

12. Communications

12.1. **BetterCARE Update** – Epler stated that the Memorial Walk will not be happening this year and Golf tournament planning is underway.

13. Executive Session

****

At 9:12 a.m., a **motion** made by Brock, seconded by Stansbury, 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, Doman, Ebert, Epler, McKelvey, Sprute, Stansbury, Minier, Edwards, Plante, Peters, Izzarelli, Moore.

****

Minier, Edwards, Plante, Peters, Izarelli, and Moore exited at 9:12 a.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:45 a.m.

Discussion regarding the bond and levy dollars.

14. Adjourn – A **motion** made by Sprute seconded by Ebert, to adjourn the July General Board Meeting. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

____
Rebecca Plante, Secretary

____
Doug McKelvey, Board Chairman