



**EASTERN PLUMAS HEALTH CARE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES**

Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Board: Gail McGrath, Board Chair; Paul Swanson, M.D.

Staff in attendance: Doug McCoy, CEO; Susan Horstmeyer, Interim Executive Assistant; Katherine Pairish, CFO; Lorainne Noble, DON; Penny Holland, CNO; Donna Dorsey, ER Manager; Michelle Romero, Infection Control and Lori Tange, HR Director.

Absent: Vice Chair; Teresa Whitfield, Board Member; Linda Satchwell, Board Member; and Augustine Corcoran, Board Member

3. Board Comments

None.

4. Consent Calendar

ACTION: Reviewed by Director McGrath and Director Swanson, no action taken on items on the consent calendar due to a lack of quorum.

5. Auxiliary Report

Director McGrath reported many donations for wildfire victims.

6. Staff Reports

A. Infection Control/COVID-19

Michelle Romero

We are seeing a dramatic increase in positive COVID cases at EPHC. In just this month, we have tested over 300 patients for COVID-19. 72 of those patients were positive. This does not include any of the staff testing. To compare, in July, we tested just over 100 patients, 13 of which were positive. The lab is working very hard to process these tests, and they are doing an exceptional job. We are processing a majority of the tests in-house, which typically will give us same-day results – the only tests we are sending out to LabCorp are the routine staff tests.

Our staff testing has changed in the past month to reflect CDPH's updated requirements. Unvaccinated hospital and skilled nursing staff are testing twice weekly. Vaccinated hospital and skilled nursing staff are testing once weekly.

Unvaccinated clinic staff are testing once weekly. Fully vaccinated clinic staff are not required to test routinely.

Another new mandate by the state of California has put different restrictions on visitation in the hospital and skilled nursing facilities. Fully vaccinated visitors may schedule visitation with a patient or resident without needing to be tested. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated visitors must have proof of a negative COVID-19 in the past 72 hours to visit. Testing can be done here

at EPHC. All visitors are still screened for symptoms of COVID-19 upon entrance into the facility and must wear a mask at all times.

We currently have 8 staff members out with COVID-19.

As I'm sure everybody is already aware, the state of California has mandated the COVID-19 vaccine for all healthcare workers by September 30th. I know Doug and Lori will have more to say about this, but from Infection Control we are continuing to offer the vaccine and vaccine education to all employees.

We are continuing to offer the Pfizer and J&J vaccines at LMC & PMC.

Because the community demand for testing has increased so rapidly, we've been working with Doug and Christina Potter on a process with the clinics to offer drive-up testing at our Portola campus. Patients will call the clinic to be scheduled for a test. Testing will be offered Monday-Thursday, and results will be available the next day. The goal is to decrease the testing burden for both the ER and the clinics, especially with school starting soon. We will also be bringing back our provider triage line so that when patients call the clinic, a provider will be able to assess if they need to be seen, or if they can just be put on the schedule for a COVID test. We plan on advertising this tomorrow and beginning the process on Monday.

B. Chief Nursing Officer Report

Penny Holland

Penny Holland reported nine new beds arrived yesterday. The beds are "high tech" which provide increased patient safety. The beds were purchased as part of Covid funds. The new vein finder has arrived and placed in use. A new investigational medication, Regen-Cov has been ordered for use in patients with mild to moderate Covid symptoms.

C. SNF Director of Nursing

Lorraine Noble

Lorraine Noble reported a census of 54 for both facilities. Four beds were received for use from the acute floor, two went to each facility. Letters were sent to all resident's family members regarding visitation requirements. Visitors are now required to have a vaccine card or a negative Covid swab within 72 hours. Visitors are also screened upon arrival. A new ward clerk is in the hiring process. Unvaccinated staff (50% of staff) are wearing N95's and tested twice weekly. One staff member has tested positive even though previously having had Covid. One vaccinated staff member has tested positive. Three staff members are out with Covid. Residents are tested weekly, so far no positive test results. An SOS was sent out to all departments for anyone who would be able to assist in the SNFs. One employee has responded to help.

D. Chief Financial Officer Report

Katherine Pairish

See attached July financial reports.

7. **Chief Executive Officer Report**

Doug McCoy

OPERATIONAL PLAN OVERVIEW:

Overall net income of \$950,357 for the first month of the fiscal year significantly exceeded budgeted expectations. Clinic, inpatient, and outpatient revenues all exceeded budget, while overall expenses were under budget for the month by \$10,257. Outpatient revenue continues to increase monthly through strong performance from the Rehabilitation Services Department.

Three additional therapists have been added which will reduce delays in initiation of service and provide additional growth capacity. Inpatient swing census has continued a stable trend for the past 30 days but could be impacted with increases in community COVID cases. Segregation planning to prevent transmission while maintaining swing census levels is under review.

Dixie fire evacuations caused the closure of Seneca for two weeks and the evacuation of PDH twice. During the second PDH evacuation EPHC accepted all PDH inpatients for approximately 5 days. PDH supplied their staff to assist with care delivery and all patients were returned to PDH upon clearance of the evacuation order. EPHC continues to see an increased number of patients who have been displaced due to the fire, and remains on alert to support further evacuation notices.

Community COVID case rates have continued to rise sharply in both the County and EPHC service areas. Testing and vaccinations have also increased significantly over the past month as the impact of the Delta variant continues to grow. On August 5th a California executive order was signed to require vaccinations of all health care workers across the State or expanded testing and PPE requirements for those excluded from the order for medical or religious reasons. EPHC management has implemented a process to ensure compliance with the mandate but anticipates that there could be an impact to staffing levels based on the new requirements. We continue to work closely with our providers, staff, regulatory agencies, and associations to minimize the impact of the mandate requirement as much as possible. Further federal mandates are under review through CMS specifically focused on transmission prevention in skilled nursing facilities. To date EPHC has not had an internal COVID transmission in either the SNF or hospital units.

Mr. Paul Bruning will be joining EPHC as the new Director of Clinics. Paul is joining us from Florida where he served as the President and CEO for a health care recruiting company. Paul has over 13 years of clinic management experience with an emphasis on orthopedic medicine.

Mr. Charles Donovan will be joining EPHC as our new Clinical Informatics Specialist. Charles will be relocating from New York State, but spent many years in rural northern California and is eager to return to the area. Charles most recently spent the last 5 years as an implementation manager for Cerner and will bring a high level of expertise to our new EMR development. In addition to his informatics experience, Charles has over 12 years of experience as a critical care and ED nurse.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/PATIENT EXPERIENCE INITIATIVE:

The three-year partnership between EPHC and Custom Learning Systems to implement our patient experience initiative was launched with a leadership college program for the executive and implementation team on July 29th. This was followed by a virtual program for all staff on 'empathy and self-care for caregiver heroes' on August 12th. The next scheduled event was planned for September 9th and 10th, but due to increased COVID concerns in the community this session will be postponed until October. We have created several implementation teams and advisory councils with training for those members to occur during the rescheduled September event.

QUALITY/REGULATORY:

There has not been any significant regulatory activity to report for the last 30 days.

8. Policies

NO ACTION

9. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee:

10. Public Comment

No comments.

11. Board Closing Remarks

None

Open Session recessed at 10:11 a.m.

12. Closed Session

A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957)

Subject Matter: CEO

Discussion was held on a privileged item.

B. Hearing (Health and Safety Code 32155)

Subject matter: Staff Privileges

Provisional 1 Year Appointments

Eric Bossi, MD

Gamini Hethumuni, MD

Raymundo Punzalan, MD

Tele Psychiatry

Tele Endocrinology

Tele Endocrinology

Provisional 2 Year Appointments

Sandra Althaus, MD

Nick Carlevato, MD

Eric Goldberg, MD

Leon Jackson, MD

Robert Leckie, MD

Tele Radiology

Tele Radiology

Tele Radiology

Tele Radiology

Tele Radiology

13. Open Session Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board returned at approximately 10:24 am.

NO ACTION

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.