

**Southern Coos Health District**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 19, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.

**Minutes**

- I. **Call to Order** - The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors for Southern Coos Health District was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman, David Allen.

Members Present: David Allen, Chair; Marilyn Noorda; Brian Vick; Vicki Gernandt and Gregory Aitchison, M.D.

Others Present: Jim Wathen, Alan Dow, Lonnie Scarborough, Dr. Janet Bates, David Koch, Counsel; and Ellen Lafferty

Others Attending: Edie Jurgenson; Dennis Jurgenson; Sandra Wilson; M.D., Ken Bates, M.D.; Jim and Donna Reilly; Barbara Dodrill; Bob Hundhausen; Steve Lunt; Myra Lawson; Geneva Miller, Reporter; Mike Claassen; Gail McClave, M.D.; Penny Allen; Megan Holland, M.D.; Carri Wathen; Esther Williams; Dan & Diana Gehring; Carol Acklin; Sharon Romdean; Brandie Wood; Judy Rainey; Bernie Erter; Michelle Schlosser; Tricia Garrett; Kathy Coombe; Ruth Ball; Rachel Panter; Dawn Bauer; Rosemary Carter; Tressa Wilson; Mary Kemp; Charles Salt; Melody Gillard-Juarez; Jim Giambrone Jr.; Kendall Ridgway; Renne Nason; Jay Tiffany; Craig Holland; Catherine Riddick; Robin Koch; Michelle Aitchison; Darwin Noorda; Margaret Gorman Cook; Susan Yurila Tsumant; Mary Anker; Mary Theddiu; Gail Moser; William Princen, M.D.; Francis Quinn, and Sharon Comden.

- II. **Public Input** – Dr. Gail McClave welcomed Dr. Janet Bates to the table. Dr. Ken Bates explained why he did not think a staff physician should be on the Board. Stephen Lunt apologized for not attending last meeting. They had celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Myra Lawson agreed with what Dr. Ken Bates had said. Jim Smith shared qualifications of a good Board member and felt Mr. Hundhausen was a good candidate. Mike Claassen asked about Dr. Megan Holland's loan. Mr. Allen reminded Mr. Claassen he could not ask questions. This is a time of public input. Dr. Sandra Wilson expressed her support of Dr. Holland and shared results of an informal roll of District employees. Sharon Comden said she had not intended to speak. Dr. Bates' appeal to both rational and ethical standards was unexpected and very inspiring. He was a rational voice. He said we have a consensus position that is supported by the Medical staff. She was saddened because this community and Mr. Wathen need all the support and all the talent and all the skills that this community can bring to him. She said she was hearing self interest, fear, mistrust and character assassination. This is sad and very unfortunate for this community and I am sorry for all of you. Margaret Cook gave her reasons for supporting Dr. McClave.

Mary Kemp gave her support to Esther Williams who has been an RN for 40 years. Carol Meijer has been a nurse for 41 years and supports Dr. Holland. Carol Acklin commented that we could be setting a precedent by always electing a physician on the Board. Mr. Allen closed the Public Input.

Ms. Gernandt commented that she did not see anything on the agenda where Dr. Janet Bates speaks and asked if that would be now or later on. Mr. Allen said she would be speaking during Staff reports.

Mr. Allen then asked if the Board had any comments. Ms. Noorda said she would just say 'ditto' of last week. Mr. Allen then asked for nominations to fill the vacating seat.

Ms. Noorda **Nominated** Mr. Hundhausen; Ms. Gernandt **Seconded**. Motion failed  
Mr. Vick **Nominated** Esther Williams. Mr. Allen **Seconded**. Motion failed  
Mr. Allen **Nominated** Dr. Megan Holland. Mr. Vick **Seconded**. Motion failed  
Mr. Allen **Nominated** Steve Lunt. There was no second. Motion failed  
Ms. Noorda **Nominated** Dr. McClave. There was no second. Motion failed

Ms. Noorda then made a **Motion** to send vote to County Commissioners. Mr. Allen asked Mr. Koch if we need a motion to do this. Mr. Koch stated that statute is not clear on the process for how the matter would get to the County Board of Commissioners. What the statute provides is that the vacancy will be filled by the majority of the remaining Board members. If they cannot select or choose the replacement candidate, then the matter goes to the County Board of Commissioners for resolution. It would seem logical that could get to them by a vote of the majority of the Board to send the matter to them if the majority believes they are deadlocked and irreconcilably cannot fill the position. Mr. Allen asked what would happen if we deadlock on this motion. Mr. Wathen asked if Dr. Aitchison could participate in this vote. Mr. Koch indicated that he could while he is still a Board member. Mr. Vick **Seconded** the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Allen announced that the Auditors would be presenting the annual Audit Report after a 5-minute break.

Meeting reconvened at 8:15pm

Auditor presentation was given by Tony Andrade and Paul Holden of Moss Adams.

Presentation ended at 8:59pm. Mr. Allen moved back into the regular meeting and asked for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda which consisted of the minutes of the October 15 and November 12 meetings and the Foundation report.

**III. Consent Agenda** – Mr. Vick made a **Motion** to accept the Consent Agenda. Dr. Aitchison **Seconded** the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Staff Reports**

CEO Report – Mr. Wathen told members he had nothing to add to the narrative that was in their report and would answer any questions members might have. There were none.

CFO Report – Mr. Dow said the most significant factor contributing to a good month was that in-patient volume was up substantially, 58% higher than last month and 81% higher than this time last year. Outpatient volumes up modestly. At the end of the month we had a positive operating income. Bad debts were lower this month; a significant part of that is A/R reduction was so great. He then said that last month we talked about how much A/R had grown and there was concern. He anticipated they would drop this month and they did about \$800,000. Days in receivables had gotten up into the 90s and are back down to 75 days which is in line with what we saw at the end of the year. Ms. Noorda asked how the new collection agency was doing. Mr. Dow said it was a little early to tell.

CNO Report – Referred Board to her report in their packet. She said there was one exception. We were hoping to report on Employee Satisfaction surveys but they are not available, but we will have them ready for next month.

MSP Report – Dr. Bates said she was Chief of Staff 6 years ago. A few of the issues we are going through right now: the physician who is on in the ED sleeps here and that is part of the policy. Discussion followed on how that affects the Swing Bed program. She has started meeting monthly with Lauren Paquet and HIM director, Diana Gehring and going over ways physicians can help with the upcoming RAC audits. At the beginning of the last month, we started a program with the Hospitalists working 7 days on and 7 days off. This helps with the continuity of care. We are going through a change in the scheduling of the ER physicians.

Dr. Aitchison asked about the proposed room for the ER physicians to sleep. It was put on hold by the economic times. He asked if there was any room in the near future to get it going again. Mr. Wathen said it would be dependent on where it fits in with other priorities. We have space issues everywhere. Right now there are better uses of funds. Dr. Bates brought up a good idea for nights and weekends: offices are empty so we may find a way to utilize something like that.

Discussion followed about the ER physician having to be on-site and if the sleep rooms are being utilized. It is being used for visiting nurses and trainers from Paragon. Availability is an issue and there is concern about walking across the parking lot at night to the sleep house.

#### **V. Old Business**

##### Benchmark Reports

- Peer Comparisons – Mr. Wathen said this is a quarterly report and is information for the Board.
- HCAHPS – This is ongoing and has been updated for January 2008 through October 2008. There has been improvement since last update.

- Outpatient Satisfaction Report – This is for January 2009 – December 2009. We are still in the 100<sup>th</sup> percentile.

## **VI. New Business**

Boot Camp – We are sponsoring this promotion for weight loss, good health and your business. It is a benefit for the Bree's Foundation.

PA System Purchase – Discussion on the feasibility of the purchase of a PA system. We will get some numbers and bring them back to the Board.

## **VII. Open Discussion**

Dr. Aitchison – Thanked everyone and expressed his appreciation of everyone who had a part in his time with the community. Thanked everyone for the honor and the opportunity to be of service. Mr. Wathen then presented Dr. Aitchison with his 'Wave' goodbye.

Ms. Gernandt – No comments.

Ms. Noorda – Meeting went very well. Enjoyed the Audit Presentation.

Mr. Vick – Thanked Dr. Aitchison for his service to the community and on the Board. It has been an honor to serve with you.

Mr. Allen – Thanked Dr. Aitchison for his service to the community and on the Board. I have been with you for a long time, you have been absolutely great and I have learned a lot from you.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Southern Coos Health District Board will be Thursday, December 17, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

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David Allen, Chairman

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Vicki Gernandt , Secretary