

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
BOARD MEETING
Meeting Location: MCMH Conference Center
Zoom option available.
January 31, 2024**

ROLL CALL

Trustees	Kevin Cabbage, Chair	Jill Bergstrom, Vice Chair (Zoom)	James Norris, Treasurer (Zoom)
	Ann Carder, Secretary (Zoom)	Roger Ehmke, Trustee	Jason Poston, Trustee
	Lorin Petersen, Trustee		
Administration	Ron Kloewer, Chief Executive Officer		Mike O'Neal, Chief Operating Officer
	Bryant Blay, Chief Financial Officer		Krystalle Fada, Chief Nurse Executive
	Kylie Bowen, Administrative Services Manager		
Staff	Pete Wemhoff, Admin Director of Support Services (Zoom); Phyllis Drake, Admin Director of Patient Diagnostics & Ancillary Care (Zoom) Tim Werges, Controller (Zoom); Gale Bingham, HR Director (Zoom); Sherstin Willyerd, Pharmacy Department Manager (Zoom)		
Medical Staff	Chief of Staff, Dr. Grass		
Public Visitors	N/A		
Montgomery County Board of Supervisors	Charla Schmid (Zoom)		
Absent	N/A		

CALL TO ORDER

Kevin Cabbage, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM at Montgomery County Memorial Hospital (MCMH) in the Conference Center. A Zoom option was available for those who wished to attend virtually.

RECOGNITION OF QUORUM

Kevin Cabbage recognized that all trustees were present.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was presented for consideration by the Board of Trustees. It consisted of the minutes from the Board of Trustees meetings held on December 27, 2023 and January 13, 2024, policies and the following provider appointments; Jessica Leeds, ARNP; Norman Ferrer, MD; Uma Nooka, MD; Nathan Hannemann, DO; Shannon Calhoun, DO; Brandi Schaefer, ARNP.

A motion by Jason Poston, seconded by Roger Ehmke, to approve the consent agenda was passed unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

MEDICAL STAFF REPORTS

Dr. Eduard Grass reported that there are difficulties with transferring patients to higher-level of care due to the lack of beds and EMS transfers.

Ron Kloewer presented a letter that he wrote to the City of Red Oak addressing the EMS transfer issue. The group discussed the situation. Ron noted that MCMH wishes to continue to work with the City of Red Oak to find a solution that works for all parties.

Dr. Grass complimented the ED providers, Dr. Angela Kerchner and the inpatient providers on the improvements made to those service lines.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer – Ron Kloewer
Report included in the Meeting Book.

No questions or comments.

Chief Operating Officer – Mike O’Neal
Report included in the Meeting Book.

Mike reported that MCMH is in full swing of optimization and improving efficiencies following the implementation of several major projects in 2023.

Mike noted that a pharmacist, Jena Aughe, has been hired to work in the retail pharmacy.

Two nurses have passed their limited radiology tech boards and are able to perform x-ray services at the Villisca Medical Clinic.

Chief Financial Officer – Bryant Blay
Report included in the Meeting Book.

Bryant reported that the MRI volumes show a monthly average of 75 scans, calculated over the two month period the machine has been live. If the two month average is annualized it would equal approximately 900 scans annually. The project proforma listed a breakeven of 775 scans annually.

MCMH has been asked to be a Cerner “beta site” for a patient billing solution. The Cerner Community Works platform has 300 clients and MCMH will be 1 of 3 beta sites for the new solution.

The retail pharmacy volumes and revenue were discussed. Bryant reported that the team is working to create additional reports for better visibility on the new service line.

Bryant noted that MCMH is still waiting on the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) payment and the Medicaid Direct Payment Program payments.

Lorin Petersen complimented the Revenue Cycle Team on the low days in AR. Recent average has been in the low 40's.

Chief Nurse Executive-Krystalle Fada
Report included in the Meeting Book.

Krystalle noted that the inpatient census has been averaging 10-12 patients per day. Likewise, volumes have been strong in skilled care and the Emergency Department.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

Compliance:

Report included in the Meeting Book.

Investment Update:

Report included in the Meeting Book. Bryant Blay led a discussion on CD investments.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cash Disbursements:

A motion by James Norris, seconded by Lorin Petersen, to approve the accounts payable cash disbursements in the amount of \$2,078, 928, which excludes any potential conflict of interest payments, was passed unanimously.

A motion by James Norris, seconded by Jason Poston, to approve the potential conflict of interest payment to FMTC in the amount of \$6,350, was unanimously approved, with Kevin Cabbage abstaining.

Tax Asking Budget Estimate Discussion:

Bryant Blay led a discussion on the FY2025 Tax Asking budget. It was noted that Montgomery County saw a 14.2% increase in the valuation of the county. The group also discussed the tax asking impact that the installation of wind turbines in Montgomery County would have on MCMH and other tax-supported entities. Bryant presented three options:

- Option A -- equal last year's tax asking amount (\$1,968,166 Total Tax Asking / \$2.6843 Tax Rate per \$1,000)
- Option B -- equal last year's tax levy amount (\$2,247,021 Total Tax Asking / \$3.0636 Tax Rate per \$1,000)
- Option C -- raise tax levy amount (\$2,309,621 Total Tax Asking / \$3.1500 Tax Rate per \$1,000)

It was noted that after publication of the proposed tax asking rate, trustees may implement a rate that is lower than the publication, but not higher.

Set Public Hearing for Tax Asking:

Lorin Petersen made a motion to publish Option B and to hold a public hearing on February 28, 2024 at 8:15 AM. Jason Poston seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

John Marshall, insurance broker with HUB International, presented information regarding risk, risk mitigation and current trends in the insurance market. Follow-up discussions included the topics of artificial intelligence (AI) and strategic planning, among other topics.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Committee Reports

Critical Access Hospital Review – (Roger Ehmke & Jill Bergstrom)-N/A

Foundation – (Ann Carder & James Norris)-N/A

IHA Legislative – (Roger Ehmke)-Roger discussed the Certificate of Need law.

IT Governance – (Kevin Cabbage)-N/A

Patient Experience – (Lorin Petersen & Jason Poston)-N/A

Quality Patient Safety – (Jill Bergstrom & Roger Ehmke)-N/A

Community Relations Governance – (Ann Carder & Jill Bergstrom)-N/A

Pharmacy Governance – (Ann Carder)-N/A

Conflict of Interest Forms

The Conflict of Interest forms were distributed to the trustees to be reviewed and signed for 2024. This is an annual process.

Consideration of the 2024 MCMH Strategic Plan

A motion by Jill Bergstrom, seconded by Ann Carder, to approve the 2024 MCMH Strategic Plan as presented, was passed unanimously.

Discussion of CEO Performance Evaluation Process

Kevin Cabbage reported that the survey process for the annual CEO performance evaluation will begin soon; March 15 marks the completion of Ron Kloewer's third year as CEO. Kevin Cabbage noted that he would work with Bryant Blay and the Finance Committee to review the salary and benefit package considerations.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Kevin Cabbage noted that the next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2024.

Kylie Bowen noted that James Norris, Ann Carder and Jill Bergstrom completed their Advanced Trustee Education Certification and continuing education requirements. Jason Poston completed his initial Advanced Trustee Education Certification. Congratulations to James, Ann, Jill and Jason! The Trustee Education Certification is managed by the Iowa Hospital Association (IHA).

Kevin sought volunteers for a special committee to prepare for the upcoming vacancies due to the retirements of trustees Lorin Petersen and Roger Ehmke. Jill Bergstrom, James Norris and Jason Poston were appointed to the committee with Jason Poston serving as committee chair.

Ron Kloewer noted that he has been elected chair of the CyncHealth Iowa board for a two-year term.

ADJOURN

Ann Carder made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chair Kevin Cabbage adjourned the meeting at 10:23 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ann M. Carder".

Ann Carder, Sec.