

Bartlett Regional Hospital

JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

May 10, 2019 – 7:00 a.m.

Robert F. Valliant Boardroom

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lance Stevens, Board President

Don Schneider, Jr., MD, Chief of staff

Rosemary Hagevig, Board Vice-President

Joy Neyhart, DO, Vice-Chief of Staff (Phone)

Bob Urata, MD, Board Secretary

Noble Anderson, MD, Secretary/Treasurer

Theresa Shanley, MD, Past Chief of Staff

ALSO PRESENT:

Chuck Bill, CEO

Anita Moffitt, Executive Assistant

Call to Order- Meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m. by Lance Stevens, Board President

Approval of the Agenda – The agenda was reviewed. Executive session was removed.

Public Participation – None

Approval of the Minutes – *Dr. Urata made a MOTION to approve the September 20, 2018 Joint Conference meeting minutes. Dr. Schneider seconded. There being no objections, the minutes were approved.*

NEW BUSINESS

Ophthalmology – Mr. Bill reported that Dr. Kopstein is still on board for providing Ophthalmologic services and is working through a release from his contractual agreement with his current employer. He has applied for his Alaska Medical License and submitted his application for privileges to the Medical Staff office for processing. Issuance of his AK Medical license will determine the timeline that he will begin providing services in Juneau. A request for an emergency issue of a temporary license has been made. The finance committee has approved the purchase of the equipment needed for ophthalmology services. These services will be provided out of the Specialty Clinic. Mr. Bill also reported that JEMA had provided information regarding a retinal specialty group in Anchorage that has expressed interest in providing teleconsulting services for the Emergency Department. He will pursue this opportunity.

Psychiatry - We continue to recruit for Psychiatry. The preference would be for a provider specialized in Pediatric Psychiatry or be able to provide both Child and Adult services. The RFP for the Crisis Intervention Center is being prepared. The Mental Health Trust will let us know at the end of the month how much the amount of the grant will be, we had asked for 2.5 Million.

Construction – A satellite pharmacy will be built where the gift shop is currently located. A new state of the art exhaust system that will meet employee safety and is required in order to meet code by the end of the year will be installed. The gift shop will be temporarily relocated to Dr. Breffeilh's old space until

their new shop can be built where the OB waiting area is currently located. The kids play area will be moved around the corner. The lactation room will be moved over near the sleep lab. We should be breaking ground the end of July for the RRC remodel. This will take up most of the parking lot. Parking and shuttle services may need to be arranged for an offsite location.

Orthopedics - JBJC has added another orthopedist. With the addition of this new physician and Dr. Hightower covering on-call services, we will be able to discontinue the use of Locum Tenens.

Central Peninsula Hospital – A team of BRH staff will be in Soldotna next week to look at their Swing Bed program and Robotics program. BRH has tabled moving ahead with the Robotics program for now, primarily due to lack of staffing. Mr. Bill had reached out to Alaska Regional as well as Virginia Mason to see if they would be able to provide a surgical team for one week per month until we have experienced staff here at BRH. Both facilities said no. AK Regional representative stated they are barely able to cover their own needs. She also stated that they are losing money on every robotic surgical case. It was reported that Providence is working with Central Peninsula and is subsidizing the robotics program. Mr. Bill will follow-up on this to see if there is some way for BRH to follow suit. Dr. Urata expressed concern that it will take 7 years to pay for a piece of equipment with only a 5 year life span.

Concerns were expressed about SEARHC's plans for the future. Also discussed was Medicare and Medicaid cuts and SEARHC reimbursement rates. Bartlett will look to SEARHC as a possible entity to enter into an affiliation agreement with. With the acquisition of Mount Edgecombe Hospital, SEARHC is advertising that services are now available to everyone. SEARHC has an affiliation with Swedish Hospital to provide surgical specialists. A discussion was held regarding the effects this has had on Dr. Raster's practice. Dr. Anderson raised concerns about entering into an affiliation with Virginia Mason based on patient transfer issues. Further discussion was held about pursuing an affiliation with SEARHC and the need to look ahead.

OLD BUSINESS

Title 40 Updates – The Title 40 changes are in the Assembly's hands now. The first reading will be on May 13th.

Ongoing Communications – A discussion was held about the frequency of Joint Conference meetings. Dr. Urata and Ms. Hagevig support quarterly meetings. Mr. Stevens proposed the next meeting take place in August or September. Dr. Urata noted a request by the Medical Staff that more plant based options are made available in the cafeteria to promote healthier eating for patients, staff and physicians. Mr. Bill has already discussed this with the cafeteria and plant based menu options will be made available in the near future. We will need to look at buying options for purchase of produce.

Joint Conference meeting schedule – Mr. Bill reported that the Joint Conference Committee of the Senate and House are trying to come up with a budget. The department intends to implement as many of its recommended changes as it can whether the Legislature wants them to or not. He will be in Anchorage on Tuesday, May 14th, meeting with the Commissioner and two Deputy Commissioners. He will have more details after the meeting. Dr. Urata reported that WAMI will not renew. Mr. Bill reported that the Certificate of Need will not move forward this year. The Pioneer Home status is still unclear.

Medical Staff Comments – Dr. Schneider reported that the nurse of the year award will be presented to Katie White at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon in the BRH gallery. He noted that BRH really has great nurses. A discussion was held about how highly BRH is rated by cruise ship patients and how low the locals rate us.

Dr. Neyhart also acknowledged the awesome nursing staff.

Board / Administrator Comments - None

Adjournment – There being no further business, the Joint Conference Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:58 a.m.