

**MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL OF SWEETWATER COUNTY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

February 28, 2024

The Board of Trustees of Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County met in a special workshop meeting via Zoom on February 28, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. with Dr. Barbara Sowada, President, presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Sowada called the meeting to order and announced there was a quorum. The following Trustees were present online during the meeting: Judge Nena James, Mr. Marty Kelsey, Mr. Craig Rood, and Dr. Barbara Sowada. Excused: Ms. Kandi Pendleton.

Officially present during the meeting: Ms. Irene Richardson, Chief Executive Officer; Mr. Taylor Jones, Sweetwater County Commission Liaison; and Mr. Geoff Phillips, Legal Counsel.

MISSION MOMENT

Ms. Richardson said Dr. Fred Matti, Radiologist, shared a conversation with her he had with someone in our community. The person told him they had called the Hospital to talk about a concern and said we helped them and everyone was amazing. The person told Dr. Matti they work in the service industry and has heard many people say the Hospital is amazing and they trust the Hospital. Dr. Matti said we have been very busy and this person told him they believe it is because people are trusting the Hospital. Dr. Matti told Ms. Richardson this made him feel very good about all we are doing.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Kelsey announced a quorum of the Finance & Audit Committee. He welcomed Commissioner Jones to the meeting. The motion to approve the committee agenda was made by Ms. Richardson; second by Ms. Tami Love, Chief Financial Officer. Motion carried. The motion to approve the January 21, 2024, committee meeting minutes was made by Ms. Layne, Controller; second by Ms. Richardson. Motion carried. Mr. Kelsey said there was no need to take any action on any business items. In reference to the narrative, Mr. Kelsey said he has been on the Board almost seven years and he doesn't remember a margin like this before and he said he thinks it is awesome. Ms. Love highlighted some information in the financial narrative. Ms. Richardson provided a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) update. She said we have been very busy and we are limited by the number of patients we can see due to staffing. We met with the Medical Staff and we are going to trial a separate 10-bed observation unit so we can see what that would look like. Observation beds are not counted in the 25-bed count required with CAH. Ms. Richardson said everyone agrees patients come first. If patients want to stay here and the physicians want them to stay here, we need to find a way to make that happen. We are able to keep more patients here due to the telemedicine options in place. It is becoming harder and harder to transfer patients because other facilities have staffing issues of their own. Ms. Love said CliftonLarsonAllen is onsite this week. They have been doing

some training sessions with the patient access teams. We will be able to start to track some things like eligibility and point of service collections better. We have some baseline information and can run some reports to track going forward. They also met with the patient finance team to continue their work on their policies and procedures. They are still doing the documentation training with the providers. We have received great feedback on that process. It is going very well. Dr. Sowada said we have much to celebrate with the highest revenue month ever.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion to go into executive session at 2:17 p.m. was made by Mr. Kelsey; second by Mr. Rood. Motion carried.

RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION

The motion to leave executive session and return to regular session at 3:54 p.m. was made by Judge James; second by Mr. Rood. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Dr. Barbara Sowada, President

Attest:

Ms. Kandi Pendleton, Secretary