

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF  
TALLAHATCHIE GENERAL HOSPITAL**

**December 28, 2021**

On this date at the hour of 10:30 a.m., the Board of Trustees and Board of Trustees Executive Committee met in regular session in the multipurpose room of the James C. Kennedy Wellness Center with the following trustees and personnel, to wit:

David Hargett, Trustee District One  
Ike Sayle, Trustee District Two  
Gerry Speir, Trustee District Three  
Willie Lockett, Trustee District Five (via Zoom)  
Jim Blackwood, Administrator (via Zoom)  
Joey Brunson, Chief Financial Officer

Trustee Speir opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the November 23, 2021 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Trustee Hargett to approve these minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sayle with all Trustees voting "Aye" in favor of the motion.

Mr. Brunson gave the Board copies of the statistics for the providers showing their production in the hospital and the clinic for the month of November, 2021. The Board reviewed the statistics and questions were asked and answered.

Mr. Brunson presented the report of the Finance Committee for November 2021 financials to the Board. Questions were asked and answered about the statements. A motion was made by Trustee Sayle to approve the report of the Finance Committee as presented for November, 2021. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hargett with all Trustees voting "Aye" in favor of the motion.

Mr. Blackwood circulated the Administrator's comments, a copy of which appears as Exhibit 1 hereto and is incorporated herein by reference. Questions were asked and answered concerning the Administrator's comments.

The Quality Report and HCAHPS Report for November, 2021. Questions were asked and answered concerning the quality metrics for the month.

Mr. Blackwood presented the Amended Myriad Agreement and requested approval from the Board authorizing him to execute this agreement. A motion was made by Trustee Hargett authorizing Mr. Blackwood to execute this amended agreement. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sayle with all Trustees voting "Aye" in favor of the motion.

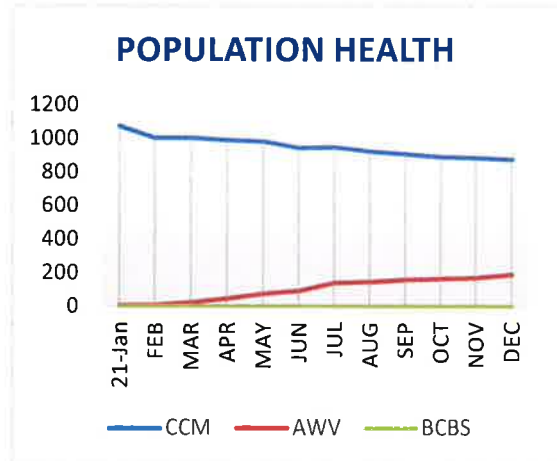
Mr. Blackwood discussed with the Board the COVID-19 CMS and OSHA rulings and the exemptions provided under these ruling. After a discussion on this matter by the Board, the matter was tabled.

There being no further matters for discussion, the Board adjourned.

## Administrator's Comments – Meeting of December 28, 2021

**Nursing Home Census:** We have 73 residents in the nursing home, up from 72 last month. We have 13 beds open on the general care side and 12 on the special care side. We currently have 2 referrals whose admissions are being reviewed.

**ACO and Population Health Initiatives:** We have 878 participants enrolled in our Chronic Care Management program. We continue to encourage current and former participants to retain their traditional Medicare plans. We have now conducted 190 Medicare Annual Wellness Visits, up from 171 last month. BCBS Color Me Healthy exams remain flat.



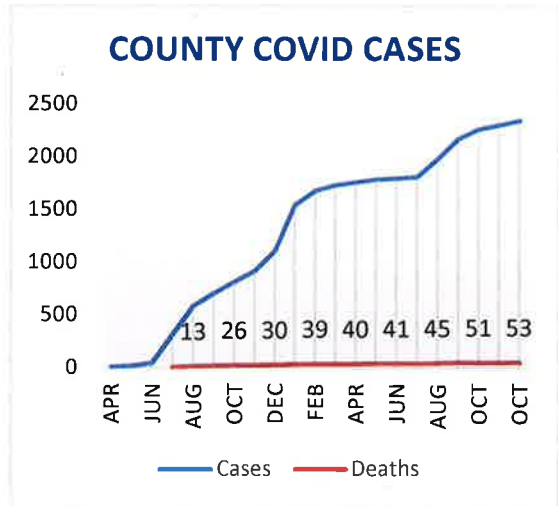
**TGH Discount Pharmacy:** We filled 4,764 prescriptions in November, up from 4,607 prescriptions in October.



**COVID-19:** Tallahatchie County's number of COVID-19 cases increased to 2,347, up from 2,308 last month. There was one new Covid-related death, bringing the county's total to 53.

We currently have no positive ECF residents, and no positive patients on the hospital floor. Outbreaks among staff remain relatively rare.

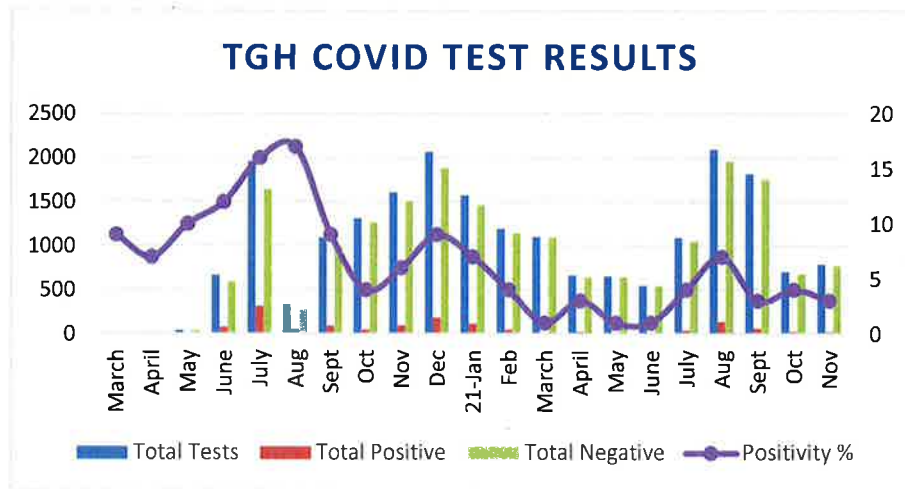
Demand for the vaccine at the clinic remains relatively low, but steady. We are providing 10-20 new vaccinations per week, with about the same number of booster shots. We now have the newly-available pediatric vaccine from Pfizer, which may be given to children 5 and older.



The Omicron variant of Covid has officially been detected in Mississippi. Data indicate that this variant is highly contagious. It is not yet known, however, how lethal it is compared to other variants, or what its relative hospitalization rate is.

**CMS Vaccine Mandate:** On November 30, a federal court in Louisiana issued an injunction temporarily blocking CMS' rule requiring the vaccination of healthcare workers. In response to this ruling, CMS has suspended implementation and enforcement of its Covid vaccine mandate for healthcare workers.

The injunction temporarily halts the new rule from taking effect, allowing time for the court to consider legal challenges as to the rule's validity. As



with any injunction, it can be undone at any time by the issuing judge, or

overturned by an appellate court, so we will continue to monitor the situation as it develops.

At the same time CMS's rule was announced, OSHA also announced a similar rule stating that all employers with more than 100 employees must require their employees to either 1) be vaccinated, or 2) submit to weekly Covid testing. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, however, issued an injunction halting enforcement of the rule. Then, on December 17, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals dissolved the Fifth Circuit's injunction. This would, theoretically, mean that TGH would be required to enforce OSHA's rule, requiring our employees to either be vaccinated or undergo weekly Covid tests. Obviously aware of the confusion created by conflicting court rulings, OSHA has announced that it is delaying enforcement of the rule until February 9, 2022.

As things stand, TGH will prepare to comply with the OSHA rule by February 9, 2022, made easier by the preparations already done to comply with CMS' (now suspended) rule. From a legal perspective, when different federal courts begin issuing conflicting rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court will tend to grant an appeal so that it can decide the underlying issues and resolve the confusion among the circuits. We will continue to monitor these developments to stay in compliance.

**Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal:** Every year our workers' compensation carrier adjusts our premium based on the number of claims filed over a rolling, three-year average. Due to fewer claims being filed over the last two years, we were recently told that our annual premium has decreased by approximately \$35,000.

**ECF Courtyard Project:** The Foundation has indicated that it has received the architect's final plans for the project. The latest word I have received is that construction will hopefully begin in the spring.

**Tutwiler Clinic:** The Foundation is still working to secure a suitable site to build a new Tutwiler Clinic building. My understanding is that negotiations are ongoing.

**TGH Audit:** Our new auditors from Welch, Couch & Company, P.A. were here the week of December 13 to perform the field work for this year's audit. Early indications are that the process went well, with no significant disagreements between the auditors and our accounting department.

**Legal Matters – Victoria Sturdivant:** No updates.