

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

**June 23, 2020**

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 boardroom at the Administration House with the following trustees and personnel, to wit:

Gerry Speir, Trustee District Three  
Morris Murphey, Trustee District Four  
Willie Lockett, Trustee District Five  
Jim Blackwood, Administrator  
Joey Brunson, Chief Financial Officer  
Buddy McRae, Chief Operating Officer  
Rani Richard, Finance

Trustee Speir opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the May 26, 2020 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Trustee Lockett to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphey 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 May 2020. The Board reviewed the statistics and questions were asked and answered.

Mr. Brunson presented the financial report for the May 2020 financials. Questions were asked and answered about the report. A motion was made by Trustee Murphey to approve this report. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lockett 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.

Mr. Blackwood reported to the Board that he received an email from Paul Gardner with Mississippi Hospital Association as to our participation in the ACO. We had contracted our shared savings program under the Myriad ACO with Caravan Health. Mr. Gardner advised that one large system and two other small hospitals have indicated they intended to leave the ACO because of the fees that Caravan is charging. The potential adverse impact on TGH was that if the ACO had fewer lives, the shared savings would be smaller and the risk posed by hospitals whose costs increased would be spread among fewer ACO members, creating potential volatility in shared savings. Mr. Blackwood reported that the ACO would be convening a meeting of the Board, at which he anticipated the Board would recommend termination of the contract with Caravan, and that an RFP would be issued for its replacement. Mr. Gardner advised Mr. Blackwood that if a replacement for Caravan could be identified with lower fees, there was indication that those members who indicated they were leaving the ACO would remain. A motion was made by Trustee Murphey authorizing Mr. Blackwood to review all options and terminate our contract with Caravan if deemed appropriate. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lockett with all Trustees voting "Aye" in favor of the motion.

Mr. Blackwood reported to the Board that it was time to renew our line of credit with Bank of Commerce so that we would have this if needed for future use. After a discussion of this matter, Trustee Murphey made a motion that we renew this line of credit. Trustee Lockett seconded the motion with all Trustees voting "Aye" in favor of renewing this line of credit. Mr. Blackwood presented a resolution authorizing him to take any and all actions necessary to apply for, and make use of, said line of credit including providing financials and executing all necessary documents. This resolution was previously signed by Trustee Sayle as Secretary in an effort to expedite this matter if the line of credit was approved. Trustee Speir signed the resolution as this meeting after the line of credit was approved.

Mr. Blackwood reported to the Board that we have renewed our employee health insurance plan with Blue Cross and Blue Shield at the same rate and deductibles as the previous year. Mr. Blackwood advised the Board that with the help of Linda Rowland, the hospital was able to offer a gap plan that significantly lowers employees deductibles without increasing the cost of the plan to TGH. Trustee Lockett made a motion to approve the renewal of the employee insurance along with the gap plan. Trustee Murphey seconded the motion with all Trustees voting “aye” in favor of this renewal and gap plan.

Mr. McRae circulated the Quality Report and HCAHPS for May, 2020. Questions were asked and answered concerning the quality metrics for the month.

Mr. McRae also presented three policies to the Board for review and approval as follows:

The COVID-19 policy for the lab was presented. Trustee Murphey made a motion that this policy be approved. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lockett with all Trustees voting “Aye” in favor of this policy.

A policy as to management of bedbugs was presented. Trustee Lockett made a motion to approve this policy. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphey with all Trustees voting “Aye” in favor of this policy.

A policy for emergency use of Remdesivir, along with the protocol for emergency use of said drug, was presented. Trustee Murphey made a motion that the policy and protocol be approved. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lockett with all Trustees voting “Aye” in favor of this policy and protocol.

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

## **Administrator's Comments – Meeting of June 23, 2020**

**Nursing Home Census** – We have 88 residents in the nursing home, with five beds open on the general care side and five on the special care side. Referrals have been limited since the onset of COVID-19, and we are applying heightened scrutiny to what referrals we are getting.

**ACO and Population Health Initiatives** – Our Population Health/ACO initiatives continue to see significant growth. We currently have 908 active Chronic Care Management patients (up from 830 in May). We have now conducted 107 Medicare Annual Wellness Visits, although this number will likely be slow to increase as the clinic reopens. We have not performed any additional Blue Cross Color Me Healthy exams in the past month.

**TGH Discount Pharmacy** – We filled 4,621 prescriptions in May, down from 5,043 in April. We suspect the decrease in volume is related to less patients going to doctors and/or obtaining prescription refills since the onset of COVID-19. Also, since prescription syncing became available, a growing number of customers have begun to use the service, meaning that their prescriptions will be filled less often. We still plan to introduce a delivery service, though this has been delayed for now due to COVID-related factors.

**DNV Survey** – Some time ago, DNV notified its accredited hospitals that it would be conducting “virtual” surveys until on-site inspections could resume, and that the ordinary time windows may be rearranged. While our typical survey window would be in September-October, we have now been told that we will have a virtual survey done next week, with the entire process done via teleconferencing and document sharing. We notified department heads of this possibility approximately one month ago, and are now finalizing preparations for the survey.

**COVID-19** – Since our last meeting, four TGH employees and two ECF residents have tested positive for COVID-19. Three of the employees were ECF A-wing CNAs, which is where the two positive ECF residents were identified (the fourth positive employee works in the Charleston

Clinic). We have since re-tested all A-wing residents who were in rooms serviced by the three CNAs, and all of the tests were negative, so the outbreak appears to be contained. Two of the CNAs never had symptoms and have now returned to work; the third became symptomatic and had to be hospitalized, but has now fully recovered. The two positive residents already had significant underlying health issues, and had DNR orders stating that they did not wish to be intubated, put on a ventilator, or undergo any invasive life-preserving measures. As of this writing, one is hospitalized at TGH and the other is in Oxford. Indicators for recovery for both residents are questionable.

Since we have positive employees and/or residents in the ECF, every resident's family has been called and informed, and a special number has been set up that families can call for the latest information. The results have also been reported to every governmental and regulatory agency to which we are required to report.

We have made no changes in the past month to the visitation policies we put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including no visitors in the hospital or ECF, employee screenings, etc. The Wellness Center has now reopened, and IOP has resumed activities. Both are doing so within all applicable regulations and best practices concerning social distancing, facility cleaning, etc.

As of this writing, there have been 49 confirmed cases (up from 21 in May and 9 in April) and 1 death in Tallahatchie County; of the new Tallahatchie County cases, 5 were tested at a TGH facility.

**Employee Health Insurance Plan Renewal:** We have renewed our employee health insurance plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield. With the help of Linda Rowland, we were able to offer a gap plan that significantly lowered employee deductibles without increasing the cost of the plan to TGH.

**Legal Matters:**

**Network Services Solutions** – No new developments.