

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

**May 24, 2022**

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

David Hargett, Trustee District One  
Ike Sayle, Trustee District Two  
Gerry Speir, Trustee District Three  
Morris Murphey, Trustee District Four  
Willie Lockett, Trustee District Five  
Jim Blackwood, Administrator  
Buddy McRae, Chief Operating Officer  
Rani Richard, Finance

Trustee Lockett opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the April 26, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Hargett to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Lockett with all Trustees voting "Aye" in favor of the motion.

Mr. Blackwood gave the Board copies of the statistics for the providers showing their production in the hospital and the clinic for the month of April 2022. The Board reviewed the statistics and questions were asked and answered.

Rani Richard presented the report of the Finance Committee for the April 2022 financials. Questions were asked and answered about the report. A motion was made by Trustee Sayle to approve the summary report of the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphey 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. McRae circulated the Quality Report and HCAHPS for April, 2022. Questions were asked and answered concerning the quality metrics for the month.

Mr. Blackwood requested that the Board enter into executive session to discuss a legal matter. Trustee Sayle made a motion that the Board enter into executive session to discuss the legal matter. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphey. Upon conclusion of the discussion of this matter, Trustee Hargett made a motion that the Board exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sayle and the Board then adjourned executive session and resumed the regular meeting.

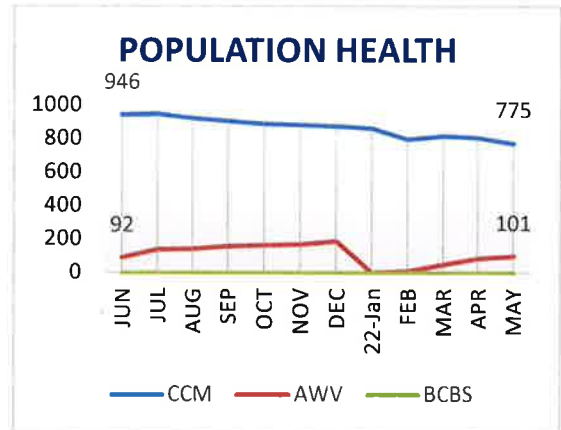
Mr. Blackwood reported to the Board that he had received the renewal quotes from Rowland Insurance Agency as to our health insurance, dental and vision plans. There was a 25% increase as to the health insurance rates and the vision plan rates. There was a slight increase in the dental plan. Mr. Blackwood requested that the Board approve for TGH to absorb the increase in the health insurance premiums for employees. A motion was made by Trustee Sale to approve the renewal quote and the increase in premiums to be absorbed by TGH. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphey with all Trustees voting "Aye" in favor other motion.

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

**Administrator's Comments – Meeting of May 24, 2022**

**Nursing Home Census:** We have 77 residents in the nursing home, up one from last month. We have 9 beds open on the general care side and 12 on the special care side. A trend of slowly-increasing referrals seem to be continuing, although we continue to have staffing issues.

**ACO and Population Health Initiatives:** have 775 participants enrolled in our Chronic Care Management program, down from 809 month. The biggest source of losses continues to be heavily-advertised Medicare advantage replacement programs. We have conducted 101 Medicare Annual Wellness Visits in 2022, up from 87 last month. (This number resets at zero at the beginning of every year).

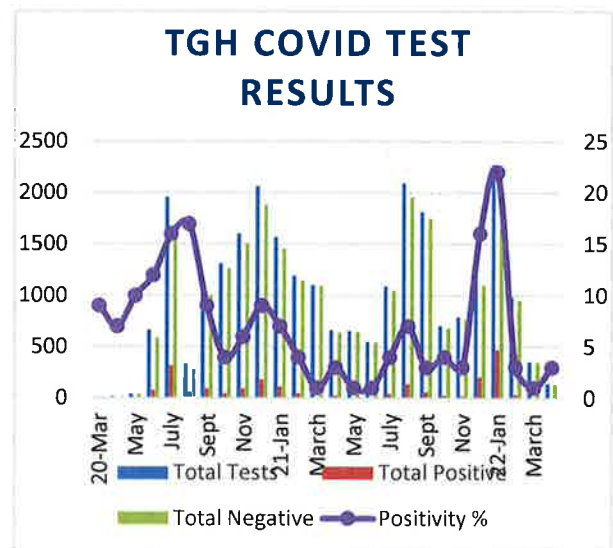


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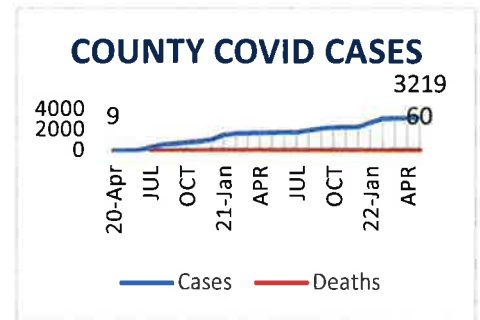
**TGH Discount Pharmacy:** We filled 4,831 prescriptions in April, down from 5,052 prescriptions in March. We made 243 deliveries in April, down from 269 in March, meaning that the number of our prescriptions that were delivered remains at approximately 5%.



**COVID-19:** Tallahatchie County's number of COVID-19 cases increased to 3,219, up from 3,185 last month. The county's total number of fatalities remained at 60.



We currently have no positive ECF residents or hospital patients. Infections among TGH staff are still relatively rare. Demand for the vaccine at the clinic remains relatively low and flat.



**TGH Recognized as Top 20 CAH:** We were recently informed by the National Rural Health Association that TGH has been named one of the top 20 Critical Access Hospitals in the nation for patient satisfaction. This is a meaningful, merit-based award, as opposed to those given by trade publications in exchange for advertising. TGH’s HCAHPS patient satisfaction scores, which are reported to CMS (and this board) monthly, have consistently ranked well above state and national averages for years, so it is heartening for NRHA to recognize the work of our providers and nurses in earning this recognition.

**2017 Novitas Desk Review:** Approximately two years ago, I notified you that Novitas was reviewing some of our emergency department cost report entries, specifically related to how we allocate the time our ED providers spend in the ED and other departments. At the time, we provided Novitas with additional supporting documentation, and we asked Watkins, Ward & Stafford to help explain our position to Novitas.

As a safeguard, we placed a \$1,000,000 payable on our books in the event Novitas were to ultimately disagree with us and Watkins, Ward & Stafford. Novitas has now informed us that they have adjusted our cost report in the amount of \$537,000, which is very close to the amount we estimated when we booked the payable. The payment to Novitas has been made. Because we previously booked the payable, this will have no impact on our P&L statement.

We anticipate Novitas will reach the same conclusion for fiscal year 2018. However, we do not expect this to be an ongoing issue, as we modified ED provider allocations to the methodology prescribed by Novitas.

**Radiology Equipment Upgrades:** Our CT scanner is now 10 years old and at (or beyond) the end of its useful life. Due to its age, we can no longer get a service contract on it, and replacement parts are increasingly difficult and expensive to find. We have asked the head of our radiology department to begin researching

manufacturers, vendors and prices for a replacement scanner. I will update the board as we near the purchase of a replacement.

**March 30 Storm Damage:** We continue to work with our insurance carrier and contractors about completing repairs. Our efforts have been hampered somewhat by the unavailability of contractors to conduct the repairs, but we are currently in discussions with a number of potential contractors.

**Employee Appreciation Day:** After a 2-year pause from Covid, our Employee Appreciation Day was held May 11, with a cookout for employees, a ceremony for years of service awards, and the announcement of the TGH Employee of the Year. The event was well-attended, and employees seemed to enjoy resuming this annual tradition.

**ECF Courtyard:** The director of the TGH Foundation informs me that, although the bids received for the courtyard project were higher than anticipated, the Foundation is going to move forward with the project. One final phase of the project may be completed later to conserve Foundation funds, but my understanding is that the entire project will be completed relatively soon. The Foundation director told me that she is about to sign the contract so that construction can begin. I will pass along any updates I receive about starting and completion dates as soon as I receive them.

**Tutwiler Clinic:** My understanding is that the Foundation continues to wait on the title issue to be resolved for the property it intends to purchase.

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**Legal Matters – Victoria Sturdivant:** As I reported last month, the court granted our motion to dismiss Ms. Sturdivant's complaint. I have not received any notice of her intent to appeal this dismissal, or to refile her claims in state court.

**REPORTS AND COMMENTS  
FOR UPCOMING BOARD MEETING  
SCHEDULED FOR June 28, 2022**