



KITTITAS COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT No. 1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING
KVH Conference Room A & B & Via Zoom
February 22, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Matt Altman, Jon Ward, Terry Clark, Bob Davis, Erica Libenow

KVH STAFF PRESENT: Julie Petersen, Jason Adler, Manda Scott, Mandee Olsen, Ron Urlacher, Stacy Olea, Tricia Sinek, Nassar Basmeh, Jeff Yamada, Rhonda Holden, Dr. Tim O'Brien, Dr. Kevin Martin, James Sivonen, Scott Casey, Michele Wurl, Dede Utlely, Auren O'Connell, Dr. Andrew Thomas

MEDICAL STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Roberta Hoppe

1. At 5:00 p.m., President Matt Altman called the regular board meeting to order.

2. **Approval of Agenda:**

ACTION: On motion of Erica Libenow and second of Jon Ward, the Board members unanimously approved the agenda as amended.

3. **Consent Agenda:**

ACTION: On motion of Jon Ward and second of Erica Libenow, the Board members unanimously approved the consent agenda as presented.

4. **Public Comment/Announcements:**

None.

5. **Presentation:**

Stephanie Bohman, Area Director of Kittitas County Habitat for Humanity, reviewed who Habitat is and what they do. Habitat homes are on the affordable home ownership spectrum and they are currently putting in a development of eighteen homes. Bohman discussed ways that KVH can help such as doing a Team Build.

Rich Elliott, Interim Director for Kittcom reviewed who Kittcom is and who they serve. Elliott stated that in the early 1990's an analog communication system was put in and they haven't updated the radio communication system in over 40 years. Elliott stated that a 2/10th of 1% sales tax is being proposed to maintain and upgrade the communication system. Elliott stated that it will roughly cost \$20 million for the upgrades that need to be made.

6. Reports and Dashboards:

Jeff Yamada stated we received a notice of a breach from one of our vendors named Optum last night. Yamada stated we were able to isolate the issue and shut off all connections with them. Optum has engaged with the both the FBI and the AHA. The group had further discussions regarding days of cash on hand as well as other assets and investments. Yamada stated that insurance verifications, storage of imaging, remittance, eligibility, and claims are all affected at this time. Commissioner Ward stated that at a recent conference he was at that cyberattacks were a hot topic and he met Jake Milstein who volunteered to come to KVH for a presentation. The Board approved inviting Jake Milstein to the March Board meeting as an educational presentation.

Mandee Olsen reviewed the summary from the last QI Council meeting and stated that the EMTALA investigation is now complete and as a result we now have 24-hour ultrasound coverage. The Board members reviewed the Quality report with Mandee Olsen.

The Board members reviewed the CEO report with Julie Petersen. Petersen described an JAMA article (shared with the Board) that talks about the number of OB's that have closed. In the article, KVH's Tricia Sinek discusses of the many services that are impacted when OB's close. Petersen also discussed the difference between what it means to be discharged versus trespassed from KVH when patients are aggressive or abusive. Petersen commented that all patients are still able to seek care in the Emergency Room for urgent care.

The Board members reviewed the Human Resources and Staff Development report with Manda Scott. Scott recognized the new Hearts and Hands volunteers. Scott stated that all managers are now tracking evaluations in a more comprehensive way, so she has removed that from her monthly report.

Ron Urlacher stated that there will be shutdowns in the OR on the weekend of the 29th after surgeries are complete on Friday and through the weekend for the expansion project.

The Board members reviewed the operations report with Dede Utley, Rhonda Holden, and Stacy Olea.

Chief of Staff Dr. Roberta Hoppe stated that MEC continues to make good progress with reviewing the bylaws and presented the MEC's recommendations for initial appointments and reappointments to the Board.

ACTION: On motion of Terry Clark and second of Bob Davis, the Board members unanimously approved the initial appointments for Ryan Ahr, PA-C, Nathan Eppich, CRNA, Dr. Dennis McDonal, Dr. Kenneth Leif Sjoren, and the reappointments for Dr. Shawn Rogers, Dr. Salman Mandhai, Dr. Rebecca Pfaff, Dr. Atul Patel, and Robert "Blake" Harding, PA-C, as recommended by the Medical Executive Committee.

The Board members reviewed the Chief Medical Officer report with Dr. Kevin Martin. Dr. Martin stated that they have had their initial meeting with the Rural Collaborative for credentialing and Dr. Stone has a signed contract for Home Based Care Director.

Jason Adler reported on KVH's financial performance for January. Adler stated that things are looking better than they have for the last few months but stats were a little below budget, and we had less providers out on leaves. Adler stated that our average length of stay was at 4.4 days and that we need to continue to share the importance of lowering the length of stay. Adler reviewed a number of Medicare Advantage Plan claims that are being fully or partially denied.

ACTION: On motion of Jon Ward and second of Bob Davis, the Board members unanimously approved the capital expenditure request for the six Glidescopes.

ACTION: On motion of Terry Clark and second of Erica Libenow, the Board members unanimously approved the capital expenditure request for the Pyxis Medication Dispensing System for Clinics (KVH IAM, ENT, PEDS).

The Board members reviewed the Community Relations report with Michele Wurl.

7. Education and Board Reports:

Commissioners Ward and Clark reported out on the AHA Rural Health Care Leadership Conference that they attended February 11-14, 2024. Commissioner Clark stated there was a lot of discussion related to cybersecurity and the Board's role with provider credentialing. Commissioner Ward reviewed some of the state of healthcare and trends. Commissioner Ward stated that more than 200 hospitals have stopped delivering babies, the decline of primary care providers was at 25%, and that Medicare Advantage Plans are now half of all Medicare Plans and many hospitals are dropping these plans for not paying claims.

9. Old Business:

President Altman stated that the Board has not been following the current Commissioner Compensation and Travel Policy. Having sent a draft revision of the policy to the Board members prior to the meeting, he introduced the draft policy for full-Board discussion at the public meeting. President Altman stated that the Board needs to weigh costs and benefits when it comes to travel, and that the Board needs to stay within its budget. Commissioner Ward stated that he thinks Board members should be able to decide individually how many and which conferences to attend, all of which should be reimbursed. Commissioner Clark stated that he thinks Board members should be able to decide individually what to count as a meeting for the purposes of compensation. Commissioner Davis stated that the Board should stay within its budget and that we should limit our expenditures like other employees have to do. Commissioner Libenow suggested having a periodic review of Board expenditures compared to its budget.

ACTION: On motion of Bob Davis and second of Erica Libenow, the Board approved the Commissioner Compensation and Travel Policy as presented. The motion passed 3-2, with Terry Clark and Jon Ward voting against.

10. New Business:

President Altman asked the Board for a special meeting for the Board Self-Evaluation. Board agreed to a special meeting. Commissioner Libenow will lead the sub-committee and Manda Scott will gather information from the senior leadership team.

President Altman stated that the AHA Annual Meeting is coming up in April and that he would like to attend, since it is an election year and they will have lobbying and hill visits. Commissioner Davis stated that he is also interested in attending.

ACTION: On motion of Erica Libenow and second of Bob Davis, the Board approved all Board members that would like to attend the AHA Annual Meeting in Washington DC in April to attend. The motion passed 3-2, with Terry Clark and Jon Ward abstaining.

Commissioners Ward and Clark stated that they may not follow the Commissioner Compensation and Travel Policy that was approved by the Board.

The Board and Julie Petersen discussed having a strategic planning session. It was decided to look for a date either around the Chelan meeting in June or an adjacent time.

11. Executive Session:

At 8:12 p.m., President Altman announced that there would be an 8-minute recess followed by a 20-minute executive session regarding real estate and personnel. RCW 42.30.110(b). No Action was anticipated.

At 8:40 pm, the meeting was reconvened into open session.

12. Adjournment:

With no further action and business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Motion passed to approve the board agenda as amended.
2. Motion passed to approve the consent agenda as presented.
3. Motion passed to approve the reappointments as recommended by the Medical Executive Committee.
4. Motion passed to approve the capital expenditure request for the six Glidescopes.
5. Motion passed to approve Pyxis Medication Dispensing System for Clinics.
6. Motion passed to approve Commissioner Compensation and Travel Policy.
7. Motion passed to approve all Board members that would like to attend the AHA Annual Meeting in Washington DC in April to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Weed/Terry Clark

Executive Assistant/Secretary - Board of Commissioners