



**MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN NYE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049  
January 18, 2018  
2:00 p.m.**

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Chairman Eason opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Ken Eason  
Vice-Chairman Cathie Clifford  
Secretary/Treasurer Justin Zimmerman  
Trustee Karmin Greber  
Trustee Roni Link  
Assistant County Manager Lorina Dellinger  
County Comptroller Savannah Rucker  
Commissioner/Liaison Lorinda Wichman

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge was recited.

**2. Approval of the Agenda for January 18, 2018 (Non-action Item)**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said item 5 could be removed from the agenda.

**3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Three-minute time limit per person.) Action will not be taken on the matters considered during this period until specifically included on an agenda as an action item (first).**

Horace Carlyle said he submitted correspondence to Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman regarding funding. The question was how to support REMSA and one problem was the unstable transportation. Mr. Carlyle thought it would take money to solve it and Storey County was already doing it. He suggested a County-wide fire district or a northern County fire district as \$2,800.00 a week for one paramedic was unsustainable.

**4. Announcements (first)**

Lorina Dellinger advised the HVAC contractor was coming out next Tuesday to assess the medical facility building to hopefully provide quotes and something to move forward with.

**5. For Possible Action – Emergency Items**

This item was removed from the agenda.

**6. Trustees'/Liaison Comments (This item limited topics/issues proposed for future workshops/ agendas)**

Commissioner Wichman stated the Board of County Commissioners received a presentation Tuesday from a group that wanted to bring in a dental van. She suggested they talk to the Hospital Board to bring that presentation and talk with Renown/REMSA to coordinate. The Hospital Board could expect to hear from Beth Ennis, Dr. Iser or Dr. Cappuro.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman advised Lorina Dellinger brought him blueprints B&G located of the hospital building and hopefully at the next meeting the Board would have some options.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7. For Possible Action – Election of Chair.**

Vice-Chairman Clifford made a motion to nominate Ken Eason; seconded by Trustee Link; 5 years.

**8. For Possible Action – Election of Vice Chair.**

Trustee Greber made a motion to nominate Cathie Clifford; seconded by Trustee Link; 5 years.

**9. For Possible Action – Election of Secretary / Treasurer.**

Trustee Link made a motion to nominate Justin Zimmerman; seconded by Vice-Chairman Clifford; 5 years.

**10. For Possible Action – Review of Bylaws.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman explained he put this item on specifically to deal with the meeting schedule.

Trustee Link did not think anything needed to be amended. The Board just needed to decide when to hold the meetings.

Chairman Eason pointed out that Section 8.2 allowed the Chairman to schedule special meetings and deviate from the schedule.

Trustee Greber asked if the Board would consider an evening time on the third Thursday.

Chairman Eason said he was in favor of evening meetings, but he was not sure it had to be every meeting.

**10. For Possible Action – Review of Bylaws.-Cont’d.**

Trustee Greber stated she favored evening meetings so the public did not have to wait for a special meeting.

Vice-Chairman Clifford thought a Thursday evening would be fine every month.

Trustee Link suggested 6:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Clifford made a motion to accept the by-laws as written except for the time of the monthly meetings to be set on the third Thursday at 6:00 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Link.

Lorina Dellinger pointed out that the Clerk’s staff would not be able to attend.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said another problem was the availability of Savannah Rucker and Arnold Knightly in Pahrump.

Mrs. Rucker stated she did not mind attending meetings in the evening if it would bring about more public attendance.

Mr. Knightly also said he was fine, but the question was having someone teleconferencing it down to them since there was no staff after 5:00 p.m.

The motion to accept the by-laws as written except for the time of the monthly meetings to be set on the third Thursday at 6:00 p.m. passed with 3 yeas. Chairman Eason and Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman voted no.

**11. No Action – Open Meeting Law review.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman advised the training was scheduled for January 22, 2018, and January 24, 2018, and would be held in the commission chambers. He added it was mandatory for all Board members this year.

**12. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to set the next meeting location, time and date.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said the next third Thursday was the Board of Equalization hearings, but that should be done by 6:00 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman made a motion to set next meeting location, date and time as here in chambers on February 15, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.; seconded by Vice-Chairman Clifford; 5 yeas.

### **13. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (second)**

Kirk Gillis from Renown Health said he hoped there would be an opportunity to create a standing agenda item for them to provide an update and have a dialogue each month. As far as having video conferencing available for the night meetings, Mr. Gillis said they would appreciate it if there was an opportunity to do that. They would try to have representation present as much as they could, but there would be times they could not. He introduced Kelsey Larsen, the administrator of primary care for Renown Medical Group; Kim Pearson, the area practice manager for Renown's rural health services; and Michelle Berrington, the director of occupational health.

Regarding phase 1 goals, Mr. Gillis advised they had been actively working to expand the clinic hours to five days a week. They were closer to securing additional provider resources needed to cover Mondays and Fridays and they had added walk-in capacity. As far as occupational medicine, Mr. Gillis stated they were training, testing and certifying all staff in Tonopah to do post-accident drug/alcohol testing. They were also finalizing the initial and follow up care model for post-accident treatment under the workers' compensation rules and regulations.

Trustee Link asked if that would be available 24/7 for the employers who were 24/7.

Mr. Gillis said that would be an opportunity for them to think about how to leverage the paramedic presence in the community and admitted he had not thought about that.

Trustee Link asked if they would do blood alcohol and drug testing.

Mr. Gillis explained it would be breath alcohol testing as they did not do blood alcohol for occupational health. He then discussed community outreach. There was a meeting scheduled next week to start formalizing their ideas around community outreach, education, marketing, advertising, and public relations. They were working on putting together the monthly reporting package, the financial statement, the utilization report, the quality reporting, patient satisfaction reporting, and invoice that would serve as part of the reconciliation process. The next phase was to work on what to do for phase 2. Mr. Gillis said they had a meeting tomorrow morning with REMSA and stakeholders in the community to continue the dialogue around what REMSA and Renown were doing.

Regarding the expansion of testing and treatment capacity, Mr. Gillis said they were just about ready to accommodate patients of non-Renown providers coming to the clinic for x-rays. As far as laboratory services, Mr. Gillis said that was very complicated because of Nevada law. If a patient was established with a Renown provider, they could come to the clinic for point of care testing which could be resulted right there in the clinic. For moderate to complex testing, if a patient was established with a Renown provider a specimen collection could be done at the clinic and arrangements had been made with Quest and LabCorp to take the specimens to their facility. All testing was done under a physician's practice laboratory license, but they want to be able to offer lab services for patients not established with Renown. Mr. Gillis explained the current laboratory license as a physician practice laboratory did not allow them to provide laboratory services for patients not established with a Renown provider. They needed to get the laboratory

### **13. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (second)-Cont'd.**

personnel dual licensed to provide lab assistance services for an outpatient center of a clinical laboratory as well as the clinic. He said they were working on that application.

Lastly, Mr. Gillis told the Board about Helix, a company considered third generation DNA and genomic sequencing, which Renown had just executed a contract with. Mr. Gillis said they wanted to get to the point of providing personalized medicine to patients. Knowing what the genomic profile looked like would assist in knowing what medicines the patient would and would not respond to. Mr. Gillis stated they wanted to offer this service to all Tonopah residents free of charge.

Brenda Staffan from REMSA introduced Louis Mendiola, their administrator of new ventures, and Kevin Romero, who would lead the Tonopah operations. In their implementation plan the first thing to launch was the REMSA nurse health line, which they had begun. She explained the first thing they needed to do was establish a local phone number dedicated to Tonopah. That would also allow them to track the calls coming from Tonopah and that would be in the utilization report.

Trustee Link asked if the outlying areas within the taxing district would be able to use it, to which Mrs. Staffan responded yes. The services would cover the area the district covered, although there might be some technical issues to work through.

Next, Mrs. Staffan said they would update their Nevada directory of services to be tailored to the new ways they would be navigating patients. Because there would be some new protocols implemented in terms of a recommended level of care, the nurse health line would be able to refer to a community paramedic. She planned to come today and give an idea of a launch date, but the one item that was outside of their control was obtaining that local phone number. The rest of the items Mrs. Staffan stated could be completed in a matter of weeks.

Ms. Staffan then talked about the planning and development for phase 2 and the community paramedics. She advised they had received 14 applications for the three positions in Tonopah. Kevin Romeo would lead the interview team, the interviews would begin next week, and the selections would be made pretty quickly. They were also hosting a community paramedic course to train the paramedics to the level of Nevada endorsed community paramedic beginning in early February and they hoped to get them into the community early in the second quarter.

Mr. Gillis added they had also arranged to have two technical vendors come to the campus in about two weeks who would demonstrate a portable EMS version of telemedicine to be put on the vehicles. When called into the field they would be able to connect through satellite phone and telemedicine to an emergency physician at Renown Regional Medical Center who could do a physician level triage and care plan for the patients in the field.

Mrs. Staffan said they intended to be part of the community so they already drafted a rough plan of ways that they could interface with the community collaborating first with Renown Health. Tomorrow morning they were hosting a breakfast with some community leaders, which would

### **13. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (second)-Cont'd.**

be the first in a series of breakfasts. She said the Board members and everyone in the room were welcome to join them tomorrow at 8:30 in the Mizpah Hotel in the Dempsey Room.

Trustee Link asked about the discussion last time everyone met about a variance for ambulances to be able to bring patients to the clinic.

Mrs. Staffan said she was not specifically familiar with the need for a variance. She would look into it, but she did not believe there were any barriers.

Trustee Link asked how the different protocols would be integrated in the mixed group.

Mrs. Staffan advised that needed to be addressed. She said Dr. Bradley met with Dr. Malone last week in San Diego at the National Association of EMS Physicians so they had already begun that dialogue. What Dr. Lee assured her was the two of them would make it seamless and there would be a process to engage with the EMS personnel to determine the need for any adjustments, orientation or training.

Lastly, Mrs. Staffan talked about the monthly reporting and reconciliation, which was on both lists. She advised they already began their dialogue about the reporting format and they proposed to the Board that their respective reporting be in a very similar format. They would work on that over the coming weeks as well and each time they came to the Board in this forum they would have a monthly, quarterly or annual report.

Louis Mendiola mentioned to the Board that they engaged with Dawn Gudmonson, the local director of the EMS, by inviting her to be part of the interview panel, but that could not be done. However, she did submit questions she wanted asked and they were incorporating that into the interviews of the paramedics.

Commissioner Wichman asked if there was a phone number on the sign.

Mr. Gillis said yes.

Trustee Greber asked if the walk-in service was due to word of mouth and they just happened to walk in and be seen.

Kelsey Larsen stated they had one provider doing two mornings and they were taking people as they came in. They had not advertised it yet, but they would work with marketing when they implemented the Monday through Friday.

Considering how rapidly moving this implementation plan was going, the reporting that would come in for the Board members, and the community outreach, Lorina Dellinger thought it would be beneficial for the Secretary/Treasurer to be the point of contact to distribute that as quickly as it came in. She said that did not need to be an action item. The Chairman could give that authority if everyone agreed.


**14. ANNOUNCEMENTS (second)**

Chairman Eason said a meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 30, 2018, with the Tax Commission to review the financial position of the Board.

**15. ADJOURN**

Chairman Eason adjourned the meeting.

Approved this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 2018.

  
Chair