



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

101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049

June 21, 2018

6:00 p.m.

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Chairman Eason opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Ken Eason Assistant County Manager Lorina Dellinger
Vice-Chairman Cathie Clifford
Secretary/Treasurer Justin Zimmerman
Trustee Roni Link

Not Present: Trustee Karmin Greber

1. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

2. Approval of the Agenda for June 21, 2018 (Non-action Item)

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

Trustee Link made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Vice-Chairman Clifford; 4 yeas.

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).

Sarah Allen, a Tonopah resident, said personally she was a mother, wife, daughter and sister. Professionally she was a registered nurse, EMS RN, critical care nurse, flight nurse, certified emergency nurse, and just recently became a certified flight registered nurse. She thanked every member of the Board for the time they spent serving the community. She discussed how the hospital closed 1,000 days ago on August 21, 2015. Two and a half weeks after that Renown Hospital gave a presentation to the County Commissioners and entered into an agreement to continue negotiations. On June 1, 2016, 285 days after the closure, Renown Telehealth opened.

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)-Cont'd.

This limited service was only open Monday through Thursday for 24 hours a week, no evening or weekend hours, no primary physician on site, no emergency room, and no urgent care. She said May 17, 2018, marked 1,000 days since the hospital in Tonopah closed. Mrs. Allen said it had also been 1,000 days of the volunteers selflessly giving to the community and the sacrifice of the volunteers did not end at the 1,000 day anniversary. Instead they continued to give 1,000 days and counting. The volunteers were exhausted, depleted and discouraged. Mrs. Allen encouraged everyone to thank the volunteers, past or present, and she thanked the REMSA paramedics for their support of the community. Part of supporting the community was supporting the EMS volunteers and she hoped the paramedics continued to share their knowledge and skills with the local volunteers. She then suggested a couple of logos, "1,000 Hugs to Our Volunteers" or "No Hospital, No Doctor, No ER for 1,000 Days and Counting. Tonopah, NV – Help Wanted."

4. Announcements (first)

There were none.

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)

Chairman Eason emphasized to the other Board members that the new fiscal year was coming up on July 1, 2018, along with phase 3 of the REMSA and Renown plans for the future. The Board would also be looking at some of the things they had planned in the third and fourth quarters, which included an on-site provider, and planning for phase 4 which was to develop the County facilities and expand their telemedicine programs. On the REMSA side it was to expand their EMS integration with the County as well as the clinic integration. Chairman Eason thought those were some items the Board would want to do some research on and plan for future agenda items to see what could be moved along. Also, he knew the County was working on a few things with EMS and there would be some changes there so he hoped to have that on a future agenda to see where that was going.

Trustee Link asked to have an agenda item for the billing for use of the ambulance in conjunction with what REMSA was doing as there had been a problem when she was still running. She was a little concerned about it and wanted to be able to address it to see how to come to a better coalition on billing so the County got reimbursed for use of the ambulance.

Lorina Dellinger advised billing would be part of the update on item 12.

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. No Action – 1) Presentation by Renown Health and Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority of their April 2018 reconciliation packages; and 2) update on the progress made by Renown Health and Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017.

Jessica Thompson from Renown advised they were now open to doing labs for outside providers and there was no longer a need to be an established patient with Renown. She asked that people call and schedule an appointment. On the occupational health side they were doing pre-employment physicals and had some DOT physicals scheduled for next week. Recruitment efforts continued for an on-site provider and talks were underway with one potential which was all Mrs. Thompson could say. Regarding the need for sports physicals for the children and the big demand for that last year, Mrs. Thompson said Carol Meyer would be on-site for three days to do those physicals along with any other female health issues. As to the numbers, she advised in May the total visits including occ-health, workers' comp, urgent care and primary was the highest number this year so far so the numbers were going up. More drug screens were also coming through. Another employee was hired, who started on Monday in Reno for orientation and training and should be on the ground here in July. She was classified as an MA-PAR, so she would do patient account registration as well as an MA presenting doing the same things Mrs. Thompson and Heather did.

Chairman Eason asked if labs were just a drop off or if they were actually doing lab work at the facility.

Mrs. Thompson said they were not performing the tests at the facility and it was a draw station only. They asked for scheduling as certain insurances only went to certain labs.

Kevin Romero from REMSA said they implemented the community paramedics into the District on April 16, 2018, and they had operated 24/7 since that start date. In the short month of April the community paramedics ran 16 calls for service.

Trustee Link commented that the REMSA paramedics were operating as a one-man band in the field as it had been difficult to get volunteers to sit in the seats. They had even had to call a deputy to drive the ambulance.

Regarding transports, Mr. Romero stated there were a total of eight paramedic assists, which was when the paramedic went in the back of the Nye County ambulance and facilitated patient care. There were no patients that met alternative care transport (a patient eligible to be transported to the clinic) and they would continue to monitor that.

Trustee Link asked if those were critical patients who could not be seen at the clinic.

Mr. Romero advised it was a number of variables. Obviously the hours of the clinic would come into play. If it was during clinic hours and they met a BLS or mild ALS level of care that could

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be handled in the clinic, they would make contact with the clinic to see if they could treat the patient or utilize telehealth.

Mr. Romero discussed the community paramedic visits, which was a piece of the program being phased in and there were no patients scheduled or enrolled in the program at this time. The numbers for the nurse health line showed that the marketing outreach really worked with a total of 44 patients calling, which he thought was a pretty high number. Of those calls 17 talked to a nurse navigator and that number was rising monthly.

Mr. Romero reviewed the patient satisfaction reports received, the quality report for April, and the financial report. He explained the reason for the highest monthly invoices to date was mainly due to start-up costs. From here on out the District would only be billed for the items used. The administrative expenses were also elevated because of the marketing for the nurse health line. The next invoice would not typically be this elevated, but Mr. Romero wanted the Board to have an understanding of the start-up costs.

Chairman Eason asked why a land transport would be done as opposed to a flight.

Mr. Romero said that depended on the severity of the injury. The paramedics were taught to assess the severity of the injury and whether or not the mode of ground was the most appropriate patient care or if that person needed definitive care quicker.

Chairman Eason expressed his concern about what would happen if the paramedic was en route to Bishop with a driver and there was another incident.

Mr. Romero said that was a very valid concern and one they were trying to mitigate in a number of different ways such as the alternative care transport so that not every patient had to go out of County. One option was to have a fully staffed ambulance so if someone was a basic life support categorized patient who did not need advanced life support they could be transported by Nye County ambulance to out of County and the paramedic resource could be kept in the community.

Chairman Eason asked if the services for telemedicine for the specialty doctors were also available to the local clinic or if they had to see a Renown primary care physician first.

Mrs. Thompson said they were open to everyone so if their primary care physician wanted to refer them to their specialty to be seen over telemedicine they just needed the referral placed with the telemedicine scheduling team.

Trustee Link asked how Renown was soliciting for doctors.

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Mrs. Thompson believed they had the job posted internally as well as on several search engines like Monster, but Kim Pearson could probably answer better.

Trustee Link said she had been getting some of those listings and they were asking for physicians for an emergency room which did not exist yet.

Mrs. Thompson stated that was not being posted by Renown. Renown was posting for primary care which could be an MD, a nurse practitioner, or a PA. The person they were potentially looking at was a PA that worked in clinics in some family practices.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman mentioned the discussion a few meetings ago about the community paramedics working in the clinic and the update then was the protocols were being worked out. He asked if there was anything new.

Mr. Romero said they continued to train on different items that would prepare them to work in the clinic and asked if there were any telehealth presentations that the paramedics be invited to participate as in later phases of the program there would be mobile telehealth as well. As of right now many of the days they were the only pre-hospital medical care provider and they had been busier than they thought they would be. He said the plan was to move into assisting in the clinic setting by having the ability for them to call when they needed another asset to work on a patient or help figure out the best transport modality.

Sarah Allen asked what the difference was between a community paramedic and a home health provider.

Mr. Romero explained the difference from home health care were things like wound care.

Trustee Link mentioned there was a new business in town for home health care and she would provide Mrs. Allen with that the information.

Mrs. Allen wondered if the clinic would look at legal blood draws as well. She said there was a limited police force and when they had to drive someone to Pahrump for a blood draw that meant one less deputy in the community.

Mrs. Thompson advised legal blood draws were another company that would have to sign up with occ-health. She spoke with Michelle Barrington regarding this to see if it had been presented to her and while there had been some discussion with NHP and the local Sheriff's Office, the problem was with payment. NHP did not want to be responsible for the cost of the screens and wanted them to be billed to the patients. There was discussion about whether it would be brought into the program, but not at this time. As far as the home health care company,

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Mrs. Thompson said they visited the clinic last week and said they could do everything from blood pressure checks to medication checks, dressing changes, and physical therapy. The only drawback she saw was the insurances they accepted and she did not believe Medicaid was one of them.

8. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation relating to the logo contest and possible selection of a winner or determining alternative routes forward.

Vice-Chairman Clifford said originally only four entrants were received, but she received a couple more today and turned them over to Trustee Link. She advised she would have to remove herself from the committee due to relationship so Trustee Link and one of the other Board members would have to review them. Vice-Chairman Clifford said she would like it put on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion and possible approval. If the committee could not decide on the ones received then the thought was to open it up to everyone rather than just the school aged children. Also, Trustee Link had written thank you notes to each of the children who submitted even though they may be one of the winners.

Sarah Allen suggested a logo using pictures drawn by the children as doctors loved those. She also suggested using the children to do some marketing as well to possibly reach providers on the national sites.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman volunteered to take Vice-Chairman Clifford's place on the committee.

Chairman Eason said to place it on the next agenda for the criteria of the contest to move forward and what the protocol would be.

9. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to renew the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool Insurance Policy for the Northern Nye County Hospital expiring on June 30, 2018.

Vice-Chairman Clifford said she did not get a chance to read all of it and asked for a summary.

Chairman Eason explained the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool was formed about 25 years ago to offer specialty insurance coverage to public entities primarily in the rural areas because the larger communities like Clark and Washoe could buy really good policies that covered the errors and omissions for the Board members, the general liability for the operations, and the statutory requirement to have a \$100,000.00 bond as members. The Pool combined all of that into a packet. He said he was quite familiar with the program and listed the coverages for the Board members.

9. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to renew the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool Insurance Policy for the Northern Nye County Hospital expiring on June 30, 2018-Cont'd.

Trustee Link made a motion to renew the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool insurance policy for the Northern Nye County Hospital District expiring on June 30, 2018; seconded by Vice-Chairman Clifford; 4 yeas.

Chairman Eason added that the Board was not just buying an individual policy. It was part of a group of 123 other members in the State. In addition to the insurance, the Pool offered human resource programs and training programs for Board members.

10. No Action – Update on Nye County Emergency Services integration with Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority.

Lorina Dellinger informed the Board that Scott Lewis was ratified as the Director of Emergency Management by the Board of County Commissioners in the beginning of June so there was a transition period right now with Vance Payne exiting. Mr. Lewis had reached out to the various ambulance services within the District as well as Beatty. Regarding northern Nye County, there was a meeting held in Round Mountain and Tonopah. A paramedic from REMSA was present, and it was encouraging to see the turn out with the existing volunteers as well as resources in the community that may come back to the program. REMSA was also assisting the County to reach the staffing goals for the ambulance service. Mrs. Dellinger said they were working on improving the volunteer scheduling through about mid-August and wanted to give this transition period and new leadership a chance to see what it could do to rebuild the system.

Regarding the billing, Mrs. Dellinger said Louis from REMSA would be here tomorrow and they would work with the ambulance billing clerk on how the reports were submitted and if there was a disconnect there. There were two different platforms so some education classes would probably be needed to show the volunteers how to submit those reports with what REMSA was providing in order to get the billing submitted in a timely manner. Additionally, Mr. Lewis was working with the State to get Nye County Ambulance recognized to be able to bill at the ALS level, which can only be billed if that service was provided and if the paramedic was on the call.

Trustee Link said she knew there had been times when a local deputy drove the ambulance while the paramedics were in the back taking care of critical patients. She asked who did the billing for the ambulance and how reimbursement for use of that ambulance would work when a deputy was driving and the paramedic had a different platform they were working on.

Mrs. Dellinger said Nye County would always be the billing entity. It just depended on what type of service was provided. If the paramedic was on there and only provided EMT level care then EMT would be billed because that was the report submitted.

Chairman Eason said he did not have a lot of faith in the ambulance service being run by volunteers at this point in time because of the training requirements and the time involved. He

10. No Action – Update on Nye County Emergency Services integration with Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority-Cont’d.

asked Mrs. Dellinger if she was aware of any legislation or preliminary endeavors being undertaken to address that.

Mrs. Dellinger advised staff had looked into possibly submitting a bill draft request for the next legislative session to include ambulance services under the PSST taxes, but there was a concern because that was a ballot question. Once approved by the voters it was a special act so staff was not sure they could voluntarily submit a BDR to change that without asking the voters. She then explained that this was one piece of the resolution. REMSA had offered to work with the County on the fee structure, how the billing was done and what revenues were missed. She believed the County would take advantage of that to see what could be done to increase revenues and increase stipends to the volunteers.

11. No Action – Update on development plans for a medical center in Tonopah.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said he was talking to two more architectural firms, one of which asked about doing a walk through. He looked forward to proposals from both of them and he would then bring all proposals he received before the Board.

Chairman Eason thought it was important to get that awarded and make that evaluation as soon as possible as the plan for the next two quarters was to have that done and a decision made on use of the facility.

Lorina Dellinger said Nye County had been working with Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman, Renown and Nye Communities Coalition. A community facilities technical assistance grant had been identified through USDA, which was specifically to develop a strategy plan for rural health. The grant would fund the architects and anything put together as far as the plan to move forward with the facility or to just start from scratch.

Chairman Eason asked what the timeframe was on grants like that.

Mrs. Dellinger said an item would be on the June 27, 2018, Board of County Commissioners agenda to support the Nye Communities Coalition on the grant effort and she believed the deadline to apply was July 2, 2018. She explained that once the plan was completed they wanted to start applying for grants for development purposes and use other resources with the County. They also planned on approaching the Town of Tonopah on a future agenda for the Hospital District. Mrs. Dellinger further explained that if a match was committed to the grant the District would rank higher when they were scoring for all applications. The County was committing up to \$20,000.00 and would ask the entities if they would like to participate and be partners in this process.

12. For Possible Action – Approval of invoices for payment.

Vice-Chairman Clifford made a motion to approve the submitted invoices for payment; seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman; 4 yeas.

13. No Action – Update on the current status of the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said this was the same spreadsheet updated with the expenditures just approved. Page 6 of the revenue detail report showed the grand total of all revenues of \$146,681.37 over what was projected this year, the bulk of which came from net proceeds.

Chairman Eason thought the Board was trying to set the net proceeds aside for capital improvements.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman confirmed it was being budgeted for capital outlay.

14. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation of the minutes from the April 19, 2018 meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman made a motion to approve; seconded by Trustee Link; 4 yeas.

15. No Action – Open meeting law review.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman stated this item was a standing line item in case someone came across a gray area they needed addressed.

Chairman Eason believed all the members were current on their requirements to participate in a mandatory program so he thought everyone was all set.

16. No Action – Update on the status of the United States Trustee contract to secure and distribute the medical records currently housed on the medical campus.

Vice-Chairman Clifford advised she was working with the company that got the contract. For three weeks she, about four high school students, and one of the partners in the group had been sorting through things. She said people could mail a request or they could just call and leave a message. Medical release forms would be put in the library in Tonopah and she will send some to the library in Round Mountain as well as possibly the clinic for people to submit. They were not bringing people to the hospital to avoid liability. About 20 people had called for their records and they were able to find all but one of them, so Vice-Chairman Clifford thought they were doing pretty good.

Trustee Link asked what information a patient needed to provide to expedite procurement of their records.

16. No Action – Update on the status of the United States Trustee contract to secure and distribute the medical records currently housed on the medical campus-Cont’d.

Vice-Chairman Clifford said when someone called or presented with a medical record request they would be called back with a couple of questions they had to answer, usually date of birth and the last four of their social security number. She added they did not keep copies of the records given to the patients.

Trustee Link asked who paid for the mailing for patients from out of town, to which Vice-Chairman Clifford replied the company was via a click and ship account.

Lorina Dellinger said all patients that had records there had until May 31, 2019, at which point all records would be destroyed. Also, in addition to the locations Vice-Chairman Clifford identified the medical release forms were in Administration and had been e-mailed to the Towns of Tonopah and Round Mountain.

Vice-Chairman Clifford added there was also a Web site in the newspaper where the medical record release form could be downloaded.

Trustee Link said someone reported they saw two semi-trailers taking stuff and asked if any of the medical records had left the property.

Vice-Chairman Clifford explained they took the old things out in the bunker and in the annex that were patient related to shred and anything older than ten years was gone.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman asked if the full scope of work would be done out of the hospital building or if they were going to move to the No To Abuse space.

Vice-Chairman Clifford said she talked to Rick from the company and he or Jerry was supposed to talk to Mrs. Dellinger about staying where they were rather than moving everything.

Mrs. Dellinger confirmed that he had turned in his key so they would remain at the hospital.

Jessica Thompson advised she had spoken with Kim Pearson about the medical records and the last thing they had in correspondence was the records were going to be moved off-site. They were not in favor of them being on campus for the next year.

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

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman made a motion to set July 19, 2018, as the next meeting date in chambers at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Eason commented on not having anyone to take the minutes and handle the things Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman had been handling. When meeting during the day the County had staff available to the Board to take care of that kind of thing. He said to him it was good to

17. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to set the next meeting location, time and date-Cont'd.

move the meetings to evening to allow a few more people to come, but if that was to continue then he would like to place an agenda item on to possibly hire an administrative assistant to start doing some of the paperwork and give Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman some relief.

Trustee Link asked that the person be trained on the video system as well.

Lorina Dellinger said absolutely and it would be seamless. She advised the Wildlife Management Board had someone that did their agendas and minutes. It was a very minimal cost and she would give Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman the back-up so the Board had an idea of the financial impact.

Trustee Link seconded the motion to set July 19, 2018, as the next meeting date in chambers at 6:00 p.m.; 4 years.

18. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (second)

Regarding grant applications, Horace Carlyle said the Town of Tonopah had at least two parcels, and if the town was approached for possible uses for funding or goodwill besides monies that might be useful. Secondly, Mr. Carlyle spoke about how Commissioner Lorinda Wichman was able to get the Lieutenant Governor to sponsor a revision of NRS 450 which basically allowed the County to do what they wanted to under it. He thought that could certainly be done for a fire district and would be beneficial to the Board.

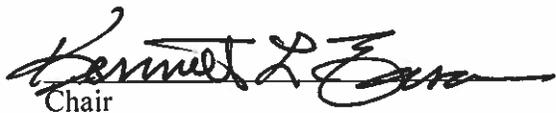
19. ANNOUNCEMENTS (second)

Chairman Eason mentioned the passing of Dr. Peterson, who served the community for many, many years. He extended his condolences to the family and commended Dr. Peterson for his service to Tonopah and the surrounding areas.

20. ADJOURN

Chairman Eason adjourned the meeting.

Approved this 19th day of July 2018.


Chair