

SABINE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2016

The Sabine County Hospital District Board of Directors met for a Regular Meeting on January 25, 2016 at 5:30 PM in the Sabine County Hospital Board Room.

**Present**

**Phil Yocom, President**  
**Mark Pearson, Vice President**  
**Earl Willis, Board Member**  
**Gary Williams, EMS Administrator**  
**Diane Powell, District Administrator**  
**Emily Taylor, Administrative Assistant**

**Others Present**

**Jerry Howell, Sabine County Hospital Administrator**  
**Penny Ferguson, Daily News and More**  
**Cecil Tatum, Sabine County Reporter/Toledo Chronicle**

**Absent**

**Dr. Lana Comeaux, Member**  
**Joe McNaughten, Secretary**

- I. Mr. Yocom called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. Mr. Willis opened the meeting with prayer.
- III. No Public comments:
- IV. Mr. Yocom asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes and financials. Mr. Pearson moved to approve minutes and financials. Mr. Yocom seconded. Mr. Willis stated that he hated to bring up the error in the minutes due to the problem that arose the last time he spoke on the situation. Mr. Willis stated that when Mr. Yocom did his thing with Preferred. Mr. Yocom stated it was six months ago. Mr. Willis stated yes; there was a copy of the minutes that was handed out the very next day that was different from the minutes that he was given in his packet. Ms. Powell stated that the minutes would not have been completed the day after but, it may have been Mr. Yocom's statement from the meeting she handed out the next day. Mr. Willis stated that he does not want to stir any

trouble. Mr. Yocom asked what set of minutes Mr. Willis was referring to. Mr. Willis stated not we are talking about December 16, 2016 minutes. Mr. Yocom stated that was not on the agenda and the board could not discuss that item. Mr. Willis stated he said the wrong date then stated it is the November minutes he is talking about. Mr. Willis stated to Ms. Powell the reason I question the minutes is because you handed out the stuff that Mr. Yocom said and did that night. Ms. Powell asked in November? Mr. Willis stated yes, next day in fact the day after we had the minutes. Ms. Powell stated that Mr. Yocom had not said nor done anything in the November meeting to be handed out the next day. Ms. Powell asked Mr. Willis what he was referring to. She then asked if he was talking about the agenda item that was referring to the public information request. Mr. Willis stated yes. Ms. Powell stated that the only thing that was handed out the day after the November Board Meeting was the response to Ms. Ferguson from the Hospital District stating that the District did not have any items pertaining to an Attorney General's Opinion. Mr. Willis stated that he is stating what he knows and why he questioned it. He stated that he wasn't trying to get anyone in trouble any more than they already are right now. Mr. Willis then stated to Ms. Powell the things that Mr. Yocom dropped off at your office. Ms. Powell stated Mr. Yocom had not dropped anything off at her office. Mr. Yocom stated that he had not dropped off anything to Ms. Powell's office in December, November, or October. Ms. Powell stated that she has a statement from Mr. Yocom from the July Board Meeting then in August was when Mr. Willis stated he was getting an Attorney General Opinion. Mr. Willis stated that was all he wanted to say. Mr. Willis stated that he just wanted to state his position and that was it. Mr. Yocom stated no Mr. Willis was making some allegations that is referring to some kind of illegality then you need to bring light to the fact and get it out in the open. Mr. Yocom stated that there are legal ramifications if you know of illegal activity and do not report it. Mr. Pearson stated that he would like to see the burden of proof to what Mr. Willis is talking about. Mr. Willis stated that if he produces the burden of proof would Mr. Pearson be happy with it. Mr. Pearson stated yes he wants details of what he is explaining but he also wants proof of what Mr. Willis is stating. Mr. Willis stated that is just so happened that there was someone in the meeting that was part of it, Mr. Jerry Howell, Sabine County Hospital Administrator. Mr. Willis stated that one of the employees that picked up information from Ms. Powell was Debra Arndt. Ms. Powell stated that was the July meeting not the November meeting. Mr. Willis stated but she did pick it up. Ms. Powell stated yes I faxed Mr. Yocom's statement from the July meeting to Deborah Arndt. Mr. Willis stated and then Mr. Howell picked it up. Ms. Powell stated you are not talking about the November minutes. She stated that only thing that was in the November minutes was about Mr. Willis contacting the Attorney General's Office, there is nothing in the November minutes pertaining to Mr. Yocom's statement. Ms. Powell stated that the November minutes would not have been completed at the earliest two weeks prior to the December Board Meeting. Mr. Willis stated he was not going there. Mr. Yocom stated he was closing the discussion. Mr. Yocom stated that he has a motion on the table. Motion passed.

- V. Mr. Howell stated that he had added some numbers to the top of his report from previous years, for comparison. He stated that Inpatients were up from 630 to 683 which is an 8% increase. He stated that Swing Bed Days are down by 7% if you look at discharge days

but that is only the patients who have been discharged. Mr. Howell stated that the total number of Swing Bed days for 2015 exceeded 2014 by 15 days. Mr. Howell stated that ER visits are down 15% and he feels that it was due to the change to where if it was not an emergency then they would be given other options. He stated the Admits from the ER are down 7%. He stated you can see there is a big decrease in ER Visits but not ER Admits. He stated he was unsure if it's because patients are going to the clinic then being admitted from there. Mr. Howell stated outpatient visit went down 12% that's right in line. And Clinic Visits are up 13% and payroll is also up by 5%. Mr. Willis asked what the patients are told after not meeting the Emergency Room requirement. Mr. Howell stated to Mr. Willis that what happens is when a patient comes in to the ER and does not meet ER requirements then the patient is told so before any treatment is done and the patient could decide whether pay cash for the ER visit or wait and see a doctor in the clinics. Mr. Willis stated to Mr. Howell so you feel that some patients are going through the Doctors office and they are sending them over to be admitted. Mr. Howell stated that the Hospital discontinued the MRI services due to the contract with the company and keeping it staffed. He stated that starting January 30<sup>th</sup> they will start to have MRI services every other Saturday with hopes that in the near future they would start to get it on week days as well. Mr. Howell stated that Preferred had purchased an audiometer for the Hospital and the clinics to do Texas Health Step Physicals. He stated that they do have one that has been being rotated between the 2 clinics. Mr. Howell stated that he was hoping the walls would be in the process of being painted but that hasn't started yet. He did state that they had retiled and out new carpet in the business office. He stated that the staff turnover is 10% less than it was in 2014. Mr. Howell stated that Preferred has a security audit scheduled for February. He stated they would come in and look at several different things to help insure the Patients and Employee safety. Mr. Howell stated that the clinics are in the early stages of a new program in which Critical Access Hospitals have just been approved to participate in. He stated that it is Chronic Care Coordination and it is geared towards Medicare patients that have two or more chronic health conditions. He stated that it looks like they will have to hire additional staff at each clinic so they can follow up with the patients more often to hopefully help their quality of health and quality of life. Mr. Yocom asked if it was like an outreach thing where they would call them once a week. Mr. Howell stated that it could be done over the phone, but it can be done in the doctor's office. He stated that once a week they would do an inpatient visit with them where they go through there medicine. He stated that some would be on the phone some in the office and also some at the patient's house. Mr. Howell stated that Marika Gay was still serving as the interim CNO. He stated that at this point they are working on looking for a replacement but one had not been found. Mr. Pearson asked Mr. Howell how close he felt he was on making a replacement for the CNO position. Mr. Howell stated that he was unsure he has one individual that he has spoken with that he really likes and has done several in-house interviews. He stated that he knew with Margie leaving on the December 11<sup>th</sup>, that it would be hard to find a replacement through the holidays but it shouldn't be much longer. Mr. Willis moved to accept the Hospital Administrator's report. Mr. Yocom seconded. Motion Passed.

VI. No Action Taken.

- VII. Mr. Williams stated that in the month of December they responded to 147 Calls with an average response time of 10 mins and 48 seconds and 109 were 911 responses. He stated also in the month of December there were 11 emergency transfers out of the Hospital, 12 non emergent calls, 11 medical transports, and 4 wait and returns at the Hospital. Mr. Williams stated that the response time did jump a little this month but that is due to more calls in the northern area of the county such as the Northern Shamrock area. He also stated that there were 23 911 responses with no transport. Mr. Yocom stated that there was 11 calls up close to Shamrock. Ms. Powell stated that it goes through rotation and you can watch it moving from one place to another. Mr. Williams stated that the total refusals were 26, but three were treatment no transports. He stated that a lot of time if they got out to a low blood sugar call and the patients receive treatment on scene they will then refuse to go to the Hospital. Mr. Pearson asked if there was a Med Unit out of Service. Mr. Williams stated yes Med 1 had to be sent back to the shop due to the service lights coming on which ended up being a broken wire. Mr. Yocom asked how everyone did during the EVOC training. Mr. Williams stated that there was one that had to retest but other than that everyone did great. Ms. Powell stated that while Med 1 was in the shop the New Unit was being used and hit a deer. She stated that they took it to the body shop in Hemphill and they could not get parts, but Jerry's Collision in Jasper is going to look at it and Gary has someone welding the bumper. Mr. Pearson stated that with these to incidents that justifies our recent purchase of a fourth unit so we can continue to have a good coverage. Mr. Williams stated that out of service signs are on that unit because all the medical supplies have been removed from the back of the unit in order to take the unit to Jasper to have the damage repaired. Mr. Williams stated that the law is if you could not run a call out of that unit it must have out of service signs posted in it. Mr. Williams stated that Dr. Andy has approved the new protocols but we have to get to Livingston to do some training prior to putting the new protocols into place. He stated he is working with Dr. Andy's schedule on this so he is unsure of a time. Mr. Howell asked if when they got the new protocols if he could get a copy to give to the ER Doctors. Mr. Williams stated that when he gets copy he would make sure that Mr. Howell gets a copy for his ER Doctors. Mr. Yocom moved to accept the EMS Administrators report. Mr. Willis seconded. Motion passed.
- VIII. Mr. Willis stated that he would like to ask the board if they would consider it to set out a Business plan of some sort so we can look five years down the road. He stated that the Board could look at this and see some of the hiccups that have already been experienced and he believes there is enough data to do this. Willis stated he feels it is important to see where the Hospital stands. He stated that Preferred would need to have input on it and that it would give the Board something to look at and see where the Hospital is going, how it would be done and how much it would cost. Mr. Pearson stated that on the business side it is a great idea, but on the health care side the government can't even give a five year plan. Mr. Yocom asked Mr. Willis how he proposed to get this done. Mr. Willis stated that he would be glad to head it up and pass it around when he was finished. Mr. Yocom stated that he was fine with it if he wanted to head it up. No Action Taken.
- IX. Mr. Yocom moved to order an Election for the Board of Directors positions in Precinct 2 and Precinct 4. Mr. Willis seconded. Motion Passed

X. Mr. Yocom stated that Mr. Broussard had been in contact with Mr. Jerry Howell who referred him to the Board. Mr. Yocom stated that Mr. Broussard and himself got together and talked about entering the Nursing Home UPL Program. Mr. Yocom stated from what he understood Mr. Broussard is a CPA in Lake Charles that only handles Nursing Home UPL. He stated that Mr. Broussard works with a management company call Management Seven and they own several Nursing Homes in Louisiana and one in Texas and that is the Timber Lakes Nursing Home in Jasper beside the First Bank and Trust on HWY 190. Mr. Yocom stated that was the only Nursing Home they own in Texas and they bought it out of receivership and it was owned by the same company that the old Nursing Home in Pineland. Mr. Yocom stated that Mr. Broussard was unable to make it due to family emergency that came up over the weekend. He stated that there was a February deadline on the Nursing home UPL. No Action Taken

XI. Executive session at 6:05 P.M.

- A. Concerning the Sabine County EMS Ambulance Station.
- B. Concerning Contract Matters

XII. Return to open meeting at 7:08 p.m.

XIII. Mr. Yocom moved to allow Ms. Powell to contact Attorney Trent Kreinke to try and get a copy of other Nursing Home UPL Contracts and any additional information that was available. No Action Taken.

XIV. Mr. Yocom stated there was another purchase opportunity given that Mr. Williams and Ms. Powell are going to look into and report back at the next meeting. No Action Taken.

XV. Board Member Comments;

Mr. Willis: No Comment.

Mr. Pearson stated he respects each and every Hospital Board member and the citizens of this community. He stated that he feels strongly about when a Board member is making presentations that they have their facts in order. Mr. Pearson stated that he feels in the last 6 to 7 months they had lost the some of the support of the County. He stated that some of the citizens of the county view the Hospital Board at dysfunctional. Mr. Pearson stated that he feels that it is very important that when the Hospital Board come in to a meeting they have all the facts and presentation in order so that the Board is not talking in circles. He stated that there has been several meetings that he leaves just as confused as when he got there. Mr. Pearson stated that the Hospital Board needs to get the trust of the Community back.

Mr. Yocom: No Comment.

XVI. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

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Phil Yocom, President  
Sabine County Hospital District  
Board of Directors

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Joe McNaughten, Secretary  
Sabine County Hospital District  
Board of Directors