

SABINE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2016

The Sabine County Hospital District Board of Directors met for a Regular Meeting on February 22, 2016 at 5:30 PM in the Sabine County Hospital Board Room.

Present

Phil Yocom, President
Earl Willis, Board Member
Joe McNaughten, Secretary
Mark Pearson, Member at Large
Gary Williams, EMS Administrator
Diane Powell, District Administrator
Emily Taylor, Administrative Assistant

Absent

Dr. Lana Comeaux

Others Present

Jerry Howell, Sabine County Hospital Administrator
Penny Ferguson, Daily News and More
Cecil Tatum, Sabine County Reporter/Toledo Chronicle
Montez McNaughten, Sabine County Citizen
James Duffey, Paramedic Sabine County EMS
Sandy Jarman, Paramedic Sabine County EMS
Jake Wagner, EMT-B Sabine County EMS
Heath Meredith, EMT-B Sabine County EMS
Johnathan Bunton, Paramedic Sabine County EMS
Laura McCroskey, LVN Sabine county Hospital
Chad Moody, PA Sabine County Hospital

- I. Mr. Yocom called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. Mr. Williams opened the meeting with prayer.
- III. Public comments:
Ms. McNaughton stated that she went to visit a friend that is a swing bed patient at Sabine County Hospital. She stated the lady and her daughter are grateful that she is able to do the swing bed at Sabine County Hospital so that her daughter does not have to drive out of town. Ms. McNaughten stated that she believe that speaks for the need of the

swing bed program at Sabine County Hospital. Ms. McNaughten stated that she had another friend that would have liked to be her husband to the swing bed program at Sabine County Hospital but he was keep at his current hospital for possible surgery. She stated that if she has to go back into the nursing home for rehab it would be at Sabine County Hospital. Mr. Yocom thanked her for her comment.

- IV. Mr. Yocom asked if everyone has had a chance to review the minutes and financials. Mr. Willis asked if the \$63,000 that EMS received in January was typical or is that only money for the month of December. Ms. Powell explained that the money that was received in January was not typical. She explained that the funds received were from more than 120 days back. She stated that the funds received in January were from October and November which were abnormally slow months. Mr. Willis moved to accept the minutes and financials. Mr. Pearson seconded. Motion passed.
- V. Mr. Howell stated that he was going to start with the Security Risk Assessment which is something that the Hospital has to go through. He stated this assessment looks through the protection of health and fiscal safety of visitors and staff. Mr. Howell stated that the Hospital went through the assessment on February 9 and 10. He stated that he received the report February 22 and it was very complimentary. Mr. Howell stated that there were five action items and they would be easy to take care of, he stated it showed the hospital staff is doing a really good job on protecting the privacy of their patients. Mr. Howell stated that he did his quarterly meeting the week before with the staff to make sure everyone was informed and up to date with everything. Mr. Howell stated that there has been talk about painting the walls in the corridor and they have received a color back from an interior decorator. Mr. Yocom stated that Preferred hired an interior decorator not the Hospital District. Mr. Howell stated yes Preferred hired the interior decorator and would be paying for the painting at the hospital. Mr. Howell stated the interior decorator suggested the color yellow, he stated the decorator said yellow is happy for most people, that it is energetic and relieves stress. Mr. Howell stated that the statistics for January they have been slow, for the total discharge days the hospital is up one from 2015. He stated that ER Visits and admits had decreased but outpatients and clinic visits had increased. Mr. Howell stated that the month of February had turned around and they have 11 patients in the beds as of today. He stated that he attached 3 different reports, one of them is ER follow up statistics. He stated that Shelly calls about 30% of discharged patients from the ER to get feedback on how their services were. Mr. Howell stated that the next attachment was the ratings of the Hospital. He stated that some hospital get star ratings and Hospitals with 100 beds or less will not receive a star rating. Mr. Howell stated the top box of his report had reported an 86% and that is in the top 5%. Mr. Howell stated that the last page is from the company they use for measuring patient satisfaction and patient care. He stated the green line was Sabine County Hospital and the yellow line is HSTM research National Norm. He stated that Sabine County Hospital had done well in most areas but there were some areas that need improvement. Mr. Howell stated that the week before the meeting Mr. Chad Moody, P.A. at Sabine County Hospital, had a critical patient come into the ER and it took four and a half hours to get them out of Sabine County Hospital. He stated that once they have acceptance at another hospital then transport to the other facility has to be arranged. Mr. Howell recognized Mr. Moody

to speak on the matter. Mr. Moody stated that he feels the Hospital and the EMS service are a team and has to work together. He stated that in the health care field there are a number of challenges many of which are financial. Mr. Moody stated that when Acadian was running the ambulance service there were a lot of complaints about call response time and other things. He stated that the problem they seem to be running into now is when the patient gets to Sabine County Hospital it's hard to get them to another facility. He stated that he understands that with vent patient there is only enough air for an hour with the current vent that is approved for use by Sabine County EMS. Mr. Moody stated that it gets aggravating because ideally you would just fly them out but when the weather is bad they cannot fly. He stated that he feels that everything is being done correct with pre-hospital situations but what he is asking for is help getting critical patients out of the Hospital. He stated that he knows that it gets challenging with the ambulance having to take a critical patient over an hour out. Mr. Moody stated that would to have it look at and see what needs to be done to take a critical patient further, whether it be have bigger tanks put on the Ambulance, or training on taking ventilation patients out over an hour. He stated that if you look at the trauma centers there is only one that is close and that is an hour and eight mins out all the other are at least two hours. Mr. Howell stated that with this the Hospital has found some areas that they can change to hopefully make it an easier transition. Mr. Williams stated that when taking vent patients it's not an oxygen issue. He stated the vents that are on the ambulances are rescue vents and that's why they can't take them over an hour out. He stated that when the ambulance service looked into getting a vent this was the one that was economical for them to get. He stated that other ambulances service like Acadian had eagle vents and they could cost up around \$20,000. Mr. Howell asked if the ambulance service could carry the hospitals vent with them when transporting a patients. Mr. Williams stated to carry the Hospitals vent then they would also have to carry the hospitals respiratory tech. Mr. Moody stated that he understands that this is not an issue that can solve now but just a problem that needs to be looked at. Ms. Powell stated that the ambulance service couldn't just purchase one vent because if that ambulance was out of the county then the transfer would still have to wait for them to get back they would have to purchase a vent for every ambulance. Mr. Williams stated that Sabine County is in a bad situation when it comes to grants. He stated that Sabine County Ems is looked at like part of a Hospital systems that brings in \$2 or \$3 million a year and cannot receive grants because of that. Ms. Powell stated and without being attached to a fire department Sabine County Ems cannot receive fire grants. Mr. Howell stated that some of the grants the hospital can get may also benefit the EMS service and he would look into it. Ms. Powell stated that if the hospital could get a grant for one that is left at the hospital and the Ambulance service was trained on it for when its needed would work. Mr. Willis asked how many times a year about does the Hospital send someone out of the Hospital by ambulance that needs a vent? Mr. Moody stated that there are several critical patents that come through the ER. He stated that in a little over two years he has used it probably five times. Mr. Pearson stated that the best thing is communication and he commended the Mr. Moody for bring this problem to the board. He stated that he read this past week where neighboring communities was having to wait 45 minutes for an ambulance to respond. Mr. Pearson stated that we cannot address anything that we don't know about. Mr. Williams asked if the hospital had the staff to lose someone for 4 or 5 hours to go on a call with the ambulance if needed to use the

hospitals ventilation system. Mr. Howell stated that the hospital tries to stay completely staffed with a few extras but that is not always the case. He stated that the Hospital may just have to come up with a protocol for that kind of situation. Mr. Yocom thanked Mr. Moody for coming to speak to the Board. Mr. Willis moved to accept the hospital administrators report. Mr. McNaughten seconded it. Motion passed.

- VI. Mr. Yocom asked if you look at the Sabine County Hospital financials for 2015, and you break out the no operating income transfers from the Hospital District there is nowhere on the page where it says anything about 1115 waiver money received. Mr. Howell stated that it goes under the deductions to revenue because that is revenue associated with Medicaid type programs. Mr. Howell stated that you have revenue then usually a deduction and that is the money that Sabine County Hospital gets back from 1115 waiver and the uncompensated care goes to reduce the amount of deductions. Mr. Yocom stated that the way he understood the program there was two parts one for expansion of service and the other was uncompensated care. Mr. Howell responded correct. Mr. Yocom stated that if you take the uncompensated care money and put it under deduction from revenue where does the other go? Mr. Howell stated that both parts go into deductions from revenue. Mr. Howell stated both parts go under that section. Mr. Yocom asked why? Mr. Howell stated that is how the rules of accounting are for the program. He stated that's how he has always done it at other facilities he has worked for. Mr. Yocom asked how the money was being spent to better the citizens of the community because from his understanding that is what the money is supposed to be used for. Mr. Howell stated it goes into the operating account and the operating account is what takes care of all the operating at Sabine County Hospital. He stated other than the line item home office but even that is in the operating the Hospital. He stated that money goes into operating this Hospital. Mr. Yocom stated he is still not satisfied with the way it is written out. He stated he believes that the citizens of this community deserve to know how their tax payer dollars are being spent other than a \$5 million line item named deduction from revenue. Mr. Howell stated that's not how it is spent that is just how it is recorded. Mr. Yocom asked how it was spent. Mr. Howell stated the way that it is spent goes under the \$8,526,000 of total expenses in operating the hospital. Mr. Howell stated that it is recorded as received under the revenue but it is spent in the operating expenses. He stated that last year about \$6.7 million was collected through accounts payable. Mr. Howell stated that the difference in the \$8.5 million and the \$6.7 million that was collected is that money. Mr. Yocom stated so it is being broken out in general operation. He stated in his opinion that it is an accounting gimmick. Mr. Howell stated that he disagreed. Mr. Yocom stated that you can break out transfers from hospital district why can't you break out 1115 waiver fund under operating revenue. Mr. Howell stated that a lot of things go under deductions from revenue. Mr. Yocom stated that a sub heading could be put under it like the net patient services revenues less bad debt is done. Mr. Howell stated that he does not see where that would be a problem and he would have the accountant put it under there but that is where it is recorded. Mr. Yocom stated that maybe where it is recorded but it is not reflected the way he would like it to be. Mr. Howell stated he did not see where it would be a problem to make that change. No Action Taken.

- VII. Mr. Williams stated that January has had the lowest call volume since the District had started EMS. He stated that there was a total of 112 calls and 24 were refusals with a total call time of 10 minutes 14 seconds. Mr. Williams stated that 84 calls were 911 calls, 10 non emergent transports either out of the ER or nursing home, 12 were emergent transports coming out of the ER and 5 transfers to like Doctors' Offices and such. Mr. Williams stated that the 911 locations where 16 to CHI St. Luke's ER, 4 to Christus Jasper, 1 was flown out, 4 to Nacogdoches, 7 to Nacogdoches Memorial ER, 20 to Sabine County ER, 2 to Woodland Heights, 6 to San Augustine ER and there was 24 refusals. He stated that the breakdown for non-emergent transfers where 1 to CHI St. Luke's ER, 1 to Dr. Martins, 3 to Hemphill Care Center, 1 to Mount Mariah, 2 to Sabine County ER, 1 to Woodland Heights ER, and 1 to Woodland Heights Wound Care for a total for 10 non-emergent transfers. Mr. Williams stated that the Emergent Transfer destination locations break outs are 5 to CHI St Luke's ER, 1 to East Texas Medical Center Tyler, 2 to Nacogdoches Medical Center, 2 Woodland Heights ER for a total of 12 emergent transfers. Mr. Pearson asked why Med 3 was still out of service. Mr. Williams stated that he was still waiting for Jerry's Collision in Jasper to get back with him. Mr. Pearson stated that was unacceptable. He stated that he drove by the office and seen Med 3 with an out of service sign on it and a different medical unit taking a patient out of the Hospital. Mr. Williams stated that he understands Jerry's Collision is dragging their feet. Mr. Pearson asked if that was the only place around that could work on it. Mr. Williams stated that Rush Truck Center in Lufkin could but they are slow at getting to stuff. Mr. Pearson asked how long the unit has been down. Mr. Williams stated since last meeting. Ms. Powell stated that the unit could be used it has been approved by the state but it has cosmetic damage. Mr. Yocom asked Mr. Williams to make it a priority to get it fixed. Mr. Williams stated that the EMT's started a volunteer physical training program about 2 months ago and the guys have already lost a total of 250 lbs. He stated he just wanted to brag on the guys a little bit. Mr. Willis moved to accept the EMS Administrator report. Mr. McNaughten seconded. Motion passed.
- VIII. Mr. Yocom asked Ms. Powell who she had got ahold of about the Capital Improvement Grant Program. Ms. Powell stated that she sent the e-mail to all Board members and only received a response back from Dr. Comeaux, Mr. Pearson and Mr. Yocom. Mr. Howell stated that each year the Hospital has a chance to apply for the Capital Improvement Grant and Sabine County Hospital has for the last three years even though they didn't get it last year. Ms. Powell stated that it was because you can only get it every other year but Mike thought the Hospital could get it. Mr. Howell stated that it was a rule of thumb. He stated that it is a 25% matching program and Preferred would be doing the match. Mr. Howell stated that they asked for \$75,000 in Grant funds. Mr. Howell stated that the money would be used to fix the air unit because the way it is now if it went from 80 degrees one day to 60 degrees the next day the maintenance guys would have to go on the roof to manually change the air from cold to hot. He stated that none of the thermostats in the Hospital work so one room maybe very cold and the next on down may be hot. Mr., Howell stated that on the Grant the have requested a computer controls as well as some boxes to help equalize the air flow to all the rooms. Mr. Howell stated that it is thought that it is a District funded program and that's why it has to go through us. Ms. Powell stated that usually the District and Preferred just swap checks. Mr. McNaughten

moved allow Preferred to participate in the Program. Mr. Pearson seconded. Motion Passed.

- IX. Mr. Howell stated that the first page is the unaudited December 31, 2015 actual and the right column is the unaudited budget for 2015. He stated the gross revenue was more actual, than budgeted but the deductions from revenue were \$5 million instead of the budgeted \$3.7 million. He stated that even though they had more revenue their net revenue and gains were approximately \$1 million less. Mr. Howell stated that the expenses were down approximately \$400,000, with an operating loss of \$978,000. He stated that net income was a negative \$203,849. Mr. Howell stated because of the depreciation expense they were really close to cash flowing for the year and the January financials will be part of the quarterly financials. He stated the hospital did lose about \$200,000 for the year ending December 31, 2015. Mr. Willis moved to accept the unaudited 2015 Sabine County Hospital Financials. Mr. McNaughten seconded. Mr. Willis, Mr. McNaughten and Mr. Pearson voted to accept. Mr. Yocom voted no. Motion passed.
- X. Moved to Following Month No Action.
- XI. Mr. Yocom moved to allow Sabine County Hospital District Administrators to attend the National Rural EMS Conference April 21-22 in San Antonio. Mr. McNaughten second. Motion Passed.
- XII. Mr. McNaughten moved to allow Sabine County Hospital Administrators to attend the TXEMSA Conference June 19-22. Mr. Yocom seconded. Motion Passed.
- XIII. Mr. Yocom asked if anyone of the Board would like to attend the Torch Annual Conference April 26-28. Mr. Willis stated he would like to attend. Mr. Willis moved to allow the Board members to attend. Mr. McNaughten Seconded. Motion tied so Mr. Yocom asked to a show of hands. Mr. Willis, Mr. McNaughten and Mr. Pearson voted yes. Mr. Yocom Voted No. Motion Passes with a 3/1 vote.
- XIV. Ms. Powell stated that Rosevine Volunteer Fire Department is working on starting a First Responder Organization (FRO) so there will be 6 FRO's now. She asked if next year would the Board consider changing the Budget to reflect more for the FRO organizations. Ms. Powell stated that she would work with the First Responder Organizations to get an updated cost per run. She stated that \$36,000 has been the same for five years now and she believes that it is time for a little bit of a raise. Mr. Yocom stated that he agrees, but if the Rosevine FRO gets started this year will they still be eligible for the funds for this year? Ms. Powell stated yes. Mr. Yocom moved to approve the distribution of First Responder Funds. Mr. McNaughten seconded. Motion passed.
- XV. Ms. Powell stated that she had received the engagement letter from Eide Bailey for the 2015 Audit whom the Board used last year. She stated that she had met with Ms. Hines the Administrator at San Augustine EMS and mentioned that the Sabine County Hospital District Audit cost \$22,000 last year. Ms. Powell stated that San Augustine is using a

company out of Orange, Tiller and Associates and was charged \$6500.00. She stated that she believes that \$22,000 is a lot of money if we can have it done for \$6500. Mr. Yocom asked if all auditing companies have to follow standard general auditing rules. Ms. Powell stated they would audit to the American Hospital Accounting Principles. Mr. Yocom stated if we don't like what they have done we can always go back to what we previously did. Ms. Powell stated yes. Mr. Yocom moved to use Tiller and Associates for the 2015 Audit. Mr. McNaughten Seconded. Motion Passed.

XVI. Ms. Powell stated that Martha Stone had brought acceptance papers by for tax property bids to approve placing the property back on the tax rolls. She stated that she knew the County approved them that morning but was unsure if the School Board has approved them or not. Mr. Yocom moved to approve the delinquent property. Mr. McNaughten Seconded it. Motion Passed.

XVII. Executive session at 6:23 P.M.

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

XVIII. Return to open meeting at 7:04 p.m.

XIX. No Action.

XX. Mr. Yocom stated that Ms. Powell and Mr. Williams had their marching orders.

XXI. Board member comments:

Mr. Willis: No comment.

Mr. Pearson: Stated he would again like to thank the Preferred team for the communication. He stated that was the only way anything could get fixed was to talk about it.

Mr. McNaughten: Stated that it has been a long hard winter and he was glad it was spring. He stated that he was proud of Ms. Powell, Ms. Taylor and Mr. Williams and the rest of the emergency team that thank you and I appreciate you all.

Mr. Yocom: No comment.

XXII. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Phil Yocom, President

Joe McNaughten, Secretary

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