

SABINE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2013

The Sabine County Hospital District Board of Directors met for a Regular Meeting on September 23, 2013 at 5:30 PM in the Sabine County Hospital Board Room 167.

Present

Phil Yocom, President
Joe McNaughten, Secretary
Earl Willis, VP & Treasurer
Diane Powell, Office Manager

Absent

Dr. Lana Comeaux, Member
Mark Pearson, Member at Large

Others Present

Diana Taylor, Sabine County Hospital Administrator
Penny Ferguson, Sabine County Reporter
David Bartholdi, Sabine County Citizen
Montez McNaughten, Sabine County Citizen

- I. Mr. Yocom called the meeting to order at 5:44 p.m.
- II. Mr. Willis opened the meeting with prayer.
- III. David Bartholdi, Sabine County Citizen, stated he attended the meeting as a patient advocate not as the owner of Texas Medical Enterprises and McMahon Medical Group, which owns a clinic in Hemphill. Mr. Bartholdi stated he had a handout as well as a Public Information Request that he passed out to the Sabine County Hospital Board of Directors, the Hospital Administrator, and the Office Administrator. Mr. Bartholdi stated he had a patient complaint for a citizen of Sabine County. Mr. Yocom stated he felt this conversation is a direct HIPPA violation. Mr. Willis stated he felt that the handouts should be given back to Mr. Bartholdi due to it being a HIPPA Violation. All Board of Directors, the Hospital Administrator and Office Administrator returned the handouts to Mr. Bartholdi. Mr. Bartholdi stated he did not feel that he was in violation of HIPPA. He stated that he had a conversation with Diana Taylor concerning a patient of Dr. Gulbis'. This concern was that Dr. Gulbis had "dropped" a patient without speaking to this patient because this patient was admitted to Mt. Moriah Nursing Home. Mr. Bartholdi stated in the conversation with Diana Taylor she asked if he had spoke with

“his” nursing home. Mr. Bartholdi stated that it was not his nursing home; he just helped bring it to Sabine County. Mrs. Taylor stated in the phone conversation with Mr. Bartholdi that this patient is not a patient of Sabine County Hospital and Mr. Bartholdi should speak with the Administrator at Mt. Moriah. Mr. Bartholdi stated he spoke with Richard Lindquist, the administrator for Mt. Moriah Nursing Home, according to Mr. Bartholdi, Mr. Lindquist stated he did not feel like the physician not being informed in a timely manner was the issue. According to Mr. Bartholdi, Mr. Lindquist stated that Mt. Moriah had sent all the transfer documents in a timely manner to Hemphill Nursing Home as required by laws and Mt. Moriah Nursing Home then sent all the transfer documents to the physician. According to Mr. Bartholdi, Mr. Lindquist stated that Dr. Gulbis said that the Sabine County Hospital Administration had told him not to be too spread out and compromise patient care. According to Mr. Bartholdi, Mr. Lindquist replied what is the difference in driving one mile east or one mile west, according to Mr. Bartholdi, Dr. Gulbis did not respond to this question from Mr. Lindquist. Mr. Bartholdi stated he understands that Dr. Gulbis is just following orders from Preferred Management and he has taken an oath to take of patients unselfishly. Mr. Bartholdi believes that Dr. Gulbis is tangled in an unethical and unprofessional manner of patient care. Mr. Yocom stated he would not allow Mr. Bartholdi to disrespect the Sabine County Hospital District Board of Directors, Preferred Management or the Administration. Mr. Bartholdi then proceeded to explain the proper way to discharge a patient according to the American Medical Association Guidelines. Mr. Yocom stated he did not care what that said that is between a doctor and a patient. Mr. Bartholdi asked Penny Ferguson with the Sabine County Reporter to make sure she added on record that Mr. Yocom did not care. Mr. Yocom stated that his concerns were that Mr. Bartholdi has made allegation of unethical and unprofessional conduct but has yet to back this up with any proof. Mr. Bartholdi stated to Mr. Yocom that he should read the American Medical Association Guidelines and that would let him know what is ethical and professional concerning discharging a patient. Mr. Bartholdi stated that the way a patient is discharged from a Preferred Management doctor does not follow the American Medical Association Guidelines. Mr. Bartholdi stated in these guidelines this could be considered patient abandonment. Mr. Bartholdi stated it is unethical to drop a patient because that patient is moving from one nursing home to another. Mr. Willis stated that the Sabine County Hospital District Board of Directors is very interested and concerned with patient care, however the Board of Directors is not interested in the internal controls of Preferred Management, he stated if actual patient care is hindered at that point the Sabine County Hospital District Board of Directors would take action. Mr. Willis stated it did not sound like patient care was ever compromised in this situation, he stated that the Board of Directors does not tell or ask Preferred Management what to do and say to their doctors. In the event patient care is compromised, the Board of Directors would then take action. Mr. Bartholdi stated he was trying to keep the Board of Directors out of hot water. Mr. Yocom asked why Mr. Bartholdi did not use one of his doctors with McMahon Medical Group or the Medical Director for Mt. Moriah. Mr. Bartholdi stated Mr. Yocom was missing the point. Mr. Bartholdi stated he has documentation of four patients who received the same treatment at Sabine County Hospital. Mr. Bartholdi stated that Mr. Yocom should listen to him like a man. Mr. Yocom stated that Mr. Bartholdi continues to insult him on a personal level. Mrs. Taylor stated this is between two nursing homes not the Sabine County Hospital

District. Mrs. Taylor stated that she understood his complaint however, when Dr. Winslow stepped down not all the proper steps were taken there. Mr. Bartholdi stated that letters were sent to every one of the patients, he has proof of this in his office. Mr. Bartholdi stated if Mr. Yocom would read the guidelines, he would see that he could be liable for patient abandonment. Mr. Yocom stated no. Mr. Bartholdi stated if he believed that then keep doing it. Mr. Yocom asked Mr. Bartholdi if he needed to add anything else, Mr. Bartholdi stated he was extremely concerned about patient care from Preferred Management Physicians. Mr. Bartholdi asked if there is a lawsuit filed against Preferred Management does this affect the Hospital or just the clinics. Mr. Yocom stated he would not continue to argue this with Mr. Bartholdi due to the threat of a legal suit from Mr. Bartholdi. No action taken.

- IV. Mr. Willis moved to accept the consent items. Mr. McNaughten seconded. Motion carried.
- V. Mrs. Taylor stated the inpatient census days were down 34%, swing bed days were down 10%, the average length of stay was 3.1 days, ER visits are consistent with last year, and outpatient visits are up 18%, transfers are up 7%, Clinic visits are up 38% from last year. Medicaid will begin a "presumptive Medicaid" program for all 50 states. The hospital would take a financial application on a prospective Medicaid client and would be paid for that visit. The client for eligibility would require no financial documentation. The presumptive Medicaid would be in effect for 30 days and then the client would have 90 days to complete the full application. The Sabine County Hospital will be installing a program called Lexicon that will enable all personnel to access medication reference information via the internet. We will also be able to provide the patient medication information with this program as well. A come and go retirement reception will be hosted by the Sabine County Hospital to honor Dr. Winslow. It will be open to the public and will be held on Wednesday, October 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Hospital Front Foyer. One site visit was conducted with a prospective physician candidate in late August. The candidate has declined to continue to pursue the opportunity. Still no site visit has been scheduled for the candidate from Ohio. Two additional resumes received one from a doctor who is in practice in Monahans, TX and is originally from Burma. Second from a 3rd year female resident at JPS in Ft Worth. Continuing to pursue discussion with resident but will not pursue further doctor from Burma who is the US on a green card. Patient satisfaction reports from ER callbacks made for the month of August showed an average of 97% positive satisfaction in services provided. Sixty-one patients were surveyed by phone. Two patient complaints noted. Continued efforts to provide public education on Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans are in the works. Fifteen hospital and clinic staff received education training so as to better respond to patient calls. The Administrator is scheduled to speak with a group at First Baptist Church in Hemphill on September 26. Ads and articles will soon be placed to provide more education so patients can make for informed decisions. HCAPS phone surveys are now taking place with our discharged inpatients. The results of these surveys will contribute to part of the Hospital's quality measure scores. Shout Out to Laura McCroskey, Swing Bed Coordinator and Dan Laird, Radiology Director. The Hospital had 90 days of Swing Bed Census Days in August which enabled us to hit our August goal, and make up the deficit

that we had been carrying and some days towards the September goal. Mr. Laird volunteered additional work time to provide craft instruction for the swing patients as part of their rehab activities. Employee Appreciation Day is coming up Friday September 27th. We have over 60 donated door prizes as of this date. Fried chicken and beverages will be provided by the hospital- departments are asked to bring side dishes and desserts. All employees and employed medical staff will receive a door prize. District Board Members are invited to attend. Two drive through Flu Shot Clinics will be held on October 1 and 3 from 4 to 6 p.m. for the public. Flu shots will be administered at the cost of \$20. The extended hours are to better serve those who may be working or in school and unable to come during regular clinic hours. As of the end of July, we have hit 99.6% of our budgeted revenue goal. Although inpatient and swing bed have been under budget, outpatient and clinic have been over projected revenue. Overhead expenses are under budget by 2%. Other income category which includes such things as the vending machine revenue, medical records income, and the 1115 Waiver revenue has hit 262.4% of projected budget. The Salary Budget is slightly below at .68%. The budget for contract labor is below what was budgeted by 57.33%. Gross Days in AR for hospital and clinics as of the end of July was 49.32. Sabine had the lowest days in AR compared with all the other Preferred Hospitals. Mr. Willis moved to accept the hospital administrator's report. Mr. McNaughten seconded. Motion carried.

- VI. Mrs. Taylor stated that some of her staff recently attended a training meeting in League City to learn the new software that was purchased by the region 2 Anchor to help with the reporting for the 1115 Waiver Project. No action taken.
- VII. Mr. Yocom stated that this letter for the Pineland Housing Authority is for HUD to have a record of the non taxing entities. He explained that currently the Hospital District does not tax another tax entity. He explained that HUD has requested this letter from the Sabine County Hospital District. Mr. Willis moved to approve the letter to the Pineland Housing Authority. Mr. McNaughten seconded. Motion Carried.
- VIII. Mr. Willis moved to table this until October. Mr. McNaughten seconded. Motion carried.
- IX. Mr. Willis moved to accept the First Responder Organization Funds Distribution Policy. Mr. McNaughten seconded. Motion Carried.
- X. Mr. Willis moved to send letter the congressional representatives concerning the Critical Access Hospital Designation. Mr. McNaughten seconded.
- XI. Ms. Powell stated the current copier/scanner/fax machine is out dated and in need of replacement. Mr. Yocom stated with try to move the Sabine County Hospital District records to digital rather than paper the hospital district needs to upgrade the current scanner. Ms. Powell stated a standalone scanner would cost approximately \$1000. Her concern was the space that is provided in the Hospital District office there would not be room for separate items. The bid from Texas Document Solutions for \$1595.00 for an all

in one printer/copier/fax/scanner. Mr. Willis moved to purchase the all in one from Texas Document Solutions. Mr. McNaughten seconded. Motion carried.

- XII. Ms. Powell stated that the Hospital Board of Directors would need to approve the current polling locations for the 2014 Elections. She stated there is a possibility with current legislation that the Hospital District could have to use the polling locations set by the Sabine County Commissioners, however she would not know for sure until attending the Election Law Seminar in December. Mr. Willis moved to set the nine polling locations for the 2014 Election. Mr. McNaughten seconded. Motion carried.

- XIII. Board Member Comments:

Mr. Willis: No Comment.

Mr. Yocom: No Comment.

Mr. McNaughten: No Comment.

- XIV. Meeting adjourned at 6:25p.m.

Phil Yocom, President
Sabine County Hospital District
Board of Directors

Joe McNaughten, Secretary
Sabine County Hospital District
Board of Directors