

SABINE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2014

The Sabine County Hospital District Board of Directors met for a Regular Meeting on January 27, 2014 at 5:30 PM in the Sabine County Hospital Board Room 167.

**Present**

**Phil Yocom, President**  
**Earl Willis, VP & Treasurer**  
**Joe McNaughten, Secretary**  
**Mark Pearson, Member at Large**  
**Dr. Lana Comeaux, Member**  
**Diane Powell, Office Manager**

**Others Present**

**Diana Taylor, Sabine County Hospital Administrator**  
**Chris Castille, Acadian Ambulance Service**  
**Monica Keeton, Acadian Ambulance Service**  
**Penny Ferguson, Sabine County Reporter**  
**Montez McNaughten, Sabine County Citizen**

- I. Mr. Yocom called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. Mr. McNaughten opened the meeting with prayer.
- III. No Public Comments.
- IV. Mr. Willis moved to accept the consent items. Mr. Pearson seconded. Motion carried.
- V. Mrs. Taylor stated she would be doing a year in review PowerPoint presentation for the Board of Directors. She stated in 2013 Dr. Andy Gulbis joined the Sabine County Hospital Medical Staff, also Dr. Natalia Luraquiz signed an agreement to join Sabine County Hospital in July of 2014. Dr. Winslow retired in 2013 after 59 years of service to the community. Some of the new equipment added to the Sabine County Hospital in 2013 were a Lab Chemistry Analyzer \$10,000, 12 IV Pumps \$36,000, four blood pressure monitors \$15,200, and Nurse Call System \$ 48,000. In addition, two patient rooms were remodeled in 2013 at a cost of \$135,182.00. The Sabine County Hospital District also made the following improvements, additional parking \$125,000, and the boiler upgrade \$19,500. She stated the Sabine County Hospital participated in several events in Sabine County, 3 health fairs, trunk or treat safety, food drive, school physicals (a free service to the schools in Sabine County) and school tours and phlebotomy training. The Patient Volume for 2013 is as follows: Inpatient Days: 857 Days,

Outpatient: 6880, ER: 3789, Swing Bed Days: 565, Toledo Bend Clinic: 4986, and Sabine Family Medicine: 4860. Swing Bed Patient Census Days were down 4% in 2013, Inpatient Discharges were down 25%, Outpatient Visits were up 18%. The ER Patient Satisfaction report for 2013 shows a 97% positive response rate for 3789 ER visits. That is a 3% increase in positive responses compared to 2012. During 2013, Sabine County Hospital participated in an Area Wide Disaster Drill. The Medicaid 1115 Waiver Projects included expanding Primary Care. The Average Days in AR for 2013 were: Sabine County Hospital: 46.08 Days, Sabine Family Medical: 38.86 Days, Toledo Bend Family Medicine: 69.04 Days. Sabine County Hospital added new employees to the Management Team in 2013; Billy Dickerson, Maintenance Director and Laura Simpson, HR Director and Administrative Assistant. Mr. Willis moved to accept the Administrators Report. Mr. Pearson seconded. Motion carried.

- VI. Ms. Powell stated the Sabine County Hospital District made a transfer to IGT for \$564,000 in January. She stated this amount was substantially higher than anticipated. Ms. Powell explained that HHSC sends the information out approximately two weeks prior to payment due date. She explained she does not know when the next payment is due or what the amount will be. Mr. Yocom stated he was on a conference call with Diana Taylor, Diane Powell, and Larry Stephens with Preferred Management. Mr. Yocom stated he explained the District and Preferred want to participate in the 1115 Waiver if the money is available. Mr. Yocom stated he met with Mr. Willis, Diana Taylor, and Diane Powell to discuss a 5-year plan for the Sabine County Hospital infrastructure. Mr. Willis stated there would be some capital projects for Sabine County Hospital that will need to be taken care of in the very near future. He stated with the amount of prepaid management fees already paid to Preferred, he suggested not making any IGT payments for the remainder of 2014 in order to take care of the capital improvements of Sabine County Hospital. No Action Taken.
- VII. Monica Keeton with Acadian Ambulance stated the October 2013; 911-call volume was 79, the inter-facility transports were 30. The utilization of two or more Ambulances in the county simultaneously was two ambulances: 23 times, three ambulances: 14 times, and 4 ambulances: one time. The November 2013; 911-call volume was 92, Inter-Facility transports were 43, and the utilization of two or more ambulances in the county simultaneously was; two ambulances: 25 times, three ambulances: five times, and four ambulances: two times. The December 2013; 911-call volume was 101, Inter-Facility transfers were 38, and the utilization of two or more ambulances in the county simultaneously was; two ambulances: 22 times, three ambulances: seven times, four ambulances: three times and five ambulances: one time. Mr. Yocom stated the first responder organizations and the citizens of Sabine County are concerned over the response time of the ambulance and the backup ambulance. Mr. Yocom asked Ms. Keeton what is being done to correct this problem. Ms. Keeton stated the call volume has increased and that changes would need to be made by Acadian to provide the services needed for Sabine County. Ms. Keeton stated that Acadian has one full time ambulance in Jasper, TX and 1 ambulance in Kirbyville from 9am-7pm. Mr. Yocom asked if either one of those ambulances were under contract with the cities or counties in that area. Ms.

Keeton stated they were not under any contract with those areas. Mr. Yocom stated that Acadian is under contract in Sabine County and is paid approximately \$327,000 per year for services; however, he does not feel that Acadian providing the services agreed to for the citizens of Sabine County. He stated the contract with Acadian Ambulance states "the contractor will maintain appropriate back up provider agreements with licensed and certified ambulance providers as Contractor deems necessary in performance of the Agreement to meet the service and response time criteria set forth in the agreement. It is the sole responsibility of Contractor to coordinate and reimburse back up ambulance providers for service provided. Contractor shall provide the Facility with the list of the backup ambulance providers." The contract states "Contractor shall perform the following services to the best of its abilities: h. Negotiate mutual aid agreements with neighboring EMS providers with notification to the District." As well as, "Contractor shall perform the following specific services during the term of the agreement: 2.3. Equipment and emergency medical services personnel shall be located at a point or points within the District service area where the emergency medical services personnel will meet the best possible response time, and Contractor will be able to provide the best service to the Patient." Ms. Keeton stated that there are occurrences where an ambulance is dispatched from the Bridge City, TX area and are unfamiliar with this area so call times may be slower with a crew from out of the area. Mr. Pearson stated he disagrees, he monitors radio traffic, and over the past few weeks, the units are coming from Buna, TX. He stated that the problem is about training the ambulance personnel. He also stated that some of the units coming from the southern areas are not on the First Responder channel on the radios, which in turns causes a lot of miscommunication through the Sabine County Sherriff's Office. Mr. Pearson state the Sabine County Sherriff's Office provides radio programming to correct this issue. Mr. Yocom asked if there were other back up providers that were working with Acadian and if not is this a possibility. Mr. Castille stated that he would work to see if this was something that could be done. Mr. Yocom then stated that he would like Acadian to be at the February 24, 2014 Regular Board Meeting with solutions to these problems. Mr. Yocom stated there was an incident in Rosevine where the ambulance took 30 minutes to arrive; he stated Acadian should look into a mutual aid agreement with San Augustine, TX in order to best serve the citizens of Sabine County. Mr. Yocom asked for a contingency plan when more than two ambulances are needed. Ms. Keeton stated she does not know of one in place at this time. Ms. Keeton stated they would look into some kind of contingency plan. Mr. Pearson stated we have Acadian under contract and feels that for money the District is spending the service needs to be improved. Dr. Comeaux stated start-improving services now do not wait until the next meeting. Dr. Comeaux asked whether Acadian has looked at trends concerning the busiest times of the week, month, or year. Ms. Keeton stated she has not. Ms. Taylor stated that Acadian has stated they are under staffed. Dr. Comeaux stated that it is not our problem that Acadian is under staffed; the board is here to make sure the contract is followed for the best possible care for the Sabine County citizens. Mr. Pearson stated his problem is that Jasper, TX is receiving the same service for no fee that Sabine County is having to pay for, he stated that Jasper, TX has several other ambulance services working in the county we have none. Mr. Yocom stated the contract with Acadian is exclusive, Acadian should be providing the county with some kind of

back up as stated in the contract. Mr. Willis moved to accept the Acadian quarterly reports. Mr. Pearson seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. Mr. Yocom moved to Order the Election for May 10, 2014. Dr. Comeaux seconded. Motion carried.

IX. Ms. Taylor stated that the tower is 80 feet tall. The guide wires would also be 80 feet, so this would be take almost the entire district lot. Ms. Taylor stated this would all be done at Preferred Management expense. Ms. Taylor stated Deep East Communications has brought out engineers and surveyed the land. Mr. Pearson asked what the liability would be for the District. Ms. Taylor did not know the answer to this. Dr. Comeaux moved to allow the installation of the tower and any landscaping at the expense of Preferred on the District lot. Mr. Willis seconded. Motion carried.

X. Ms. Taylor stated there is a Rural Health Facility Capital Improvement grant available from the Texas Department of Agriculture for \$75,000. She stated the grant would be used for purchasing bedside ultrasound machine, four new hospital beds, and remodeling the cabinets in the nurse's station. Dr. Comeaux moved to apply for the Rural Health Facility Capital Improvement grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture. Mr. Pearson seconded. Motion carried.

XI. Ms. Powell stated she would like to office hours for the Sabine County Hospital District to Tuesday and Wednesday 8am-4pm. Mr. Yocom moved to change the hours. Dr. Comeaux seconded. Motion carried.

XII. Board Member Comments:

Mr. Pearson: No Comment.

Mr. Yocom: No Comment.

Mr. Willis: No Comment.

Mr. McNaughten: No Comment.

Dr. Comeaux: No Comment.

XIII. Meeting adjourned at 6:55p.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

