

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL + CLINICS

BOARD MEETING · February 26, 2025

MCMH Conference Center

Zoom option available.

ROLL CALL

Trustees	Kevin Cabbage, Chair	Jill Bergstrom, Vice Chair	James Norris, Treasurer (Zoom)
	Ann Carder, Secretary	Jeff Vanderhoof, Trustee	Jason Poston, Trustee
	Chris Gilbert, Trustee		

Administration	Ron Kloewer, Chief Executive Officer	Mike O’Neal, Chief Operating Officer
	Bryant Blay, Chief Financial Officer	Krystalle Fada, Chief Nursing Officer
	Shauna Bozwell, Chief Clinical Officer	Kylie Bowen, Administrative Services Manager
	Heather Huddle, Administrative Assistant	

Staff	Gale Bingham, Administrative Director of Human Resources (Zoom)	
	Pete Wemhoff, Administrative Director of Support Services (Zoom)	
	Terry Koppa, Administrative Director of Information Systems (Zoom)	
	Jamie Hossle, Administrative Director of Revenue Cycle (Zoom)	
	Tim Werges, Controller (Zoom)	

Medical Staff	Dr. Warren Hayes, Chief of Staff
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Montgomery County Board of Supervisors	Charla Schmid (Zoom)
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Public Visitors	Perry & Sara White
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Absent	N/A
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CALL TO ORDER

Kevin Cabbage, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM at Montgomery County Memorial Hospital (MCMH) in the Conference Center. A Zoom option was available for those who wished to attend virtually.

RECOGNITION OF QUORUM

Kevin Cabbage recognized that all trustees were present.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was presented for consideration by the Board of Trustees. It consisted of the minutes from the regular meeting on January 29, 2025. There were no policies or provider appointments due to the Medical Staff meeting being cancelled.

A motion by Ann Carder, seconded by Jill Bergstrom, to approve the consent agenda as presented passed unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

No visitor comments were made.

MEDICAL STAFF REPORTS

The Medical Staff meeting was cancelled in February due to weather conditions.

Dr. Hayes noted that there have been a couple of clinic closures due to weather conditions, but that providers were able to log in from home to continue working. Dr. Hayes thanked the IT department for setting up that connection.

Dr. Hayes reported that while the inpatient census is variable, there are eight patients today, and that there has been a steady trend. He complimented the collaboration between various areas of the hospital, including outpatient clinics, the Emergency Department and the hospitalist program.

Dr. Hayes noted that there are high rates of Influenza A in the community and that it is never too late to get a flu shot. According to the data the Family Medicine clinic has collected so far, 75%-80% of patients who test positive for influenza had not been immunized, meaning that the breakthrough rate for this year's vaccine is low.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer – Ron Kloewer

Report printed in the Meeting Book.

Ron Kloewer provided an update on orthopedic services at MCMH. Dr. Shane Schutt (foot and ankle surgeon) and Dr. Kimberly Turman (sports medicine surgeon) have begun their practice at MCMH. Dr. Todd Sekundiak (joint specialist surgeon) will begin practicing at MCMH once credentialed, with a target start date in May. MD West One is looking to provide MCMH with a hand specialist surgeon as well.

A brief discussion took place on Medicaid reimbursement in regards to the new federal administration.

Ron noted that legislation is needed to add any additional service lines to Rural Health Clinics, and that is not likely to happen this year. He stated that he has received a sympathetic ear in the legislature on the importance of the project and so we may be able to make progress in the future.

Chair Kevin Cabbage moved the meeting to agenda item 8b. Public Hearing on Tax Asking Budget for Ensuing Fiscal Year.

Public Hearing on Tax Asking Budget for Ensuing Fiscal Year

At 8:17 AM Jason Poston made a motion to open the public hearing for the tax asking budget. Jill Bergstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Kevin Cabbage asked for any comments from the public.

Perry and Sara White were in attendance. Perry stated that they misunderstood the type of meeting and thought it was scheduled to discuss all components of property taxes, not the tax levy that is specific to the hospital. Perry complimented the hospital on the improvements that he's seen and felt in the last year. The Whites also discussed their feelings on property taxes in Montgomery County in comparison to other Iowa counties and other states.

There were no additional comments online or in person.

At 8:23 AM, Jill Bergstrom made a motion to close the public hearing. Jeff Vanderhoof seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Kevin Cabbage returned the meeting to agenda item 6. Administrative Reports.

Chief Operating Officer – Mike O'Neal

Report printed in the Meeting Book.

In regards to the unknown future of federal programs like Medicaid and Medicare, Mike O'Neal discussed the changes that have negatively impacted healthcare during the past 25 years due to healthcare reform and/or federal regulations. Mike noted that 76 of 82 Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) in Iowa run at a negative operating margin, and that CAHs are always working hard to stay one-step ahead.

Mike & Krystalle Fada spoke with nurses about the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Mike noted that the manager support training program recently discussed the interviewing and hiring processes.

Chief Financial Officer – Bryant Blay

Report printed in the Meeting Book.

Bryant Blay reported on the tax dollars MCMH receives as a percentage of total expenses. In 2024, tax revenue represented 3.34% of total expenses, in comparison to 4.42% in 2017. He noted that MCMH takes its taxing responsibility very seriously and aims to diminish reliance on taxes, rather than continuing to increase taxes along with increased expenses.

Bryant noted that the Medicaid Directed Payment Program (MDPP) payment received in February was used toward operations. There will be one more payment in May. We are waiting to see if the next application cycle will be approved.

Bryant reported that MCMH is implementing a new patient accounting system with Oracle Cerner. MCMH is one of two sites that will go live with the new system, out of their 200+ clients that are on the CommunityWorks platform.

Chief Nursing Officer – Krystalle Fada

Report printed in the Meeting Book.

Krystalle Fada reported that MCMH has begun hiring paramedics to work in the Emergency Department. MCMH filled the open positions with two part-time paramedics and one full-time.

Krystalle noted that an alert button will soon be included with the Versa Badge system. Clinical staff and patient access staff in the Emergency Department will have an alert button that they can press to alert nearby staff when assistance is needed.

Krystalle reported that Pioneer Ambulance is not onsite, but they are taking transfers in a timely manner.

Chief Clinical Officer – Shauna Bozwell

Report printed in the Meeting Book.

Shauna Bozwell reported that the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors has voted to bring their Workers Compensation program back to MCMH, along with their pre-employment and return to work screenings.

Shauna noted that the Red Oak Medical Clinic Task Force continues to meet to streamline workflows and processes between Red Oak Internal Medicine and Red Oak Family Medicine clinics.

Shauna reported that Phreesia is going well. The software helps collect Social Detriments of Health (SDOH) data, has improved the check in process and has increased co-pay collection.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

Quality of Care

The report is included in the Meeting Book.

The 2025 HQIC Quality SMART goals are included in this quarterly report.

Krystalle Fada led a discussion on a patient/family engagement advisory committee that is being formed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cash Disbursements

A motion by James Norris, seconded by Ann Carder, to approve the accounts payable cash disbursements in the amount of \$1,803,294, which excludes any potential conflict of interest payments, was unanimously approved.

A motion by James Norris, seconded by Chris Gilbert, to approve the following potential conflict of interest payments, was unanimously approved, with Kevin Cabbage and Ann Carder abstaining.

- FMTC, in the amount of \$6,705
- Mark Jackson's Red Oak Hardware Hank, in the amount of \$2,640

Tax Asking Budget for Ensuing Fiscal Year

Bryant Blay reported that Option B (Equal Last Year's Tax Levy Amount) was printed in the Red Oak Express as required on February 12, 2025. That posting limits the decision by the Board of Trustees to Option A (Equal Last Year's Tax Asking Amount) or Option B.

Board Chair Kevin Cabbage and Finance Committee Chair James Norris led a discussion on the tax asking budget, asking each trustee to share their opinion on the subject.

A motion was made by James Norris, and seconded by Jason Poston, to adopt Option B (Computed Tax Rate per 1,000 - \$3.0646). Kevin Cabbage asked for a roll call vote: James Norris- yes; Jason Poston- yes; Jill Bergstrom- yes; Jeff Vanderhoof- yes; Ann Carder- yes; Chris Gilbert- yes; and Kevin Cabbage- yes. The motion passed unanimously.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

Krystalle Fada led a discussion on the use of paramedics in the Emergency Department. Krystalle noted that a paramedic position at MCMH is attractive to some candidates because it does not include any fire responsibilities as seen with many EMS positions. The City of Red Oak is supportive of MCMH hiring paramedics to work in the ED and directed a couple of candidates to the openings at MCMH. Krystalle also noted that the scope of practice for a paramedic is different from a nurse, more expansive in some ways and more limited in others, which can be utilized to help fill any gaps that we may experience due to the current nursing shortage. This is a strategic shift in how the Emergency Department is staffed.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Committee Reports

Critical Access Hospital Review – (Jeff Vanderhoof & Jill Bergstrom) – A meeting took place in February. It was noted that PolicyStat is going well.

Foundation – (Ann Carder & Jill Bergstrom) – N/A

IHA Legislative – (James Norris) – James recommended that trustees contact their legislators if they have any concerns.

IT Governance – (Kevin Cabbage) – N/A

Patient Experience – (James Norris & Jason Poston) – A discussion took place on what patient experience data points are being collected. MCMH is moving from PRC to Reputation.com to collect Emergency Department patient experience data. Reputation.com is also being used to collect patient experience data from the retail pharmacy.

Quality Patient Safety – (Jeff Vanderhoof & Chris Gilbert) – The committee reviewed scorecards. Jeff emailed the Quality Patient Safety reports to the trustees.

Pharmacy Governance – (Ann Carder) – Ann Carder discussed the retail pharmacy financial report that is included in the Meeting Book.

OTHER BUSINESS

A brief discussion took place on the upcoming CEO annual evaluation.

The next Board Meeting will take place on Thursday, March 27, 2025.

ADJOURN

Jill Bergstrom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Cabbage adjourned the meeting at 10:02 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann M. Carder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ann Carder, Sec.