North Sunflower Medical Center

Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

27 March 2019

**BE IT REMEMBERED** the Chairman and the Board of Trustees of North Sunflower Medical Center, Ruleville, Sunflower County, Mississippi, met in their Regular Meeting on Wednesday, 27 March 2019, when and where the following were present:

Billy Joe Waldrup, Chairman and Trustee; H.T. Miller, III, Vice Chairman and Trustee; Bobbie Bounds Allen, Secretary and Trustee; Phil McNeer, Trustee; Willie Burton, Trustee; Sam Miller, Executive Vice President; Rodney Clark, COO; Joanie Perkins, CCO; Leigh Ann Armstrong, Interim CFO; Arie Chandler, Administrative Assistant; Sandra Britt, Administrative Assistant; Lawson Holladay, Esquire

Absent: Billy Marlow, Executive Director/Administrator

Mr. Billy Joe Waldrup called the meeting to order at noon and asked Mrs. Sandra Britt to open the meeting with a word of prayer. The minutes of the 27 February 2019 Regular Board Meeting minutes were approved as distributed by motion offered by Mr. Burton and seconded by Ms. Allen and unanimously approved.

There was no unfinished business to bring before the Board for consideration.

The first order of new business was to review the Initial Credentialing applications of seventeen Radiologists contracted through Premier Radiology Group of Tupelo that will provide tele-radiology services at NSMC. The applicants’ education and training, professional references, and License were verified, and a query was done on the National Practitioner Data Bank and the OIG. The initial term will be for a period of one year and at that time they will be permitted to apply for a two-year term. The applications of Richard Arriola, M.D.; Edward Giaroli, M.D.; Robert Becker, M.D.; William Henson, M.D.; Marshall Edmondson, M.D.; John Roberts, M.D.; Sarah Deraney, M.D.; Joseph Kelly, M.D.; William Johnson, M.D.; Jeffrey Howard, M.D.; David Dean, M.D.; Anthony Junck, M.D.; Mary Moss, M.D.; Keith Andrews, M.D.; Vernon Barrow, III, M.D.; Amanda Johnson, D.O.; and Joanna Sadowska, D.O. were carefully reviewed and after discussion the following motion was made:

**MOTION: I move to approve the initial applications of Richard Arriloa, M.D.; Edward Giaroli, M.D.; Robert Becker, M.D.; William Henson, M.D.; Marshall Edmondson, M.D.; John Roberts, M.D.; Sarah Deraney, M.D.; Joseph Kelly, M.D.; William Johnson, M.D.; Jeffrey Howard, M.D.; David Dean, M.D.; Anthony Junck, M.D.; Mary Moss, M.D.; Keith Andrews, M.D.; Vernon Barrow, III, M.D.; Amanda Johnson, D.O.; and Joanna Sadowska, D.O. and that they be given initial privileges to provide tele-radiology services through Premier Radiology Group for a period of one year ending 31 March 2020 and at that time be permitted to apply for a two-year term.**

**Maker: Mr. Phil McNeer Seconder: Mr. Willie Burton Motion Unanimously Adopted**

The next order of new business was to discuss and approve changes in Administration. Mr. Billy Marlow has asked to step back in as North Sunflower Medical Center’s Administrator, while remaining the Executive Director, to carry out all Administrator duties and responsibilities as outlined in the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees and that Sam Miller assume the position of Executive Vice President. After discussion, the following motion was made:

**MOTION: I move that Billy Marlow be appointed Executive Director and Administrator and Sam Miller be appointed Executive Vice President of North Sunflower Medical Center effective immediately.**

**Maker: Mr. Phil McNeer Seconder: Mr. Willie Burton**

**Motion Unanimously Adopted**

Leigh Ann Armstrong presented the financials for the month of February as attached to the minutes. The entire facility has a cash balance of $11.2 Million, total assets of $44.3 Million, and a total liabilities and fund balance of $44.3 Million. The Hospital’s Gross Revenue was $7.7 Million for the month and $36.7 Million year to date. The Hospital had a Net Income of $37,689.00 for the month and a Year to Date Net Loss of $555,654.00. Hospice had a Net Income of $36,435; Sunflower Diagnostic Center had a Net loss of $25,459; Sunflower Eye Station had a Net loss of $14,020; Simply Sunflower had a Net Loss of $405; Sunflower DME had a Net Income of $20,287; NSMC Pharmacy had a Net Income of $89,558; TRINA Health had a Net Loss of $3,172; and the Rural Health Clinic had a Net Income of $183,996 for the month.

The question was raised by the Board if there was a plan in place to improve the financial condition of the Sunflower Eye Station due to it consistently losing money each month. Mr. Miller reported that there were three different options currently on the table. The preferred option is to contract with a local Optometrist that will provide eye care to patients five days a week; the second option would be to lease the clinic; and the final option would be to sell the clinic. Mr. Miller reported that he and Rodney have met with an Optometrist several times over the past couple of weeks to discuss details regarding the Optometry Board requirements and credentialing process. However, a few issues have been encountered and Crane Kipp, attorney, is working diligently with the Board of Optometry to try and find solutions. We hope that the issues will be resolved and that the Optometrist will begin seeing patients within the next week.

Sam Miller began the Administrator’s report by sharing a letter from Healthcare Provider’s Insurance Company showing that the hospital’s subscriber savings account has been credited the amount of $352,635.00 which will be applied to our general and professional liability insurance when it renews in July. Mr. Miller also reported that he has been nominated to serve on HPICO’s Board.

Mr. Miller reported to the Board that the Governor signed the health insurance prompt pay legislation House Bill 628 that was mentioned in February’s meeting. Mr. Miller explained that this bill will do the following four things that can significantly help health care providers:

* Provides that errors, attributable to the insurer, does not change the clean claim status
* The interest penalty for late payments will accrue at a rate of 3% per month. This is double the current rate of 1.5% per month.
* Recognizes a federal preemption issue and clarifies that the 3% interest penalty doesn’t apply to Medicare Advantage plans
* If determined that the insurer acts in bad faith as evidenced by a repeated or deliberate pattern of failing to pay benefits and/or claims when due, the person entitled to such benefits (health care provider or insured) shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount up to three times the amount of the benefits that remain unpaid until the claim is settled or adjudicated.

Mr. Miller reported that Brad Cooper is now Director of The Beacon Wellness Center. Our goal is to turn the Beacon from a gym to a “Wellness Center” that will provide weekly education classes and other activities to the community and employees. A few of the education topics will be Diabetes, Hypertension, Nutrition, and Sleep. Brad will be meeting with the Director of Tallahatchie General Hospital’s Wellness Center to get more ideas on making this change. Brad is also asking members of the Beacon Wellness Center to complete surveys on what changes they would like to see take place.

At this time, Joanie Perkins, CCO, entered the meeting and Mr. Waldrup asked for her report.

Joanie reported that she has recently been working to cut costs in the Rural Health Clinic. One of the changes made was in the management of the clinic. There is no longer a clinic “Director” but a management team that meets one day a week to discuss all aspects of the clinic. So far this has proven to be a positive change that works well.

Joanie reported that the biggest complaint received on the Feed Trail survey for the clinic is wait times. There have been three wait time complaints so far this month that are being looked into.

Joanie reported that she and Dr. Shannon Myers visited The Cleveland Clinic in Ohio last week to learn how to conduct Shared Medical Visits in the Rural Health Clinic. Joanie explained that Shared Medical Visits are when several patients are seen as a group by a Physician, Dietician, Exercise Therapist, etc. Each patient must sign consent due to their medical information being shared amongst all patients that attend the visit. With the Shared Medical Visits, we should see an increase in referrals and an improvement in the quality of patient care. Joanie added that we are currently searching for ten test patients.

Joanie reported that Transitional Care Management as well as Chronic Care Management has recently been implemented at the RHC. Transitional Care Management ensures the continuity of healthcare as patients transfer between different locations or levels of care while Chronic Care Management helps patients better manage their chronic conditions at home to improve their overall health.

Rodney Clark, COO, presented the Meaningful Use measures, for the third quarter of 2018 as the Quality Assurances report. Mr. Clark explained that the measures were submitted and accepted by CMS in February 2019. The measures submitted are as follows:

* Readmission Review for 3rd Quarter 2018:

All Cause Discharges: 66

All Cause Readmissions: 12

All Cause Readmission Rate: 18.18%

State Average: 18.58%

* Readmission Rate per Diagnosis for 3rd Quarter 2018:

Congestive Heart Failure: NSMC: 16.67% State: 25.69%

Pneumonia: NSMC: 37.50% State: 19.79%

COPD: NSMC: No readmits State: 20.82%

* Discharge Description/Readmission Rate 3rd Quarter 2018:

Discharge to home or self-care: 12.90%; 31 discharges with 4 readmits

Discharge/transfer to Skilled Nursing Facility: 23.08%; 13 discharges with 3 readmits

Discharge to Swing Bed: 9.09%; 11 discharges with 1 readmit

Discharge to Home Health Care: 33.33%; 9 discharges with 3 readmits

Left against Medical advice: 50%; 2 left against advice from MD with 1 readmit

Mr. Burton shared an article from the Clarion Ledger titled Rural Hospitals in crisis. The article is based on the Navigant analysis report that was released in February and discussed during the February Board meeting. North Sunflower Medical Center is listed in the article as a moderately essential at-risk hospital. There are 30 additional at-risk MS hospitals listed in the article. Mr. Burton passed the article around for the group to read.

Upon Motion made by Mr. Phil McNeer and seconded by Mr. H.T. Miller,III, the Board adjourned at 12:42 P.M., subject to the call of the Chairman.

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Billy Joe Waldrup, Chairman Bobbie Bounds Allen, Secretary