

**GEORGE E WEEMS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

**GOVERNING BODY MINUTES**

**Sacred Heart Health Systems Presentation**

**January 17, 2008**

**Board Members Present: Gayle Dodds, Chairperson; Curt Blair, Vice-Chair; Dr. Stephen Miniati; Margie Solomon; Paul Marxsen; Tammi Hardy**

**Staff Present: Charles Colvert, CEO; Candi Fox, CNO; Ginny Griner, HR Director**

**County Government Attendees: Michael Shuler, Esquire; Noah Lockley, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners Chairman**

**Other Attendees: Dr. Henry Roberts, President, Sacred Heart Foundation; Peter Heckathorn, Executive Vice President, SHHS; Roger Hall, President, SHH-Emerald Coast; Brian Matson, Vice President, SHHS; David Adlerstein, Apalachicola Times**

**The meeting was held in the Scipio Meeting Room at the Water Street Hotel and Marina in Apalachicola. Lunch was prepared by The Grill.**

**Mr. Colvert introduced Dr. Henry Roberts.**

**Dr. Roberts stated healthcare is a 'sacred' business and that SHHS is part of the largest not-for-profit healthcare organization in the United States. Dr. Roberts also stated SHHS has a sincere desire to partner with Weems in what could be termed a 'challenging environment'.**

**Dr. Roberts then directed attention to the artist's rendering of the new SHHS Hospital for Gulf County. Further stating construction is scheduled to begin in March 2008, with an opening planned for the**

summer of 2009.

**SHHS Presentation to Board**

**1/17/08**

**Page two**

**Dr. Roberts stated there is an already on-going mutual service agreement between Weems and SHHS in the area of Air-Heart Helicopter services. Ron Mosley is the coordinator for this and is based at the Pensacola facility. He then stated SHHS has partnered with Methodist Homes in the areas of assisted living facilities and skilled nursing facilities. "Partnership is the key", said Dr. Roberts, "while making healthcare affordable".**

**Mr. Roger Hall then spoke, stating SHHS' belief, is that "every community should have quality healthcare and that no patient should be left behind". Mr. Hall also stated there should be a shared vision of joint efforts, focusing on improvement of quality healthcare, long-term joint services, creating more jobs and no displacement of capital. Mr. Hall stated SHHS-Emerald Coast will be celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 1/27/08. The 50-bed facility originally employed 175; however, now employs 560.**

**Mr. Peter Heckathorn, SHHS Executive Vice President, began his presentation by saying he is a 'visionary', responsible for development from Mobile, Alabama to Jacksonville, Florida. He is also President of the Sacred Heart Medical Group. Mr. Heckathorn introduced Mr. Brian Matson as the newest member to the SHHS Administrative team.**

**Mr. Heckathorn presented the attached information regarding the 'Franklin County Initiative'.**

**After Mr. Heckathorn's presentation, Ms. Dodds requested the Board Members be given a copy of the initiative, to which Mr. Heckathorn concurred.**

**Mr. Blair stated SHHS had made a tremendous presentation in evaluating long-term growth and planning for the region. Mr. Blair asked if construction on the Port St. Joe facility could be put on hold until the Board made a decision, to which Mr. Heckathorn reiterated SHHS' commitment to the Sacred Heart of the Gulf project.**

**SHHS presentation to Board**

**1/17/08**

**Page three**

**Mr. Heckathorn said it's not a matter of where you build, but what you build. Mr. Heckathorn did state that the number of beds for the Port St. Joe facility might be reconsidered. Mr. Blair brought up the discussion of capital costs, distribution of services and possibly a hospital being centrally located between the two counties. Mr. Heckathorn stated he was concerned there was no deadline, nor discipline involved relating to Weems and that things might get pushed to the wayside. Further stating, "We are committed to the Port St. Joe facility".**

**Mr. Blair said there are time constraints involved relative to Weems. Dr. Roberts stated the facilities' issues are not an 'either/or' matter. Mr. Heckathorn commented that diagnostics for the Port St. Joe buildings have been designed, in a way that they can be housed inside the building or mobile. "We have to be flexible".**

**Mr. Shuler brought up the fact that Weems Memorial Hospital is a Critical Access Hospital (CAH), to which Mr. Heckathorn stated SHHS operates twelve (12) CAH facilities.**

**Ms. Fox then stated she has concerns with the presentation package in that it reflects a freestanding emergency room for Weems, which would lead one to believe, there would be no acute care patients housed at the facility. Mr. Shuler asked, 'At the end of the day, would Apalachicola still have a CAH?' To which, Mr. Heckathorn replied, 'yes'.**

**Mr. Heckathorn said he knew both the Gulf and Franklin communities want in-patient beds; however, economic experts should be consulted to**

**assist with a plan that made the most economic sense.**

**Ms. Dodds stated the St. Joe Company is a major factor in any agreement that would be made involving SHHS, further pointing out they own more land in Franklin County than Gulf County.**

**SHHS presentation to Board  
1/17/08  
Page four**

**Mr. Heckathorn stated ten years ago, physicians were first placed in the Destin area, followed by bigger capabilities and finally, facilities. The facility in Pace started with 2,000 sq ft and now has 60,000 sq ft. He reiterated that planning, must be done.**

**Ms. Dodds stated "We don't want to give up anything we've worked so hard for. We're not going backward. If we can find solutions to your proposals, so be it; however, we are moving forward".**

**At this time the SHHS team exited the meeting room.**

**After discussing political, economic, shared services, etc. and the fact that Gulf County and the St. Joe Company would be involved in a possible venture with SHHS, it was the consensus of the Board to invite representatives from both Gulf County and St. Joe to meet with the Board and SHHS on another occasion.**


**The SHHS representatives returned to the meeting room.**

**Mr. Heckathorn stated the St. Joe Company is very interested in meeting with the Board and he was assured that one, or more of the Gulf County Commissioners would also be available. Mr. Colvert stated this meeting should be held as soon as possible. Upon inquiry, he further stated the 'target' meeting to make a recommendation to the**

**Franklin County Board of County Commissioners is February 19, 2008.**

**At this time the meeting was adjourned.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Griner, HR Director**

Approved  Date \_\_\_\_\_