

- Members Present:** Duffie Harrison, Chair; Kristin Anderson, Vice Chair; Myrtis Wynn, Secretary; David Harris MD; Patrick Conrad MD; Dolores Croom
- Members Absent:** n/a
- Staff Present:** David Walker, CEO; Susan Daniels, CFO; Courtney Alford, DON; Ginny Griner, HR / Med Staff Coordinator; Haley Williams, Radiology Manager; Craig Gibson, Plant Ops Director; Heather Huron, Admin Assistant
- Guests Present:** Lauren Faison-Clark, TMH; Tom Ramsey, Alliant; Michael Moron, County Coordinator via Zoom; Donna Butterfield; County Commissioner Bert Boldt

CALL TO ORDER / VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

Duffie Harrison, Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 9:00am. Board quorum was confirmed.
- Walker introduced new Board member, Dolores Croom, who was attending her first meeting in person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Duffie Harrison, Chair

- There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Duffie Harrison, Chair

- The 10/28/2021 minutes were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Wynn to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Harris. The motion was carried unanimously.

MEDICAL STAFF REPORT

Patrick Conrad, MD

- Dr. Jeffrey Johns is back on staff with Southland. He is picking up an occasional shift at Weems.
- Flu cases, mostly pediatric, are being seen through the ER.
- New COVID variant, Omicron, seems to have milder symptoms.

TMH MEDICAL PRACTICE UPDATE

Lauren Faison-Clark, TMH Administrator Regional Development, Population Health and Telemedicine

- Dr. Newton's volume continues to increase.
- TMH is working with Weems to increase patient access to medical care. Current projects in Franklin County include:
 - Diabetes care and education via telemedicine. (Staff are being trained now.)

- Increased access to behavioral health via telemedicine
- Remote patient monitoring solutions
- TMH will be scheduling Peer Network days in 2022
- TMH is driving local swing bed referrals. Lauren would like to propose a business plan to TMH that would dedicate one case management nurse for rural partners. Harrison requested an update next Board meeting on progress.
- Comm. Boldt requested the opportunity for dialysis services in Franklin County. Per Lauren, data is being extracted to determine number of Franklin County residents in need of dialysis. Once data is available, it will be evaluated for potential dialysis services in the county.

CLINICAL SERVICES REPORT

Courtney Alford, DON

- Flu cases are being seen. Most have been pediatric.
- Positive COVID 19 cases are remaining low.
- Staffing shortages have been mitigated with 3 travel nurses. The seasonal low census has also helped.
- Walker introduced Haley Williams, Radiology Manager, to the Board.

Quality

- veEDIS Executive Summary report for the month of October 2021 was provided for individual review.

WEEMS MEDICAL CENTERS REPORT

David Walker, CEO

- The clinics experienced a rush on COVID booster vaccinations. Demand decreased following initial rush.
- The clinics also continue to experience staff shortages.

EMS UPDATE

David Walker, CEO

- The Community Paramedicine program is up and running.
- Dr. Redfield will assume EMS Medical Director duties on 12/18/2021. Prior to now, Dr. Conrad served as the Medical Director for several years.

HR REPORT

Ginny Griner, HR Director / Medical Staff Coordinator

- Travel assignments continue in the nursing and laboratory departments. The lab recently contracted with 2 Med Tech travelers. An offer has been extended for permanent, full-time position to a Med Tech candidate.
- Recent new hires were made in nursing, radiology, maintenance, and dietary departments.

- To meet CMS mandate, Weems has developed a COVID vaccination policy, established processes and record keeping procedures.
- The Medical Staff Committee will meet in January 2022.
- A discussion was held regarding staff shortages. Contributing factors in these shortages include vaccination mandate, higher pay rate with travel opportunities, RN graduates pursuing online APRN degrees, and shortage of instructors for nursing programs. Walker mentioned that there may be future legislation for student loan forgiveness.

PLANT OPERATIONS

Craig Gibson, Plant Ops Director

- Gibson has established a temporary office outside the ER entrance.
- Maintenance staff are cleaning and remodeling 2 storage areas.
- EVS and Maintenance policies are being reviewed and updated as needed.
- Grant for new generators has been submitted and is pending.
- Gibson is working with Moron to update Helipad paperwork for submission to FFA.

CFO FINANCIAL REPORT

Susan Daniels, CFO

The following financial reports for the month ending 10/31/2021 were presented and reviewed in detail:

- Financial Summary
- Operating Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Summary of Financial Ratios
- Statistics

ALLIANT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

David Bowling, VP Finance

Growth and Planning

- Carrabelle Pharmacy
 - Proforma finalized showing a small margin in year 2 and break even point in year 3.

Finance

- CARES Act Reporting (PRF Reporting Portal)
 - Completed in November
- Additional funding opportunities- applied for in October
 - Phase 4 General Distribution (\$17B)
 - American Rescue Plan Rural Distribution (\$8.5B)
- Cost Report
 - Kick off call with Susan and Shawn Adams scheduled for 12/1
- Annual Audit

- Initial data requests to start work on the annual audit sent out in November
- Expect to start submitting data to CRI in December
- Charge Master Review
 - Team from Blue was on site for a week in April to complete
 - Preliminary reports for several departments have been shared and the team is currently working through the findings
- Medicaid Eligibility
 - Three vendors chosen for consideration (Cadre, CRS, and HIS)
- Early Out & Bad Debt Process
 - Reviewed current process and working with vendors to adjust some processes
- Emergency Department
 - ER patient experience
 - ER admission opportunities
 - ER coding level review
- Other areas of focus
 - Patient rounding
 - Post visit follow up calls

Financial Indicators:	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
Total Net Revenue	373,617	638,866
Total Net Income	(152,494)	74,127
Patient Cash Collections	521,025	462,174
Total Cash Collections	876,766	865,742
Days Cash on Hand	159.65	148.95
County Hospital Subsidy (Sales Tax)	209,574	186,023
County Clinic Subsidy (Sales Tax)	10,000	10,000
County EMS Subsidy (Ad Valorem Tax)	0	63,688

Operating Indicators:	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
Total Admissions	12	4
Outpatient Visits	187	138
Emergency Room Visits	464	378
Ambulance Runs	135	109
Clinic Visits	502	407

CEO REPORT

David Walker, CEO

Action Items

- COVID Vaccination Policy: CMS has issued a COVID Vaccination Mandate for health care facilities who participate in their Medicare and Medicaid programs. The interim final rule requires health care facilities to develop plans and processes to vaccinate all current staff. The final rule also includes vendors who provide services in the facility. The first vaccination dose must be received by December 6, 2021, and full vaccination by January 6, 2022. The plans must accommodate medical and religious exemptions as well. Weems will comply with the CMS mandate because we receive federal funding from CMS to serve the medically vulnerable. Board recommendation to approve the COVID Vaccination Policy to meet CMS guidelines.

Discussion

Eleven states have a stay from the CMS mandate. Florida's request for temporary injunction was denied.

Comm. Boldt requested follow up on exemptions, i.e., masks, weekly testing, etc. Walker discussed the current mask policy.

Informational Items

- Congressman Neal Dunn visited Weems on November 2, 2021 to discuss issues facing rural counties. Commissioner Jones, Courtney Alford and Walker met with the Congressman and staff. Low-Income Pool (LIP), Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) and federal funding for rural hospitals was discussed.
- Walker attended the Franklin County Legislative Delegation Hearing on November 10, 2021 to ask local legislative delegation to support our funding request from the 2022 FL Legislative Session to build a new facility. Senator Ausley was in attendance. Representative Shoaf was not present, but his staff was in attendance.
- Options for another Electronic Health Record are being reviewed. Evident, a CPSI software, has been identified. Daniels has conducted a financial analysis and components to be included in the E.H.R. are being identified. A recommendation will be brought to the next Governing Board meeting.
- Jim Coleman will give an annual Alliant update to the Franklin County Board of County Commission on December 21, 2021.
- Turkeys were given to all staff for Thanksgiving, and everyone was very appreciative.
- A Geriatric Outpatient Psychiatric program will be implemented in January 2022. The program is being housed on the grounds of the hospital and will benefit from the Hospital's Critical

A motion was made by Dr. Harris to approve the COVID Vaccination Policy; seconded by Wynn. The motion was carried unanimously.

Access designation. We are also looking to add some additional service lines and we will update the Board as they become more concrete.

2021 Hospital Collaborations

- Department of Health Bureau of Chronic Disease /UCF College of Medicine
- Texas A & M University's Center for Optimizing Rural Health
- Florida Department of Health's Rural Health Office (EMS/FLEX)
- Big Bend AHEC/Rural Health Network
- Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare
- Florida Hospital Association
- FSU College of Medicine-Florida Blue Center for Rural Health Research & Policy

OTHER BUSINESS

Duffie Harrison, Interim Chair

- The next meeting will be held January 27, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

Duffie Harrison, Interim Chair

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:32am.

