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| **Members Present:**  | Duffie Harrison, Chair; Kristin Anderson, Vice President; Myrtis Wynn, Secretary; Bill Zester; John Berry; Dolores Croom; Donna Butterfield |
| **Members Absent:** |  |
| **Staff Present:** | David Walker, CEO; Courtney Alford, DON; Craig Gibson, Plant Ops Dir; Ginny Griner, HR Director; Heather Huron, Revenue Cycle Manager; Robin Paulson, Administrative Assistant |
| **Guests Present:** | Michael Kozar; Mark Shields; Bert Boldt |
| **Teams Attendees:**  | Dr. Robert Conrad |

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| **CALL TO ORDER / VERIFICATION OF QUORUM***Duffie Harrison, Chair** The meeting was called to order at 9:00am. Board quorum was confirmed. Public posting was confirmed.
* Harrison welcomed new board members John Berry and Donna Butterfield
* David Walker recognized Weems October Employee of the Month Amanda Thompson: LPN at the East Rural Health Clinic in Carrabelle
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| **PUBLIC COMMENT***Duffie Harrison, Chair** Bert Boldt welcomed the new board members and was glad to see a robust and full quorum. Boldt noted that it would be great to update our signage coming in westbound for Carrabelle East Clinic and coming into Apalachicola to lower the State Hospital directional sign so those driving by can see it for the Hospital.
* Harrison encouraged the Board of Directors (BOD) members to make notice of Weems signage to see if recommendations could be made.
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| **APPROVAL OF MINUTES***Duffie Harrison, Chair** The 7/27/2023 minutes were presented for approval.
 | **ACTION****A motion was made by Harrison to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Wynn. The motion was carried unanimously.**  |
| **Quality: Medical Staff Report***Patrick Conrad, MD** Conrad reported on the Medical Staff Meeting held on 9/26/23. Staff was recredentialed (details to follow from Ginny Griner, HR Director)
* Still looking into Radiology options and whether to make changes with the current provider. Conrad noted that even though current response times have improved he still encourages looking for other options.
* Census numbers show a dip due to the lowest time of the year but he sees no new concerns from normal trends.
* Conrad reiterated that all Southland providers maintain the same qualifications and that all requirements are in place including ACLS, ATLS, and PALS Certification
* Hurricane preparation is still a priority- EOC meeting held on Fri, 9/29/23.
* Walker provided percentage increases showing better trends for inpatient, swing bed and acute care days.
* Kozar made a note that nationwide, there are increased observation days being driven by Medicare Advantage Plans which lowers payments to hospitals. Medicaid patients are receiving the same treatment but funds are significantly less due to these issues. John Berry asked how this works and Kozar explained that CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) governs the Medicare advantage plans. Heather Huron further explained that not only has this impacted our funding at Weems, but claims are being handled incorrectly by insurance companies and we are spending many labor hours to find these errors and to have them processed correctly. Walker stated that no matter what the ability is to pay, that the services we provide will not be hindered for the patients. Duffie Harrison and Myrtis Wynn shared that they both had been to the ER recently and were treated very well even though no one knew who they were. They were very impressed with the timeliness of service, cleanliness of the hospital and level of care they received.
* Ginny Griner shared the reappointment of the following providers that Weems is contracted with through Southland:

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| **Provider** | **Group** | **Category** |
| Conrad, Patrick F O | Southland EMS of Florida | Active |
| Dietzer, Joshua P | Southland EMS of Florida | Courtesy |
| Hart, Paul D | Southland EMS of Florida | Active |
| Hawkins, Nathanael | Southland EMS of Florida | Courtesy |
| Ivers, Vincent M | Southland EMS of Florida | Courtesy |
| Motta, Paul N | Southland EMS of Florida | Courtesy |
| Newton, David J | TMHPP | Active |
| Parker, Roy F C | WMC RHC Provider | Courtesy |
| Sanaullah, Shezad | Coastal Cardiology & Internal Medicine | Active |
| Saul, Steven | Weems Lab Medical Director | Consulting |
| Valdueza, Sussete | WMH RHC Provider | Courtesy |

* Ginny Griner shared the reappointment of the following Radiology Group:

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| **Provider** | **Group** | **Category** |
| Burton, Dennis Morgan | VESTA Radiology | Consulting |
| Chamsuddin, Abas Afif | VESTA Radiology | Consulting |
| \*Hays, Johnathan Charles  | VESTA Radiology | Consulting |
| Lynch, Richard Duncan | VESTA Radiology | Consulting |
| McClellan, Roger L | VESTA Radiology | Consulting |
| McDonald, Philip B | VESTA Radiology | Consulting |
| Moesch, Dean V | VESTA Radiology | Consulting |
| \*Pham, Justin Hung | VESTA Radiology | Consulting |
| Rivera-Morales, Roberto | VESTA Radiology | Consulting |
| Rose, Cary | VESTA Radiology | Consulting |
| Safvi, Amjad Ali | VESTA Radiology | Consulting |
| Wagner, Elliott Jay | VESTA Radiology | Consulting |

* Butterfield asked about malpractice insurance and Griner confirmed that this is provided by Southland. Zester noted that the hospital has professional liability coverage that covers all staff who interact with patients. Walker noted that a quote was provided in the BOD packets for their review. He also noted that Weems is a Sovereign Immunity Entity (which is a county-owned, public hospital that falls under the State of Florida Sovereign Immunity Statute) and there is a limit of $200k that a person can file against a hospital that falls under this category.
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| **Quality: TMH Medical Staff Report***David Newton, MD** Newton was not present
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| **Quality:** *Courtney Alford, DON** Installation is complete on the Mammography machine. All testing and training have been completed and appointments are now being taken for mammograms beginning 10/9/2023. Referrals are being received from Franklin Needs and other local providers. Plans are in progress to promote this service at our Health Fair, social media, Newspapers, Oyster Radio and at the Health Dept.
* Swing Bed Update was provided. A Weems employee has been targeted as the new Swing Bed Coordinator and will be put in place to work with Alford and Lori Franklin, RN from Alliant that help with patient referrals throughout the area hospitals and care facilities. The new coordinator role will work alongside Lori and Courtney to manage this program at an in-house level, tracking patients that are nearby to be educated on our program and who might be a candidate for it. Walker noted that it is a great program because the reimbursement is high for Weems and the patient receives more personalized care due to our bed count.
* Education is a priority in the Nursing Dept. A Trauma course has been offered to all nurses in September and there will also be a Burn and EKG class coming up as well. Zester asked if incentives were offered to the staff for this training and Alford concluded that yes, they were taking this training on the clock and meals are provided.
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| **A break was taken at 10:25am, continuing at 10:34am** |  |
| **Quality: RHC East and West Report***Susie Buskirk, Clinics** David Walker reported for Buskirk as she was not present. Flu shots are being offered at the East and West Clinics. Bryce Kent is our new student nurse who will be working with us part time. We’ve seen an increase in walk-in patients and Walker noted that we are the only providers taking walk-in patients in the county. Zester asked about the plans for the Pharmacy in Carrabelle. Wlaker noted that an update will be given in October, but the focus right now is on getting the Mammography Services up and running.
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| **Quality: Plant Operations Report***Craig Gibson, Plant Operations Manager** Information was provided for approval on the quote for new refrigeration system in the Dietary kitchen at Weems. This new equipment would replace older units of which parts can no longer be purchased. This quote was provided based on many quotes from other companies. Gathering quotes is another service that Alliant provides by managing Weems.
* An update was given on continued Security. More cameras are being added and viewing of feedback can now be reviewed for 35 days. Harrison asked about signage being posted on the outside of the hospital to let people know that it was being monitored and this will be updated. Berry asked about our access to the building and Gibson explained that we now have a new swipe system which only allows staff into areas that they need access to within the hospital. A record of where staff swipes is also being recorded.
 | **Action Item:****Duffie requested an approval of Hubert refrigeration equipment. Kristin Anderson made a motion, and it was seconded by Bill Zester. All were in favor.** |
| **People/Service:** *Ginny Griner, HR Director, Medical Staff Coordinator** August statistics showed that the organization’s turnover rate was at 3.85%. There are two new hires: one in Respiratory and one at RHC West. There were four resignations in August.
* Griner shared that new Workers Comp premiums were received which begin in Sept of 2023. Another benefit of Alliant Management is better rates being negotiated on Weems’ behalf. Savings over the next year are estimated to be over $150k.
* Employee Health plans have been reviewed for the next fiscal year by our staff and rates will be locked in for three years.
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| **Finance:***Michael Kozar, Alliant CEO** The Alliant financial report was reviewed. A dashboard was provided showing financials through August 2023. It was noted that the end of September marked the end of Weems fiscal year; there will be a better year-end picture of finances in the October meeting. Kozar noted that healthcare nationwide is having challenges with recruiting and maintaining staff.
* Kozar shared about the new Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) designation. The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is monitoring how this will impact all Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) and what decisions will need to be made. At this time more information is needed to know if this new designation would be advantageous for Weems. Alliant will be doing an assessment as well.
* Berry asked about the cash flow issue, wanting to know the details of items under Supplies in the budget. Alliant will provide more information on the breakdown under this budget item.
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| **A break was taken at 11:18am, continuing at 11:25am** |  |
| **CEO Report***David Walker, CEO** Information was provided to the board on the D&O Insurance quote. Berry asked about the organizational structure of the Hospital and why David Walker reports to the Borad of County Commissioners (BOCC) instead of the Chairman, Duffie Harrison. Duffie gave a brief review of the history of Weems, from the time those that leased it many years ago to how the tax fund was created to David Walker being appointed as the CEO. It is noted that David Walker, CEO, does report to the Alliant President, Michael Kozar and the Hospital Board Chairman but does occasionally take calls from County Commissioners. A myriad of items was discussed, from Weems affiliation with TMH, Alliant Management, hospital sustainability, having a non-contracted physician on staff, and ended with the note that there is work to do and that it was a good thing that the BOCC was hiring experts to give guidance to make the best situation for Weems.
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| **Foundation Update***William Zester** Zester shared that the bank accounts for the Foundation were turned over from the old treasurer’s name. Weems currently holds that information but will turn it over to Colleen Zester on the Foundation.
* The Foundation will be supporting the Weems Health Fair. A meeting will be held in October to plan a fund raiser for the hospital in 2024.
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| **Other Business***Duffie Harrison** Duffie noted it was a good meeting with healthy discussions. He thanked the new board members and noted that even though we may see different ways of getting there, that all agree on the same goal, which is to make Weems the best it can be.
* Walker made note that due to Tom Ramsey being out during this board meeting there will be extra time allowed to review the financials in the October BOD Meeting.
* Harrison made a note that all members should be aware of the Sunshine Laws and that if an item is to be voted on it has to be in the written agenda ahead of time. It was asked that the Ethics Training held in July be sent to the new board members to have as a reference.
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| **The meeting adjourned at 12:03pm** |  |