Brookings Health System
Board of Trustees Minutes of Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2026
Board Room, Brookings Hospital

The Brookings Health System Board of Trustees held a meeting at the Brookings Hospital in the Board Room with the following members present: David Meyer, Mary Anne Krogh, Tracy Greene, Jenn Barlund (ph.), Shelby Eischens, Don Greiner, and David Jones.
Ex-officio: Brianna Doran, Lisa Hager, and Larry Jensen
Absent: Lynn Darnall and Shawna Hanson

Management Present: Jason Merkley, CEO; Tammy Hillestad, CNO; and Sheri Wiig, recorder

Call to Order: President Meyer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Obstetrics Unit Tour and Presentation
At 5:03 p.m. attendees proceeded to the Obstetrics Unit for a tour and informational presentation provided by OB Director, Michelle Sand. Attendees returned at 5:36 p.m.

Agenda Approval
A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Greiner to approve the agenda. All present voted in favor; motion carried.

Consent Agenda Approval
A motion was made by Eischens, seconded by Krogh to approve the following consent agenda items. The motion carried unanimously.

A. March 30, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting minutes
B. March 30, 2026, Finance Committee meeting minutes
C. April 15, 2026, Medical Executive Committee meeting minutes
D. March Financials (total payables in March were $4,086,580.25)

Informational Items
Articles of interest included: "*From Bedside to "Webside*", Midwest Medical Edition, and "*4 Pillars of Rural Health Transformation*", doh.sd.gov.

Merkley provided an update on the South Dakota Rural Health Transformation Plan, reporting that Brookings Health plans to apply for two funding opportunities with May deadlines: the Chronic Disease Management Programming Initiative and a Rural Strong Grant. Information on additional grant opportunities is being released gradually and remains limited.

Executive and Board Committee Reports
CEO Report
Merkley recognized Talent Acquisition Specialist Jamie Brutty for the significant value she brings to her role at Brookings Health System. She has actively supported workforce development by participating in student-focused recruitment initiatives, including representing Brookings Health System at the first Brookings Scrubs Camp at SDSU and the HOSA State Conference in Sioux Falls. Additionally, she has achieved notable success with the Build Dakota Scholarship program, securing nine scholarships from recipients who have committed to Brookings Health System.

CFO Report

In Wagner's absence, Merkley reported improved DNFB (Days Discharged Not Final Billed) consistency since December, with the team remaining at or below the seven-day target. DNFB represents the time between patient discharge and submission of a clean claim and may be delayed by documentation or coding issues. Merkley also noted that Yorkshire Eye Clinic is focused on increasing patient volume by joining the Optum Serve network to provide military entrance examinations.

CNO Report

Hillestad reported that in Q1 2026, Brookings Health met or exceeded medication safety program benchmarks, achieving barcode scanning rates above 90%. Hillestad also noted that the shared Physician Recruiter has been effective, with substantial engagement from prospective physicians through multiple phone and in-person interviews. Many candidates are early in their careers, planning their future practice locations in advance, and some have ties to the Brookings area.

Finance Committee

Committee Chair Greiner reported that the Finance Committee met on April 21. The committee reviewed and recommended board approval of the March payables, financials and adjustments. March salaries and wages totaled $2,798,790. Additional discussion topics included the CMS cost report and an update on the FY26 operating budget.

Quality Committee

Committee Chair Barlund reported that the Quality Committee met on April 21. Ashley Baszler, RN, presented information on two key quality measures: early sepsis detection and the Lifeline Stroke South Dakota Initiative. Additional discussion topics included Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (ECQM) and the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Survey in which Brookings Health performed very well.

New Business

Medical Staff Credentialing

Dr. Eischens presented the April 2026 medical staff credentialing. A motion was made by Greiner, seconded by Greene, to approve all credentialing as recommended by the Medical Executive Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Krogh, second by Jones, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Greene, Secretary