Brookings Health System Board of Trustees

Minutes of Meeting
Monday, August 25, 2025

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

Absent: David Meyer

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

President Darnall called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

CONSENT AGENDA
A motion was made by Krogh, seconded by Greiner to approve the following consent agenda items. The motion carried unanimously.
1. June 30, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting minutes
2. June and July 2025 financials (total payables in June were $2,422,205.14 and $4,650,653.54 in July)
3. Brookings Health System Board Bylaws Annual Review
4. Medical Staff Bylaws Annual Review
5. Quality Assessment Performance Improvement Program Annual Review.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
Articles of interest included: "Summer camps inspire students to choose rural health careers", *NRHA Rural Horizons*; "2025 SD Nursing Workforce Supply", *South Dakota Nursing News*; "What experts think of the $50 billion rural health fund in Trump's big bill", *pbs.org*; "Detailed Summary of OBBA", *AHA Legislative Advisory*; and "One Big Beautiful Bill Act Provisions Timeline", *AHA*.

Discussion was held on the variety of included articles that relate to current trends in the healthcare industry; specifically aspects and timeline of President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill. Merkley predicts there will be many challenges stemming from the new bill and most likely a significant negative impact on all South Dakota's hospital's and the SD Medicaid population.

REPORTS
Executive Reports
CEO Report
Merkley noted Brookings Health System Foundation's 16th annual Aiming to Inspire Health sporting clays fundraiser, held earlier this month, was another great success with good community participation. Net proceeds raised reached approximately $35k, which will go towards the new ambulance purchase for Brookings Health System.

IT continues to evaluate end user device assessments as Brookings Health looks to transition to Epic's gold standard in hardware utilization. The assessments projected an estimated $350k worth of new

hardware would be needed to work with Epic's platform. After further evaluation, that figure was decreased to around $170k. Additional gap analysis will be done to fine tune hardware needs/costs.

Merkley also shared Jeremiah Donahoe was selected by SDSU's Athletic Department as this year's recipient of the Brookings Health System Health Professions Scholarship in SDSU Athletics. Donahoe participates in Men's Track & Field/Cross Country and is majoring in Pre-Medicine, Biotechnology and Human Biology.

CFO Report

Wagner highlighted information regarding Brookings Health System's Group Purchasing Organization which helps reduce expenses through increased purchasing power leverage of a large group. Overall savings have been anywhere from 5% to 8%. Wagner also noted that 2026 budget processes have begun and will be similar to the past few years.

CNO Report

Hillestad shared focus for Registered Nurses this month was an educational, hands-on pediatric skills fair relating to seven (7) specific skills on respiratory care. The skills fair was held in preparation for the upcoming upper respiratory/flu season. Brookings Health is also preparing for flu shot clinics for staff and offering additional education to help staff make a more informed decision regarding the vaccine.

Board Committee Reports

Administrative Committee Meeting

President Darnall provided a report; the Administrative Committee met on August 19th. Topics of discussion included Yorkshire Medical Building Move/Landscaping/Ribbon Cutting, Workday/Epic, City/County Board Member Application Timeline, Bylaws/Quality Assessment Plan Reviews, One Big Beautiful Bill/Medicaid, Insurance Renewal, 2026 Budgets/Market Analysis, General Surgeon/Physician Recruiter, and The Brookings Register/Legal Notices.

Members discussed Board Recruitment and identified a candidate for recommendation to replace County appointee Anderson. Contact will be made with the candidate in the coming weeks. Darnall and Greiner are both eligible for another 3-year term and expressed their interest in continuing to serve.

Finance Committee

Committee Chair Greiner provided a report; the Finance Committee met on August 19th. The committee reviewed and approved June and July 2025 payables, financials, and adjustments. Total salaries and wages in June were $2,289,089 and $2,386,858 in July. Other topics included Payor Mix and Cash Flow Updates.

Quality Committee

Committee Chair Krogh provided a report; the Quality Committee met on August 19th. Invited guest, Bunny Christie, Infection Preventionist, presented an overview of her role as Infection Preventionist which is to implement strategies to minimize the risk of infections, protect patients and staff, and ensure a safe environment. Other topics of discussion included Healthcare Associated Infections, Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program, and 5 Star Rating.

NEW BUSINESS

Medical Staff Credentialing Approval

Eischens provided a review of provider credentialing. A motion was made by Greene, seconded by Barlund to approve all credentialing as recommended by the Medical Executive Committee. All present voted in favor; motion carried.

Yorkshire Medical Building Ribbon Cutting/Open House

Merkley informed members invitations for the Ribbon Cutting and Open House will be mailed this week. The event will be held on September 8th at 5pm. All are welcome to attend.

Upon motion by Jones, second by Greiner, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Anne Krogh, Secretary