

Brookings Health System
Board of Trustees
Minutes of Meeting
June 24, 2024

The Brookings Health System Board of Trustees held a meeting on June 24, 2024, at the Brookings Hospital in the Board Room with the following members present: Sheila Anderson, Lynn Darnall, David Meyer, Dick Peterson, Tracy Greene, Don Greiner, Jim Morgan; Ex-officio: Brianna Doran, Andrew Rasmussen, Ryan Krogman
Absent: Mary Anne Krogh and Andrew Ellsworth

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

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Greene to approve the agenda. All present voted in favor; motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Meyer, seconded by Morgan to approve the following consent agenda items: April 29, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting minutes, April 29, 2024 Finance Committee meeting minutes, June 19, 2024 Medical Executive Committee meeting minutes, April and May 2024 financials, adjustments, and payables; total payables for April were \$2,274,054.70 and \$3,011,627.86 for May. All present voted in favor; motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Articles of interest included: “This hospital CEO is done playing nice with Medicare Advantage”, *Becker’s Hospital Review*; and “The cost of unnecessary hospital day in 8 numbers”, *Becker’s Hospital Review*.

REPORTS

Executive Reports

CEO Report

Merkley noted that staff were recognized and celebrated during the National 2024 Hospital & Nursing Home Week in May; each year, this celebration recognizes the dedicated healthcare personnel who provide quality care every day. The Sleep Study lab recently acquired new technology/equipment to improve the patient experience during overnight studies. Merkley also reminded members the 15th annual Aiming to Inspire Health fundraiser will be held on Thursday, August 8th. The raffle grand prize is a 2025 Polaris Ranger 1000 premium UTV.

CFO Report

Wagner provided an update on a class action settlement recovery company, Managed Care Advisory Group (MCAG), endorsed by SDAHO. The company works to find any class action settlements due to Brookings Health System and many other organizations. So far, a few third-party settlement payments have been received.

CNO Report

Hillestad noted the new nurse recognition program, “The DAISY Award” kicked off in May during Nurses Week. So far, there have been eight (8) nominations. In the Obstetrics Unit, implementation of eNICU services is nearly complete which will allow providers at Avera McKennan to visually assess newborns.

INVITED GUEST

Guest speaker, Tim Rave, President and CEO of the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations (SDAHO) provided updates on several industry topics. Medicaid Expansion recap thus far within South Dakota, as we approach a year’s worth of experience, is that utilization, enrollment, and costs are projected very close to what SDAHO originally estimated and falling short of the estimates from the State of SD. Overall implementation has gone very well, and enrollment numbers continue to rise over time getting closer to SDAHO’s estimate of approximately 30,000 enrollees. Other topics discussed included concerns for revenue based on projected tax revenue and potential grocery tax repeal. Additionally, Rave expressed lots of concern for long term care facilities given the recent CMS staffing mandate legislation. Rave also mentioned the 2024 Primary Election results more than likely were not positive for healthcare within the State of SD.

Rave was thanked for his very informative discussion and exited the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Board Committee Reports

Administrative Committee Meeting

Committee member Meyer provided a report; the Administrative Committee met on June 18th. Topics of discussion included The Neighborhoods at Brookview SD Department of Health survey, Yorkshire Medical Building Floor and Site Plan, Physician recruitment/retention, FIT – Wellness/Acceleration, Meditech Expanse/Avera/Workday, and Board Recruitment.

Finance Committee

Committee Chair Greiner provided a report; the Finance Committee met on June 18th. The committee reviewed and approved payables, adjustments, and financials for April and May. Total salaries and wages were \$3,019,444 for April and \$3,139,902 for May. Other topics of discussion included the 2023 Medicare cost report and payor mix.

Quality Committee

Committee member Meyer provided a report; the Quality Committee met on June 18th. Jeremy Klinkhammer, Administrator of The Neighborhoods at Brookview, provided a summary of the SD Department of Health survey that took place in May. Other topics of discussion included updates on CMS’s Star rating program for the nursing home and hospital and patient contracted services.

NEW BUSINESS

Medical Staff Credentialing

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Morgan to approve all June 2024 credentialing as recommended by the Medical Executive Committee. All present voted in favor; motion carried.

Upon motion by Greiner, second by Greene, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

David Meyer