

Hospital board reviews survey results

Written by Chris Lee

Results were positive after East Phillips County Hospital District (EPCHD) board members sat through a presentation at their Tuesday, Oct. 26 regular meeting.

Board members held a conference call with Dr. John Combes of the American Hospital Association (AHA) Center for Healthcare Governance, who walked them through results from a recent survey they conducted on themselves.

The idea of the survey was to identify a set of core competencies needed to fulfill the work of the board. Board members evaluated themselves as well as their peers and results were presented to them at last Tuesday's meeting. The results were positive and included areas such as team leadership, relationship building, general characteristics, personal capabilities and knowledge and skills, just to name a few.

"You're one of the pioneers," Combes said. "I'll give you a lot of credit for it."

EPCHD board members were part of a pilot group participating in the survey. "They were excited to have us join, as public hospitals with elected board members were not well represented," MMH administrator John Ayoub said.

Preliminary budget introduced

EPCHD board members caught a glimpse of the 2011 budget at last Tuesday's meeting. Ayoub noted this was a wide view of the budget as more will be incorporated into it. Board members agreed to hold a special board meeting for the purpose of a budget work session. The final budget has to be approved by Dec. 15.

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Administrator reports activity

Ayoub reported the hospital continues efforts to recruit a physician that will live in Holyoke. He noted Dr. Ted Lin's contract has been extended through next summer to give a cushion for MMH. Ayoub said the hospital ultimately may be looking into some third-year resident doctors.

Along those lines, a few phone interviews were in the works for the week following last Tuesday's meeting.

The administrator said a second T1 line has been installed and utilized to help increase bandwidth at the hospital. The line is short-term as hopes for a fiber connection continue.

Ayoub noted Terry Barth's final day at the hospital was Oct. 22, but he will continue to help get Tony Massara oriented in the coming weeks. Barth's IT experience helped the hospital greatly with the telehealth network, according to the administrator.

The administrator also noted new IV pumps were implemented within the hospital last week. These new pumps are state of the art and came after the previous pumps had reached the end of their useful life.

Department head training continues through Northeastern Junior College, according to Ayoub. He said the sessions have been beneficial to all who are participating. Training was also held with staff on radios.

Ayoub reported he met with Re-1J school district and a crisis response planning team.

Ayoub said a contract for the electronic medication cabinets is in the process of expiring and a newer version of the cabinets will be installed. With the implementation of the newer cabinets, the hospital will save money, according to Ayoub. The contract was set to expire next year, but MMH was allowed to end it early and go ahead with the new system.

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Finally, the administrator mentioned HR 6376. This piece of legislation deals with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the supervision of certain outpatient procedures.

Steve Young noted Melissa Memorial Hospital Foundation is scheduling a fundraising event to be held Feb. 26, 2011 at Phillips County Event Center.

Other business

In other business Oct. 26, board members:

—held a 38-minute executive session for the purpose of negotiations.

—noted the next board meeting will be held Tuesday, Nov. 23.

—approved credentialing for pathologists Lyle and Byron Barksdale.

—accepted the recommendation of the executive compensation committee regarding a contract with Ayoub.

—accepted the medical staff recommendations for the revisions pertaining to the medical staff bylaws.

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—allowed Ayoub to vote in favor of High Plains Rural Health Network proposed dissolution concerning funding for redundant technology.