

Local hospital board sees short agenda

Written by Chris Lee

East Phillips County Hospital District board members met for a short regular meeting Tuesday, April 24. Having spent eight and a half hours in a work session leading up to the meeting, the agenda was kept short.

A facilitated retreat was held to discuss and review data regarding the master facilities planning.

Grant received for quality improvement

A Small Hospital Improvement grant was used by MMH to bring a representative, Beth Katzenberg, Edm, MBA, CPHQ, from Colorado Foundation for Medical Care out for a quality systems analysis. She reviewed policies, medical staff process and quality improvement and how it is performed on departmental and organizational levels.

The representative also reviewed the balance scorecard and board quality committee. A report will now be generated that will be received and reviewed. MMH administrator John Ayoub noted this is something the hospital wasn't required to do but felt it was important enough to spend the grant money on.

The administrator said they hope for a good review but know there is always room for improvement.

Katzenberg also gave a presentation to the huddle group and board quality committee.

A process mapping section was also performed where a group of employees met in the board room to go over steps of different processes. The admission process was one of the examples they looked at, and they mapped out the role of each person involved.

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This helped them see areas where improvement can be focused on and how this will transition into the new electronic medical records once they are up and running.

Video personnel visit site in preparation for recruitment video

Ayoub said an employee with the video company hired to make a recruitment video visited the hospital recently. MMH has contracted with IMG (Integrated Media Group LLC) to come up with a video to help with the Grow Our Own Physician Task Force.

A few interviews were done with staff members as well as community members, and they were shown around town.

Administrator reports activity

Ayoub reported Marcia Mankin has taken on more of an administrative role in the form of a support role for nursing at MMH. He also mentioned Sheila Robinson has taken over as nursing supervisor in the clinic.

The administrator spoke about the provider fee. MMH runs on a fiscal year that doesn't run congruent to the state fiscal year. The state fiscal year begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30, while MMH runs on normal calendar year.

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MMH has been receiving payments under the 2011 provider fee model since October. Once the 2012 fee was approved, hospitals were trued up to the 2012 model. MMH was receiving less with the 2011 model than they were with the 2012 model, so Ayoub wanted to inform board members where a chunk of money came from that was reflected in the financial statement.

Ayoub mentioned Dr. Michael Lahey is leaving Banner Health and will no longer be coming to Holyoke to offer his orthopedic clinic after this summer. MMH will look to find someone, whether it be through Banner or another group, to fill the vacancy.

A new monthly record of 30 was set for ultrasounds performed since records began in June 2010 when the new machine was purchased.

The report for Melissa Memorial Hospital Foundation was given, and it was noted the capstone and time capsule at the clock tower located in the southwest part of the parking lot is in place.

It was also reported executive director Cherrie Brown has agreed to stay on board until a replacement is found. MMHF continues to search for a replacement to fill the position.

Other business

In other business April 24, board members:

—held a 17-minute executive session for negotiations.

—received the audit report from Rick Steen of Eide Bailly, LLP.

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—noted the next board meeting will be held Tuesday, May 22 at 5:30 p.m.

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