

# North Pine Area Hospital District

## “Ensuring Local Access to Quality Health Care”

Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, October 27, 2020 6:30 p.m.  
Askov Community Center/Via Zoom

### CALL TO ORDER

Ron Osladil, Chair, called the meeting of the North Pine Area Hospital District (NPAHD) to order at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

### ROLL CALL

Board members present: Andrew Degerstrom-Hanley (City of Askov) via Zoom, Barb Fischer (Danforth Township), Dr. Chris Ketchmark (City of Willow River) via Zoom, Gary Klein (Hinckley Township), Linda Kvasnicka (Park Township) via Zoom, Fran Levings (New Dorsey Township), Myrna Nelson (Partridge Township), Wayne Oak (City of Sandstone), Bill Olson (Pine Lake Township), Ron Osladil (Finlayson Township).

Board members absent: Catherine Colsrud, Larry Johnson, Brenda Langseth-Perrault, Dennis Liebelt, Edith Molgaard, Curt Nelson, Steve Nelson and Keith Osgood.

Others attending: Chris Olson (NPAHD Admin. Director) via Zoom, Scott Nigon (Essentia), Michael Youso (Essentia), Steve Schmidt (NPAHD Accountant), and Kris Sundberg (The Links Group)

### APPROVE AGENDA

Osladil called for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion Levings. Second M. Nelson. Motion carried.

### APPROVE SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 MINUTES

Osladil called for a motion to approve the minutes from September 22, 2020. Motion Klein. Second Fischer. Motion carried.

### PINE MEDICAL CENTER

Mike Youso began the update by stating Essentia continues to monitor the situation to stay in compliance with the Governor's orders, and directives by the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Drive through testing continues to occur on a daily basis however Essentia has moved their mobile testing site indoors due to the weather. The testing now occurs in an ambulance bay so you do not have to leave your car. Testing occurs 7 days per week from 8am to 11am.

Youso reports there is no oncology services at the Moose Lake Hospital and there are no plans to get those services in the near future. So all oncology patients are currently referred to the Sandstone Hospital.

The Hospitalist Program is in full swing and reports have been very positive. Youso also states he has started to understand the ER model of Essentia. In his experience he encountered difficulty in recruiting ER doctors to rural hospitals and most of the ER's he oversaw were staffed by family practice doctors. Sandstone has board certified ER doctors in the ER. An example of contrast is the Mayo model in which ER's do not even have an MD in the ER but rather Nurse Practitioners connected to MD's via tele-communication. So it is a compliment to Essentia for having board certified ER doctors in ER's is an exceptional model. It is very expensive to staff in this way and that is why many do not do it. The way Essentia works this is they have approx. thirty ER doctors who all work at St. Mary's in Duluth and then also have rotation to several of the

rural hospitals, including Sandstone. It is also a model which is attractive for recruiting. They recently had three openings and received ten applications for the positions. His experience has been that if you have three openings you would be lucky to have three applicants due to limited amount of available doctors. What is the difference? They all would have the opportunity to work in an ER with over 40,000 patients per year.

Osladil asked if there are still surgeries being done at Sandstone. He answered yes, explaining that Sandstone does not have a lot of surgical volume however, it is consistent with what it has been. Moose Lake has suffered a decline and the surgical volume at St. Mary's is extremely high. He said the difficulty is not having enough primary care doctors. Primary care doctors feed specialists.

Mike Youso plans on attending the November Executive Committee meeting to be available for questions, discussion and getting to know the directors.

Scott Nigon then presented a brief update on how Essentials Sandstone financials. He reports they are doing very well.

### CHAIRPERSON REPORT

No report this month.

### FINANCE REPORT

Financial Statements for the month ending September 30, 2020 were distributed to all directors. Steve Schmidt reported on the September financial statements and made note of the current profit and loss budget, balance sheet and operating cash budget. Motion to accept the finance report Olson. Second Fischer. Motion carried.

### COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Kris Sundberg wanted all board members to know they are invited to the Health Care Leadership Summit to be held on November 19, 2020 from 1:00 – 4:30 pm. The format will be virtual. Currently there are 17 people planning to attend. A couple board members will be participating in the summit, they are Dr. Ketchmark as well as Larry Johnson. The agenda is as follows:

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. NPAHD: Role of the Hospital District
- III. Speaker, Hailey Freedlund, Pine County Public Health Education/SHIP Coordinator:  
Community Health Assessment Results, Community Needs and Priority Areas
- IV. Challenges Workshop
- V. Actions Workshop

The planning committee has strongly recommended having a facilitator for this event. The recommendation is for a company called Northspan Group, Inc. out of Duluth. Sundberg presented their contract and asks for approval for the contract. It has been approved on the committee level but needs full board approval. The contract includes the survey mechanism, managing the Zoom platform, the facilitation during the 3 ½ hour summit, and prepare the report after the summit. Sundberg asked for a motion to approve hiring the facilitator. Levings made a motion that the board approve the contract for facilitating the Leadership Summit to Northspan for \$1500.00. Second Fischer. Olson noted that the contract effective date is listed as October 19 which is prior to the approval of the contract. He asked if they have done anything prior to the signing of the contract which we might be billed for. Sundberg stated they made a good faith offer for services even though they knew the contract had not been signed yet. Olson stated he wanted to be assured we would not get an invoice prior to a contract being approved. Sundberg assured him that would not happen. Motion carried. Olson stated he would need documentation in order to issue a check and Sundberg stated she has the contract to be signed by the chair.

Sundberg concluded her remarks by giving the board updated COVID data as of the morning of the meeting.

#### GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Fischer reports the committee met and put together an outline for orientation and training. This will be targeted for our new members, however, does not exclude existing member who would like the information. All board members will be invited. The training will include board history, responsibilities and roles of board members, a review of the handbook, review of Minnesota State Statutes and bylaws and a tour of our facilities. Some board members will be asked to participate in the orientation and training because this will include community knowledge and many board members have greater longevity and experience.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Olson states the board is aware the finance committee has been looking for an auditor. The previous auditor has decided to no longer continue doing audits. Steve Schmidt has found an auditor out of Duluth who has agreed to do the audit at a price not to exceed \$8,800. Previous quotes were in excess of \$10,000. His recommendation is that we enter agreement with the Duluth company even though it is a bit beyond what we budgeted for this service. Olson made a motion that we enter agreement with Esterbrooks, Scott, Signorelli, Peterson, Smithson Ltd. to perform our audit for \$8,800.00. Second Fischer. Motion carried.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN SUBCOMMITTEES

Gary Klein of the Capital and Technology Committee, stated he would like to make a motion to amend the completion date of the Ambulance/Administration Bldg. from May 22, 2020 to June 29, 2020. Second Olson. Motion carried.

Fran Levings, Health Care Needs Committee, reports her committee met at the old Ben Franklin Bldg. where Ascertain Recovery Center will be housed. They gave a presentation. Her committee wishes them well and they hope to be opening their doors Dec. 1, 2020 for outpatient treatment.

Secondly, her committee has received a grant request from Bruno Food Shelf for \$7,000 and she would like to make a motion that the board honor that request because we have already established that food hunger is a medical health problem. Second M. Nelson. Motion carried.

Lastly, Levings mentioned there is a phrase which has been coined by the CDC called Death by Despair. Three clusters of people in this group; suicide, opioids, and alcohol/drug addiction and with COVID and the sinking economy people are suffering. Levings would once again like to pass on the number for the national suicide prevention hotline. 1-800-273-8255

#### OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

#### NEW BUSINESS

In your packets you have a copy of a thank you note received from Naomi Koenig for her educational financial loan.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is November 24, 2020

#### ADJOURN

Motion Olson. Second Oak to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by Brenda Langseth-Perrault, Board Secretary \_\_\_\_\_