

**NEW MEXICARE, INC. dba Guadalupe County Hospital
Hospital Conference Room**

**Regular Monthly Board Meeting via Zoom due to Coronavirus Pandemic
Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:03 am by Vice-Chairman Lee Vega.

ROLL CALL: Other board members present were Yvette Griego, Erasmo Bravo and Yolanda Tenorio. Chairman Keith Ross was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Staff present were Christina Campos, Administrator; Bret Goebel, CFO; Dr. Randal Brown, Mandelyn Cordova CNO, and Frank Tenorio, Asst. Administrator. Guests included Rose Fernandez, County Manager and Monica Abeyta, County Projects Manager.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Erasmo Bravo made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Yvette seconded the motion. Voting in favor: Lee Vega, Yvette Griego, Erasmo Bravo, and Yolanda Tenorio. Motion to approve agenda passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Yvette Griego made a motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2021 as presented. Erasmo Bravo seconded the motion. Voting in favor: Lee Vega, Yvette Griego, Erasmo Bravo, and Yolanda Tenorio. Motion to approve the minutes as amended passed.

DEPARTMENT AND OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENT REPORTS:

- 1. County Report:** County Manager Rose Fernandez thanked the Board of New Mexicare Inc. for the \$5000 grant awarded to the county for Emergency Operations and Sheriff's Office. Funds will be used for needed supplies. She reported that DA Thomas Clayton may be attending the March County Commission meeting. The County will also be participating in a COVID vaccination drive event in Vaughn on March 24. It is currently scheduled to be a 2 hour event. Monica Abeyta reported that the PDL community center is near completion. It is located at the old fire station. The David Cargo Library in Anton Chico will be getting new computers. Road projects are proceeding well. The county is participating in Arts in Public Places with a project at the Pecos Theater.
- 2. Pharmacy Department Report:** Benjamin Arenas, Pharmacist, presented to the Board. He stated that volumes were down compared to pre-COVID 2020. The Moderna vaccine is coming on line this week or next. It is easier to store and has less temperature constraints. The also discussed several pharmacy expansion opportunities that he is researching which would provide additional community services and may improve finances. This includes medication therapy management (billable counseling for Medicare patients); non-COVID vaccination administration; and inventory management. He also discussed generics refunds and the Med Sync program which synchronizes patient prescriptions so they all renew at the same time, minimizing trips to the pharmacy and maximizing pick up and compliance.
- 3. Administrator's Report:** Christina presented the Census Report, Balanced Scorecard and Patient Experience reports (attached). Christina also discussed some plant ops issues and fixed necessitated due to the previous weeks' below zero temperatures. One line froze at the dental clinic causing limited flooding. Water was drained and turned off for a short time for repairs. Also, a fire suppression sprinkler head froze and ruptured in the front vestibule, setting off the fire alarms, and causing flooding, limited to the vestibule. There was no permanent damage and the sprinkler head was replaced after draining the water system.

4. **Laboratory, Infection Prevention and Risk Management Report:** Frank reported that we had sent approximately 900 COVID tests to Tricore for PCR confirmation, and had performed approximately 70 rapid tests. He has hired a temporary weekend lab technician who will begin on March 6. In terms of Infection Prevention, the state of NM has relaxed quarantine mandates for out of state travel and now only recommends it. Also, fully vaccinated persons will not require isolation due to COVID exposure. Temperature checks are also no longer required on fully vaccinated personnel. The hospital is transitioning to the State COVID vaccination registry for vaccinations beginning in March. Up till then, the hospital has been using an internal registry and scheduling process. Currently there are 60 to 70 persons on the waiting list. GCH will vaccinate all aged 75+ and all with high risk health conditions and ask others to register with the state. Guadalupe County is currently #1 in the state in terms of percentage of population vaccinated (approximately 40%). The Biofire testing system for COVID finally arrived in late January and will be put into production in March. Although COVID cases are falling, this equipment will test for all respiratory infections including influenza and COVID. It is estimated that it will take approximately 3 years to recoup the initial investment for the equipment and set up supplies. The Biofire can also perform GI tests and blood culture tests.
5. **Nursing Report:** Mandy reported that her staff were nearly all vaccinated and all were healthy. Currently there are 2 COVID+ inpatients. There are 2 more days of Pfizer boosters scheduled, and then we will transition to Moderna. An order of 10 vials of Moderna (100 doses) has been approved but has not arrived. All nursing trainings and meetings are still being conducted online. Mandy recently attended a PICC training, and soon after performed her first PICC line insertion. PPE inventory is high.
6. **Medical Staff Report:** Dr. Brown reported on hospital COVID cases. GCH had seen 77 ED and inpatient COVID cases. A total of 6 patients had died, who at some time may have been seen at GCH. Thus far there had been 338 COVID cases in Guadalupe County. That was a 1.8% mortality rate. There is a more recent outbreak in Anton Chico. Although the hospital has seen additional COVID cases recently, census at referral hospitals is down so now higher acuity level COVID patients can be transferred to Albuquerque. Dr. Brown reported that Dr. Calkins had resigned from the Pain Clinic. Volumes are low, and Dr. Grossetete will pick up the difference. Dr. Brown has reached out to 2 other pain clinic specialists and will try to bring one on in July. A discussion regarding COVID testing and vaccines ensued. Dr. Brown questioned the reliability of rapid tests, but supports PCR tests and the purchase of the Biofire. He stated that Pfizer and Moderna had a 95% effectiveness. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is 70% effective, but has not received an Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA yet. Flu vaccines are usually 40% effective. Viral transmission is down 85-87%. Mask wearing is still required, but death rates are down to near those of annual influenza. Dr. Brown also gave a quick primer on MRNA technology.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

1. **Guadalupe County Hospital:** Bret presented the Guadalupe County Hospital financials for January 2021 (attached). Net revenue was up from January 2020, so some of the CARES Covid dollars were returned to the deferred revenue account. **Yolanda Tenoio made a motion to approve the financial reports for Guadalupe County Hospital for January 2021. Yvette Griego seconded the motion. Motion passed.**
2. **New Mexicare Inc.:** Bret presented the New Mexicare Inc. financials for January 2021 (attached). New Mexicare enjoys 99.8% equity. **Erasmio Bravo made a motion to approve the financial reports for New Mexicare Inc. for January 2021. Yvette Griego seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Vice-Chairman Lee Vega had to leave the meeting and handed the gavel to Secretary-Treasurer Yolanda Tenorio.

GUADALUPE COUNTY HOSPITAL ACTION ITEMS: None

NEW MEXICARE INC. BOARD INITIATIVES AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. City of Santa Rosa Easter Egg Hunt:** Christina presented a request for \$100 for the Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. Yvette Griego made a motion to approve the \$100 donation to the City. Erasmo Bravo seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- 2. SRCS Food Pantry:** Christina presented a request from the SRCS Community Schools Food Pantry in the amount of \$10,000. Christina informed the board that the program had recently received \$20,000 in private donations and \$10,000 from the County. Yvette Griego made a motion to hold off on a donation at this time and wait to see what their future needs are. Erasmo Bravo seconded the motion. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

CREDENTIALS AND PRIVILEGING: Upon recommendation of the Credentialing and Privileges Committee and the Medical Chief of Staff, and in accordance with the Medical Staff Bylaws, Yvette Griego made a motion to re-approve privileges for Haily Wallace MD and associate privileges for Sally Smith CNP for two years. Erasmo Bravo seconded the motion. Motion passed.

NEXT MEETING – DATE AND TIME: A regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 8 am in person or via Zoom as needed.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: Having completed the business at hand, Acting Chairman Secretary-Treasurer Yolanda Tenorio adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted:
Christina Campos, Administrator

Yolanda Tenorio, Board Secretary

Date