

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

**Regular Monthly Board Meeting via Zoom due to Coronavirus Pandemic
Tuesday, November 24, 2020**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Chairman Keith Ross.

ROLL CALL: Other board members present were Lee Vega, Yvette Griego, Erasmo Bravo and Yolanda Tenorio.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Lee Vega made a motion to approve the minutes of October 27, 2020 with a change to Item VIII.2 which had a duplicate entry. Lee Vega seconded the motion. Voting in favor: Lee Vega, Yvette Griego, Erasmo Bravo, Yolanda Tenorio, and Keith Ross. Motion to approve the minutes as amended passed.

DEPARTMENT AND OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENT REPORTS:

- 1. County Report:** Rose Fernandez reported that the County offices were closed from November 20 to November 30th due positive Covid cases and exposures. There will be mandatory testing of all County employees on December 3rd. The County is preparing to distribute \$1.3 million in local Covid Cares Act grant funds to small businesses. The CDBG project for the Rivera Domestic Water Association is on schedule and meeting benchmarks. Property taxes are due December 7. Rose also thanked the hospital for Frank's offer of support in Covid prevention training for County staff.
- 2. Administrator's Report:** Christina presented the Census Report. Census is still low for inpatient care, ER, and pain clinic. Pain Clinic census was down due to a Covid positive provider. The solar array project is slated to begin soon and will be completed in mid December. Christina reported that her term on the AHA Board of Trustees would terminate on December 31. She has been asked to serve on an AHA Equity of Care Award committee, and continues to serve on the AHA Price Transparency Committee and on the AHA Future of Rural Health Care Committee. She also announced that the hospital had procured an ultra-cold freezer for the storage of the anticipated Pfizer Covid vaccine that must be stored at -70 degrees C.
- 3. Laboratory, Plant Operations and Risk Management Report:** Frank reported that there had been a steep increase in Covid testing up to 40/week. So far the hospital has collected 670 specimens with 37 positives, plus another 104 positive collected by DOH. There are an

additional 54 positives at the correctional facility. Approximately 50 GCH employees were tested on November 5th, and all were negative. The hospital also received 300 rapid point of service test kits from the DOH. These are for use in symptomatic patients, patients needing to be transferred to another facility and health care workers. The BioFire Covid analyzer is still pending. The State Laboratory Division is currently processing over 5000 Covid tests per day. Tricore lab are handling more tests plus taking the State's over capacity. The hospital's inventory of PPE is good. The new PAPRs are working well and provide the highest level of protection. The challenge is doffing of disrobing of PPE. The hospital purchased a second high low O2 unit for Covid treatment. NM was chosen as one of 4 Covid vaccine pilot sites for the Pfizer vaccine. The FDA meets on Dec. 10 to consider emergency use authorization for the vaccine, and it may be available here immediately thereafter. GCH is fully registered with the NM DOH Vaccine Portal and with the NMSYS immunization online portal. Dr. Brown also discussed the efficacy of rapid Covid tests (80% overall or 90% on respiratory symptomatic patients). PCR (lab) tests are most effective at 4-12 days of exposure (day 6 best), but quarantine should begin immediately and isolation is important.

4. **Nursing Report:** Mandy reported that the nurses were busy. There were 2 Covid+ patients on the floor last week and now down to 1+. Many Covid and potential Covid patients are being seen in the ER. All nurses are current with their online training. Eleven nurses are participating in an online Critical Care program provided by UNM and partially sponsored through the NM Rural Hospital Network to hone their skills. It is a month long course with a final clinical course taught by Dr. Jon Marinaro Intensivist at UNMH. There have been no nursing Covid infections and no issues with absenteeism. The nurses completed their weight loss completion with the winner losing 40 lbs.
5. **Medical Staff Report:** Dr. Brown reported that there were currently 104 Covid +, plus 54 inmates in Guadalupe County. GCCF staff comprised 18 of the community infections thus far. The hospital received monoclonal antibodies by Eli Lilly for use in high risk Covid + cases to minimize symptoms. The hospital is also using Remdesiver and dexamethasone for Covid treatment. All hospital inpatients have responded well. Only a few patients have been transferred for advanced care. Dr. Brown further discuss the immunization/vaccination data, stating the vaccines would also minimize symptoms in those who still get infections. He stated that hospital PPE stock was good, the hospital now has 2 high flow machines, 2 negative pressure inpatient rooms, ventilators, b-pap and c-pap units and could treat up to 6 or 7 patients comfortably. However, staffing is limited and Covid patients are by far more care intensive. The clinic score 97% on their FQHC look-a-like inspection. Corrections have been made to achieve 100% and approval. The clinic is planning to use the additional revenues to hire 2 more physicians effective August 1, 2021. Dr. Brown highlighted the importance of the UNM Medical Residency program to GCH's physician recruitment efforts.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

1. **Guadalupe County Hospital:** Bret requested that the October 2020 financial reports be postponed due to the need for an in depth review of contractual allowances, due to a corrupted spreadsheet. Postponed till next Board meeting.
2. **New Mexicare Inc.:** Postponed till next Board meeting.
3. **New Mexicare Inc. 990:** Christina presented the New Mexicare Inc. IRS Form 990 for fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. The form reflects New Mexicare's balance sheet and income

statement for the fiscal period. **Erasmo Bravo made a motion to approve the New Mexicare Inc. 2019 IRS Form 990 return. Lee Vega seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

GUADALUPE COUNTY HOSPITAL ACTION ITEMS:

1. **December Hazard Pay:** Christina presented a Hazard Pay proposal at \$1000 per full time employee, \$500 per part time employee and \$250 for PRN employee. **Erasmo Bravo made a motion to approve the Covid Hazard Pay. Lee Vega seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

NEW MEXICARE INC. BOARD INITIATIVES AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS:

1. **UNM Foundation Residency Program:** Christina presented a request in the amount of \$21,000 for support of the UNM Family Practice Residency Program through the UNM Foundations. **Erasmo Bravo made a motion to approve the request in the amount of \$21,000. Lee Vega seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Did not enter into Executive Session.

CREDENTIALS AND PRIVILEGING: None.

NEXT MEETING – DATE AND TIME: A regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 8 am in person or via Zoom as needed.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: **Having completed the business at hand, Chairman Keith Ross adjourned the meeting at 9:14 am.**

Respectfully submitted:
Christina Campos, Administrator

Yolanda Tenorio, Board Secretary

Date