



**Minutes of Regular Scheduled Board Meeting
Dawson County Hospital District
October 25, 2022**

Members Present: David Sanderson, Board President Steven Hatchett, Board Vice-President
Nicky Chapman, Board Secretary Mike Johnson, Board Member
Leslie Hawkins, Board Member

Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Brent Fuller, Partner and Certified Public Accountant, with Durbin & Company, L.L.P.; Craig Carter, Attorney of Jackson & Carter, PLLC (by phone); Russel Skiles, Reporter for Lamesa Press Reporter; Billie Meeks, resident of Dawson County; and Jerry Meeks, resident of Dawson County

Staff Present: Letha Stokes, Chief Executive Officer; Colby Reeves, Chief Financial Officer; Jo Beth Smith, Chief Operating Officer; Traci Brown, Human Resources Director; Diane Sherrill, Director of Nursing and Registered Nurse; Clint Lambert, Facilities Management Director and Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Technician; and Sara Del Busto, Recording Secretary

- 1. Call to Order:** David Sanderson, Board President, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m., with the above-mentioned members, staff and guest present.
- 2. Invocation:** The invocation was given by David Sanderson, Board President.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge of allegiance was given by David Sanderson, Board President.
- 4. Public Comment Session:** The Board of Directors entered Public Comment Session pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act Government Code Section 551.001(4)(B) at 5:04 p.m.
 - A.** The Board of Directors received no public comments.
 - B.** David Sanderson, Board President, adjourned the Public Comment Session at 5:04 p.m.

5. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes:** Action will be taken to approve the minutes of the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting held September 27, 2022.
- B. Medical Staff Report:**
 - 1. Receive report from Medical Staff Representative.**
 - 2. Take Action on any credentialing recommendations**
- C. Report of Officers and Committees:**
 - 1. Receive and take action on the payments for the month of September 2022 Accounts Payable – Colby Reeves, Chief Financial Officer.**
- D. Receive Quarterly Investment Report – Colby Reeves, Chief Financial Officer.**

Motion made by Nicky Chapman to accept the Consent Agenda, and seconded by Mike Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Administrative Report:

- A. Letha Stokes, Chief Executive Officer –** Letha Stokes, Chief Executive Officer presented to the board the following:
 - 1. Letha Stokes presented to the board the hospital will celebrate National Rural Health Day in recognition of all those who go the extra mile a million times over and the “Power of Rural” on Thursday, November 17, 2022;
 - 2. Letha Stokes presented to the board the hospital Health Fair was very successful with an amazing turn out with good physician, employee, and community involvement. Letha Stokes expressed appreciation to all Board Members that attended. Letha Stokes introduced to the board the Health Fair facilitator Jo Beth Smith, Chief Operating Officer, to present to the board. Jo Beth Smith presented to the board the Health Fair statistical outcomes of attendee count, vendor booths and nine hospital booths. Eight services were provided for a total of eighty screenings performed. Jo Beth Smith presented to the board the Health Fair sponsors. Jo Beth Smith presented to the board the Health Fair theme: “Healthy-The New Happy”. Jo Beth Smith presented the Health Fair had a variety of booths and good turn out of local vendors;
 - 3. Letha Stokes introduced to the board Diane Sherrill, Director of Nursing and Registered Nurse, to share with the board and community an update on hospital COVID policies. Diane Sherrill presented to the board in collaboration with Medical Staff, Infection Control Medical Director Physician, and Administrative Staff the hospital district revised the COVID plan to meet new Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for COVID protocols in mask and monitoring. Diane Sherrill informed the board the COVID plan was revised with areas of consideration to health screenings, mask mandate, patient visitation, and entry access to the hospital;
 - 4. Letha Stokes introduced to the board Brent Fuller, Partner and Certified Public Accountant with Durbin and Company. Mr. Fuller has been closely associated with Dawson County Hospital District for many years as the hospital Auditor and Consultant. Brent Fuller is to present to the board in new business an update on Texas rural hospitals outlook.

7. Report of Officers and Committees:

A. Receive and take action on the Financial Reports for the month of September 2022

– Colby Reeves, Chief Financial Officer.

Colby Reeves presented the September 2022 financial reports to the board. After discussion was held a motion made by Steven Hatchett to accept the financial reports as presented, and seconded by Leslie Hawkins. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business:

A. Receive Board Education Session regarding Update on Texas Rural Hospital Outlook – Brent Fuller, Partner and Certified Public Accountant, with Durbin & Company, L.L.P.

David Sanderson introduced to the board Brent Fuller, Partner and Accountant with Durbin & Company. Brent Fuller presented to the board a board education session regarding update on Texas rural hospital outlook. Brent Fuller presented to the board the paradigm shift of enrollment numbers and claim reimbursement rates for both traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans. Emphasis on hospitals to review and negotiate contracts with the Medicare advantage plans. Brent Fuller presented to the board the data of the May 2022 national health expenditures report, to include a future increase in healthcare costs and anticipated Medicare budgeted spending shortfall in relation to the cost of providing healthcare services. Brent Fuller presented to the board the future of healthcare transition from reactive to proactive screenings and community engagement. The board had the opportunity to ask questions. Brent Fuller, Partner and Certified Public Accountant, Durbin & Company, L.L.P. facilitated discussion with Letha Stokes, Chief Executive Officer, Colby Reeves, Chief Financial Officer, and the Board of Directors on the hospital districts financial position for traditional Medicare and Medicare advantage plans, Medicare reimbursement for telemedicine, and Medicare low volume payment adjustment and budget.-No action was taken by the board.

B. For Possible Action, Finalize Selection and Hire for Chief Executive Officer Position – David Sanderson, President of the Board.

David Sanderson presented to the board for discussion and possible action to finalize selection for Chief Executive Officer position as Letha Stokes, Chief Executive Officer, will be retiring in January 2023. David Sanderson presented to the board to consider Freddy Olivarez for the Chief Executive Officer position. David Sanderson announced the board has reviewed the contract and presented the contract terms. After discussion, motion was made by Leslie Hawkins to send Freddy Olivarez an offer letter pending contract negotiations, and seconded by Mike Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

- 10. Executive Session:** Enter into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code Sections: 161.032/records and proceedings of a medical committee or medical peer review committee, reports from compliance officer; and Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071/consultation with attorney, and 551.074/personnel matters.
- A. The Board of Directors of Dawson County Hospital District now convenes in Closed Session the date is October 25, 2022 and the time is 5:56 p.m.
 - B. Enter into Executive Session pursuant to the above cited authorities:
 - 1. **Receive Quarterly Compliance Report** – Colby Reeves, Chief Financial Officer.
 - 2. **Receive Quarterly Quality Improvement and Risk/Safety Report** – Diane Sherrill, Director of Nursing, Quality Improvement/Risk Management Director and Registered Nurse.
 - 1. **Personnel Matters** – David Sanderson, President of the Board.
 - 2. **Consultation with Attorney** – Craig Carter, Attorney of Jackson & Carter, PLLC.
 - 3. **Personnel Matters Regarding Hiring for Chief Executive Officer Position** – David Sanderson, President of the Board.
 - C. The Board of Directors of Dawson County Hospital District now adjourns its Closed Session and will return to Open Session. The date is October 25, 2022 and the time is 8:16 p.m.
- 11. Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by David Sanderson, President of the Board, at 8:22 p.m.