

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman Regional Hospital Date: 4-1-2020

Observer Reporting: Judy Stone _____ Length of Meeting: 2 hours Remote

Members Present: _____

Members Absent: none

Others Present (e.g., media, public) 2 members of the public phoned in questions

This meeting was held remotely by phone conference call.

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

The agenda for this meeting was to update the commissioners about the **impact of the Covid-19 pandemic** on the hospital, clinically and financially, and its preparations to deal with it.

Clinical report by CCO Jeannie Eylar:

- * The hospital is part of an information-sharing network among the state's hospitals. They conference once a week to discuss needs for equipment sharing, preparedness, surge capacities, PPE, staffing, medications, etc.
- * PRH states it can care for 4 ventilated Covid-19 patients, with a surge capacity of 3 more vents.
- * Staff in all departments are being cross-trained and reassigned to areas of need and support; and in the proper donning and doffing of PPE. Hospital census is very low right now.
- * There are dedicated isolation rooms with specific consideration for OB patients.
- * PPE supplies are limited, and **they do not expect to receive any more**, so they have requested help from the community for cloth masks using surgical drape material and the pattern on their web site, as well as plastic face shields (pattern on website). The community has responded with 1000+ masks so far. These masks will not be used in place of N95 masks, but for people not giving direct patient care. The face shields are being used to preserve the life of N95s. They are pre-fitting patient-care staff so they are ready with a mask that fits them. (there are different sizes)
- * They have only 200 reusable gowns and can't get more, so they are being laundered at Summit Therapy.
- * All doctors and clinics have instituted the mandated procedures and are helping each other. All clinics/offices are using telemedicine.
- * The tests being collected behind the hospital are being run in the hospital lab and the lab at Palouse Medical. Colfax is doing the same.

Bottom Line: Nurse Eylar feels confident they are well prepared, as they can be. The hospital began opening all their disaster plans in January.

Financial Report by CFO Steve Febus:

Income is way down. Similar to summer months.

Hospital is assessing all needs for expenditures. Looking into all means of obtaining loans, grants, money. The Foundation is helping raise funds.

Discussing reducing salaries rather than furloughing.

Some commissioners stated they would donate their stipends.

Bottom Line: It will take at least 2 years to recover and be able to go forward.