

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman Regional Hospital Board of Commissioners

Date: 12/6/2023

Observer Reporting: Lennis Boyer Watts Length of Meeting: 2 hours

Board Members Present: Jeff Elbracht, President; Tricia Grantham, Vice-President; Sandra O’Keefe, Secretary; Joe Pitzer, Karen Karpman, PJ Sanchez; Cheryl I be highlighted. Oliver

Board Members Absent:

none

Others Present (e.g., staff, other agency representatives, media): Matt Forge, CEO; Steve Febus, CFO; Jeannie Eylar, CCO; Bernadette Berney, CHRO; Carrie Coen, CRO; Edwin Tingstad, MD, CMO; Karly Port, CPSO; Brenna Harris, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Rob Rembert, Attorney, Steve Hall, MD, CMO, Allison Weigley, Erin Sedam.

Business Pertaining to League Positions or Topics of Interest: Include in this section:

- 1) Administrative Update: Sandra O’Keefe, commissioner, commended the organization for the work they are doing on eating disorders and the ongoing partnership coordination efforts between PRH and WSU.
- 2) ED: Trauma Application information provided by Stephanie Knewbow, RN, ED Director. Need to reapply every 3 years. Will once again apply for Level 4 designation. Potential to apply for Level 3 next time. Dr. Panko will be the new director of trauma. Received a “Bike Safety Neighborhood grant” after a recent pediatric bike death.
- 3) Expansion and design recommendation. Ned Warnick, Design West, gave an overview. They have been working on the plan since 2021. Discussed the Universal Care Unit concept – rooms can serve many purposes which facilitate the ebb and flow of the needs at the moment. There will be no change in the number of inpatient rooms as we are anticipating significant growth in the outpatient realm. Less wait, less travel for our patients. 30-40% increase in the size of diagnostics, increased number of PACU beds, ED will go from 8 to 13 rooms with 2-3 mental health beds. Goal is to keep all of the hospital functioning through the remodel. This will be a 5 year phased project. Plan is to complete the design in 2024 and start construction in 2025. They are currently looking for a construction manager.
- 4) Financial overview. Currently have a 3 million dollar margin which is good. By 12/30 will have archived all data and so will not need to be paying for multiple systems. AR management plan has been effective: Sept -80 days, Oct-73 days, Nov-66 days. The new Director of Financial Services has been hired.
- 5) Reliability Management Update given by Carrie Coen. The Data Dashboard should go live in January. “Culture-Reliability-Growth”.
- 6) Gas Outage. Lessons learned! The backup boilers did not function – no steam to autoclave instruments (resulting in canceled endoscopies for several days), no linen service, no ovens/grills

at Red Sage, no heat or hot water in the clinics. Mitigation – Boiler has been fixed. Working on other back up systems.

- 7) Residency update given by Dr. Hall. Recruiting now for 2nd cohort. Will be interviewing 60 students. Current group is really enjoying their experience.
- 8) Announcements: Dr. Brenna Harris has completed her term as Med Staff President. Dr. Nancy Panko will move into that position. Giving Tuesday netted \$82,000. February 3 is the Gala. The hospital expansion will be highlighted.