

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman Regional Hospital Board of Commissioners

Date: 8/2/2023

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 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, CCNO; Brenna Harris, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Rob Rembert, Attorney; Linda Infranco, Foundation Executive Director; Steve Hall, MD, Alison Weigley, Director of External Relations and Major Gifts; Erin Sedam, Executive Assistant.

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

- 1) Several board members recently attended the Washington State Hospital Association meeting in Lake Chelan. Sessions attended addressed attracting /keeping good talent, gender equity, how top performing boards lead, burnout prevention, employability and creating meaningful work to name a few. Matt attended on the WSHA CEO retreat and noted that PRH is certainly "on the map".
- 2) PRH received a 3-million-dollar award from the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) to support the implementation of the new electronic medical record system (EPIC). This was included in the FY23 Omnibus funding bill.
- 3) 2023 DNV survey (hospital accreditation) occurred earlier this summer. After a 3-day survey with 3 surveyors, PRH received a 3-year re-accreditation. They noted many efforts – number of long-term employees, opportunities to advance, use of a variety of community volunteers.
- 4) Foundation update presented. Have raised 1 million dollars so far this year. Priorities -an upgrade of surgical capacity (adding a 5th OR and PACU) and supporting the high school athletic training program which currently serves Pullman, Colfax, Colton, Palouse and Potlatch high schools. The foundation currently is spending 38 cents for every dollar raised. Foundation staff recently attended a giving conference in Nashville. Current trends for giving – corporate giving is up, individual giving is down, Healthcare giving is up.
- 5) Expansion update. Working with Design West architecture firm and SRG design. Several committees within the hospital have been formed to contribute to the planning.
- 6) Columbia Bank purchase is moving forward. Negotiations ongoing. Plan is to use the building for office space.
- 7) September – yearly strategic planning meetings to take place on the 6th and 7th. The Board meeting to follow on the 6th.