

**WRANGELL MEDICAL CENTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2005**

PRESENT:

Roll call showed those board members present were: Larry Clarke, President; Brian Merritt, Vice President; Helga King and Betty Keegan, Members. Also present were Brian Gilbert, Chief Executive Officer; Karen Wright, Admin. Asst. and Olinda White, Controller

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by President Clarke.. President Clarke welcomed Helga King as our newly elected board member and introduced James Whitfield, Region 10 Director for the Department of Health & Human Services.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Agenda was amended to move the Medical Staff Report up the agenda after the approval of the meeting minutes, as Dr. McCandless needed to catch the evening plane. Election of Officers was moved to follow that. Committee Appointments was added under New Business. Brian Merritt moved to approve the agenda as amended. Motion was seconded and passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Brian Merritt moved to approve the minutes of September 22, 2005 as presented. Motion was seconded and passed.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None expressed.

MEDICAL STAFF REPORT:

Dr. McCandless reported that Dr. Prysunka will be on sabbatical for approximately three months, beginning the first part of November. During this time coverage will be handled by locums, and WCS is currently trying to recruit another physician.

Dr. McCandless is leaving for the annual EMS meeting tonight, so will be gone for a few days.

The new UofW medical student will begin next week. Dr. McCandless has been contacted several times by the Providence Residency Program in Anchorage, regarding a rotation here. When first approached, Dr. McCandless felt that the medical staff was too involved with the medical student program, but since the students are now coming only every other rotation, perhaps, it is time to rethink the residency program.

The medical staff at its last meeting discussed the need for clinical staff to be involved in the selection of the Electronic Medical Record program that the

medical center chooses.

The medical bylaws draft will be sent to all medical staff for any input prior to finalization and Dr. McCandless' meeting with Bob Blasco, the medical center's attorney.

Dr. McCandless and Cathy Gross have been working together on the organization and streamlining of chart handling.

A letter will be going out to the surgeons on staff, regarding their interest in doing day surgery clinics, and that the board may want to consider what services it would like to see the medical center offer.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD: Stephen Cole, Pharmacist, presented some of the problems he is facing with Medicare's new drug policy which will go into effect January 1, 2006. Mr. Whitfield addressed some of these concerns, and gave Mr. Cole some ideas on who to contact; also stating that no one yet knows what the final regs are going to be, and probably won't until the latter part of December.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Larry Clarke announced he was resigning from the board, and this would be his last meeting.

Betty Keegan nominated Brian Merritt for President and moved nominations be closed. Motion was seconded and passed.

Betty Keegan nominated Lynne Campbell for Vice President. Brian Merritt moved that nominations be closed. Motion was seconded and passed..

Betty Keegan nominated Helga King be nominated as Secretary. Brian Merritt moved that nominations be closed. Motion was seconded and passed..

At this point, Larry Clarke turned over the running of the meeting to Brian Merritt, President Elect.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Trustee — Some discussion of article on billing which showed that this is a nationwide concern.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

Mr. Gilbert reported that the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for the foundation are completed but need to be signed and notarized. Therefore, Karen Wright will be contacting those members of the new board to schedule a date and time when all can be together.

On November 10th or 11th, Tessa from the Denali Commission, Noel Ray and

Randall Burns will be here to meet with Mr. Gilbert regarding something for the medical center. Mr. Gilbert has informed them that what we need is a new building which would better conform to our being a CAH. Estimated cost is 12 to 15 million. At one time the Department of Agriculture had money earmarked for Rural Development, and CAHs were number 1 priority, but that was prior to the hurricanes. So, this money may no longer be available.

There was discussion of Revenue Bonds for funding, along with the various other options, such as grants. First, we will need to find what we can bond for, then go for grants.

Mr. Gilbert will be leaving next week for the annual ASHNHA meeting at Aleyeska.

The two top computer companies being reviewed will be coming to Wrangell to demonstrate the system to each department.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to consider.

NEW BUSINESS:

Management's Discussion and Analysis, along with the draft of the financial audit for FYE 2005 were reviewed.

Medicare has sent us another \$107,000 for the year 2003, which they felt we were shorted. They will now be auditing 2004.

Cash Flow statement for September was reviewed.

Olinda White presented Department Financial Summaries for the past five years.

Board Statistics for September were reviewed. There followed discussion of CNA staffing, as we are at capacity in LTC. Janet Bunes stated she is short two CNAs at the present time, and is looking for replacements, but not to expand the CNA staff at this time.

Karen Wright presented the results of the Patient Satisfaction Survey. We received an approximate 2% return. Karen felt that the fact that they went out with the newsletter and people had to mail the surveys back, or drop them off at the medical center may have been a large part of the low return. Cinda Stough suggested that next time, perhaps, we should put drop-off boxes at the grocery stores.

Committee Appointments: Betty Keegan will serve on the Economic Development Committee and Brian Merritt will serve on the Compliance

Committee.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Brian Merritt thanked Larry Clarke for his great work and presence on the board.

Mr. Clarke spoke regarding what he felt being a board member meant.

Mr. Gilbert expressed his appreciation for Mr. Clarke's involvement and that he would surely miss him.

Mr. Gilbert invited Helga King to come speak with him, and he would try to explain Medicare and Medicaid to her, along with any questions she may have.

Meeting was adjourned.

Karen A. Wright, Admin. Asst.
Recorder