

**WRANGELL MEDICAL CENTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
January 21, 2003**

PRESENT:

Roll Call showed those board members present were: Doug Schwartz, President; Brian Merritt, Vice President; Larry Clarke and Mark Robinson, Members. Also present were: Brian Gilbert, CEO; Olinda White, Controller; and Karen Wright, Administrative Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER:

President Doug Schwartz called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Larry Clarke moved to alter agenda for tonight to place Administrator's Report prior to Persons to Be Heard, and Old Business before New Business. Motion was seconded and passed.

Brian Merritt moved to approve agenda as amended. Motion was seconded and passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Board Meeting of December 17, 2003 — Larry Clarke moved to approve the minutes as written. Motion was seconded and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was discussion on an article in the Trustee regarding Carve-Out Clinics. Mr. Gilbert further explained what this meant, and that it hasn't been a real problem in the State of Alaska due to the Certificate of Need regulation.

There was discussion of what it would mean for the medical center to become a 501(c)3 facility. Mr. Gilbert gave some history regarding that the past board did not want to go in that direction.

Letter was reviewed from Ron Chadwick, Physical Therapist, regarding his taking a full-time position at Wildflower Court in Juneau. Ron will be coming to Wrangell and work for us on a part-time basis; approximately every other weekend.

The Board directed Mr. Gilbert to draft a letter from the board thanking Mr. Chadwick for his services.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Gilbert gave a report on the present situation of Cordova Hospital, feeling that the state will step in and help, as it does not want to see Cordova fold.

Mr. Gilbert will be in Juneau Wednesday and Thursday. He and Mark Walker will be speaking with the Deputy Commissioner, Bob Labbe, on Thursday.

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The Governor and Commissioner Gilbertson have signed off on our being designated a medically underserved area. This is now with the feds for their approval. Brian will send a letter to the federal government and ask City Council to also send a letter of support for this determination. This would help physicians with grants for its clinic.

The state inspectors are here for the long term care survey.

We have received \$116,000 from the city. The \$100,000 is from the mil rate set aside for us. The \$16,000 is our part of the state's revenue sharing.

The report to the Commissioner on our outlook for next year has been sent.

Mr. Gilbert and Mark Walker have been working on rent terms for the clinic and ER coverage.

Currently working on a program with the Governor and ASHNSA for matching federal funds on what the city gives our facility. Funds cannot exceed the cap set by the federal government. This program would be in lieu of the Pro Share program where states misused the monies by funding projects other than health care.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Karen Wright read the following letter into the record:

Wrangell Medical Center
Attn: Hospital Board Members and Administration

The City is putting together an economic development forum to address community health services and their funding.

Stakeholders have been identified to include: the community, Wrangell Medical Center, the physicians, dentists, chiropractors, Public Health, Avenues, Wrangell Community Services and Crossings Program, Wrangell EMTs, Wrangell Wellness, Hospice and the Salvation Army.

This meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 9th. More information will follow next week but we wanted to give you a "heads up" since your board meeting is scheduled tonight.

We would welcome a page long summary from each of the identified stakeholders that describes planned services so we can share information with the public.

Respectfully,

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Valery McCandless,
Serving as Mayor

Brian Gilbert and Mark Robinson will attend the above meeting when a firm date and time is set, if in town.

Ed Kuntz reported that he had spoken with Kenneth Brewer, head of SEARHC who is willing to come down to meet with the hospital board and community to discuss what SEARHC has to offer.

Mr. Gilbert explained our current SEARHC contract and stated he would write a letter inviting Mr. Brewer to come to Wrangell and attend the meeting called by the Mayor.

Roxanna Coblenz spoke on the accomplishments of the Dream Team over the past year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Gilbert reported that the physician contracts have been signed. Both contracts are identical and good through June 30, 2004.

NEW BUSINESS:

Financial Statements — Financial statements were reviewed. Bad debts and charity have risen.

Cash Flow Statement — The designated funds which the board appropriated for the decorating of the LTC rooms has still not been needed yet.

Statistics — Statistics were reviewed for December with a correction in the amount of billable lab tests to show 8,723.

Department Financial Reports — These were reviewed and will be given to the board on a quarterly basis.

Report to the Commissioner — The report to Commissioner Joel Gilbertson, which was due March 1 has been completed and sent to the Commissioner. The Board reviewed the report and commended Olinda White and Brian Gilbert on the finished product.

MEDICAL STAFF REPORT:

Dr. Prysunka asked Karen Wright to read the following into the record:

I will miss this meeting to attend quarterly meetings at the University of Washington on January 22, and 23.

1. Medical staff activities:
Dr. Winbarger (sic) has returned and we very much appreciate her enthusiasm and hard work in the clinic and hospital. I will be on vacatioin (sic) February 10-19.
2. University of Washington Program:
Please welcome Wendy Skinner, our current student from the University, a native of Montanna (sic). I hope both Board members and community members will take the opportunity to introduce themselves and make her feel welcome.
3. Stikine Clinic:
After a brief lull during the holidays we have remained quite busy. Preliminary plans for a new clinic organizational structure are in development. We have to make this transition as smoothly as possible without interrupting services to customers for the clinic or the hospital.
4. Joint Conference Committee:
No meetings have been held or scheduled.
5. Contracts:
Dr. Prysunka and I have both renewed our monthly contracts. I would request that these be done in a timely way. Dr. Prysunka was out of town and I was on Prince of Whales (sic) Island working when these were presented, hence it was not possible for us to have them signed by January 17, 2004 as requested. Our activities were scheduled well in advance and the schedules are available to the administration in order to facilitate this.
6. Questions:
Please feel free to contact me this coming week if you have any further questions. I will be back in the office on Monday January 26,

David McCandless, M.D.

DOM/lj

COMPLIANCE REPORT:

Olinda presented the compliance report, stating this is a good report and shows we are in compliance.

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BOARD COMMENTS:

Larry Clarke asked how viable a SEARHC offering may be. Mr. Gilbert stated he felt it could be quite viable, but will know more when he meets with Ken Brewer next week, in which he already has an appointment with him.

Mark Robinson stated he was pleased that the physician contracts had been signed.

Brian Merritt stated he was glad that negotiations with Mark Walker regarding the clinic were continuing.

Doug Schwartz stated he would like to see the agenda altered on a permanent basis and with other changes than were made tonight. He will work on this.

Next meeting will be held on February 11th at 5:15 p.m. due to Mr. Gilbert being out of town on the 18th.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

K.A. Wright
Recorder

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