

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 27, 2024**

Members and Advisors Present: Pat Miller (Chair), Dr. Shari Quick (Vice-Chair), Beth Llewellyn (Treasurer), Dr. Beth Roselyn, Dr. Tamara Cash, Kristin Salmans, Pat Brown, Dr. Lee Reussner and Dr. Scott Thellman

Staff Members Present: Russ Johnson, Sheryle D’Amico, Jan Wiebe (Interim CNO), Jared Abel, Rebecca Smith, Michael Williams, Dr. Kirk Sloan, Danae Johnson, Autumn Bishop, Dr. Stephanie Schmidt, Mimi Meredith and Greg Meredith

Others Present: Andy Ramirez, Hospital Counsel from Spencer Fane

Excused: Tom Sloan (Secretary) and Bob Moody

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The consent agenda (see below) for the March 27, 2024 meeting was presented for review with approval requested:

- Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, Feb. 28, 2024
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, Mar. 22, 2024
- Health Equity Advancement Dashboard – Q1 2024
- Purchase of Real Property
- Medical Executive Committee Recommendations

MOTION to approve the consent agenda.

Made by Beth Roselyn, PhD,

Seconded by Pat Brown.

Motion carried.

Chairperson of the Board Report

Pat Miller reported that, last month, she and several other Trustees attended the KHA’s Critical Issues Summit. The meeting hosted members from Boards of both large and very small hospitals from all across the state. Having the opportunity to attend meetings such as this allows Trustees to have a better understanding that the challenges LMH Health is facing are shared by similar hospitals state-wide. The topics covered at the meeting included health equity, cybersecurity, future challenges for the healthcare industry and the continued financial burden for hospitals from issues such as the lack of Medicaid expansion and regulatory roadblocks to drug pricing relief.

Ms. Miller also reported that recently the Kansas Legislature held public hearings on Medicaid expansion. LMH Health and many other individuals, hospitals and health systems provided written support and oral testimony for Medicaid expansion. The legislative leaders have to-date declined to bring a vote to the floor on this important issue for all Kansans and for Kansas hospitals. Despite the lack of immediate progress, LMH will continue advocacy efforts for Medicaid expansion and drug pricing relief in order to ensure access to affordable health care for the community and the long-term financial strength of the organization.

Chief of Staff Report

Dr. Stephanie Schmidt remarked on the addition of the PET scanner to LMH’s services. This new technology will provide enhanced diagnostic and treatment capabilities, earlier disease detection and improved treatment planning

and outcomes. The medical staff appreciates the investment in these technologies that help us take better care of patients here in our community.

Dr. Schmidt also invited Board members to attend two events supporting this initiative – the LMH Health Foundation’s Hearts of Gold Gala on April 29 and Penny Jones Golf Tournament on September 6.

CEO Report and Executive Team Report

- **CEO Comments:** Russ Johnson reported that LMH has experienced positive operating margins over the past four months. He noted that this is due to the organization’s focus on sustainability and growth through strategic investments, and supported by strong payer relationships, cost stewardship, efficiencies and revenue cycle performance. Investing in sustainability ensures LMH’s role as an independent, charitable care community hospital, protects the organization’s mission of providing care for all in the community and will allow LMH to provide healthcare for generations to come. Mr. Johnson also reported that he expects that the new Chief Financial Officer will be hired by the Board’s April meeting. He expressed his appreciation for staff and Trustees who took part in the search process.
- **Facility Update:** Jared Abel, SVP Operations & Physician Enterprise, gave an update on various facilities-related projects:
 - **Construction updates:** LMH will soon begin expanding and renovating the Cancer Center. Major efforts are expected to launch later this spring as the organization works to create an environment that cultivates healing and focuses on a patient-first experience. The project will include a family lounge, healing garden and more natural light. Construction had been slated to begin in February, however, bids came in higher than anticipated due to inflated construction costs and other design aspects. With that in mind, changes were made to the project’s phased approach and will result in the Cancer Center entirely relocating from its current space in the Anderson Health Plaza during construction. LMH has determined the likely solution is to use space in 3-North and the pediatric unit. The organization will be communicating more about these changes to patients and families in the coming weeks. Donors to the LMH Health Foundation have provided more than \$7 million of the anticipated \$12 million cost. The renovations are expected to be completed in 2025. In addition, construction on the second floor of the Anderson Health Plaza is expected to get underway in the next three to four weeks. This work will expand and update spaces for Lawrence Urology Specialists and Lawrence GI Consultants. The spaces at Lawrence General Surgery, Palliative Support Specialists and the hallway will also be updated.
 - **Permanent PET scanner:** Construction is underway on space to house a new Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner at the Main Campus. LMH currently uses a mobile scanner once each week to provide PET scans for patients. A semi-truck and trailer park outside the Maine Street entrance, allowing a maximum of 16 patients. Having a permanent PET scanner on-site provides a number of benefits to patients, including:
 - Enhanced diagnostic and treatment capabilities
 - More accurate and detailed imaging (beyond CT and MRI)
 - Earlier disease detection
 - Reduced wait times
 - Improved treatment planning and outcomes
 - **Sustainability:** LMH is working to become a more sustainable organization with the installation of a Med X disposal system. The system is used to dispose of red bag waste, sharps, trace chemo and non-cancerous prescriptions, and pathological waste. Some of these items are currently transported as far away as St. Louis for disposal. LMH will be the second community hospital in the nation to have this green alternative. It will reduce waste volume by 90%, allowing the organization to be more environmentally-friendly and realize cost-savings.

Medical Legal Partnership Update

Juliann Morland Davee, Managing Attorney - KU School of Law Medical-Legal Partnership at Lawrence, provided an update to the Board on the medical-legal partnership program between the University of Kansas School of Law and LMH.

Legislative Update

Pat Miller and Russ Johnson updated the Board on recent legislative initiatives related to Medicaid Expansion. The hospital is currently in process of scheduling meetings with several representatives and a senator. The hospital will also be hosting Commissioner Schmidt at the hospital in June.

Discussion followed about the challenges of managing denials with payers and the burden physicians have to help make sure required patient care isn't denied by payers.

Open Discussion


No items were presented for discussion.

Adjournment

With no further business presented, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

MOTION made by Dr. Shari Quick,
Seconded by Dr. Tamara Cash.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shari Quick" followed by a stylized "mo" or "ms" monogram.

Dr. Shari Quick, Vice-Chair of the Board
(On behalf of Tom Sloan, Secretary)