NORTH Dakota | State Hospital
Be Legendary. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

GOVERNING BODY MINUTES

Monday – May 12, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Jamestown Area Chamber of Commerce Conference Room/Teams

Members Present/Absent:

- ☒ Pam Sagness, Chairperson
- ☒ Aaron Olson, Superintendent
- ☒ Dr. Eduardo Yabut, Medical Director
- ☐ Vacant Position, Mental Health America of ND
- ☒ Representative Karen Rohr
- ☐ Vacant Position, Consumer-at-Large
- ☒ Allyson Hicks, Attorney General's Office
- ☒ Courtney Peterson, Assistant CFO, Fiscal Administration
- ☒ Dr. Dan Cramer, Statewide HSC Administrator
- ☐ Dirk Wilke, Interim Commissioner of ND DHHS

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Pam Sagness, Chairperson

Approval of Minutes: MOTION by Representative Rohr - *Approve December 9, 2024, Minutes as amended.* Second by Superintendent Olson. Unanimous approval.

Old Business:

- **Update on New Hospital – Aaron Olson and Pam Sagness**
  Discussion: House and Senate have approved 300 million dollars for a new State Hospital. The funding will be through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). A steering committee will be created with representatives from OMB, Health and Human Services (HHS), the Governor's Office, House and Senate representatives, and a Minority Party representative. The groundbreaking ceremony is tentatively set for late July or the beginning of August. At the 300-million-dollar amount, the new State Hospital will have 140 beds.
  Recommendations: Governing Body onsite meetings recommended for members to see and review construction as it is happening as well as the transformation of the new hospital.
  Follow-up: Next meeting.

- **Governing Body Membership – Aaron Olson**
  Discussion: Jeff Stenseth and Carlotta McCleary are no longer members of the Governing Body Board. A replacement for Carlotta's position with Mental Health of America of ND is still being worked on. Nominee, Dr. Dan Cramer, presented for Jeff Stenseth's position which is an addition to the Governing Body and is not a Century Code position. Information regarding Dr. Dan Cramer's professional background and current position provided.

Recommendation: MOTION by Superintendent Olson - *Approve Dr. Cramer as a member of the Governing Body and to serve for two years subject to review at the two-year mark and renewable one time. He may serve two consecutive terms*. Second by Representative Rohr.
Discussion: Further discussion held pertaining to Dr. Cramer's experience and current role as Clinical Director and working with hospitals and clinics as a seamless system. It is the intent to bring someone forward who is representing this collaboration.
Roll call vote taken for approval.
Yes – Cramer, Rohr, Yabut, Olson, Sagness, Peterson
Absent - Wilke
Follow-up: Communication with Carlotta McCleary regarding open positions to be completed.

New Business:

- **New Appointees** – Item addressed under Governing Body Membership.

- **New Medical Staff Credentialing**
  Discussion: Dr Yabut presented Dr. Frederick Cal Robinson, Dr. Nancy Laney, Dr. Chad Christensen, and Sarah Berg NP, to be credentialed.
  Recommendation: Roll call vote taken for approval for each appointee.

  Frederick Cal Robinson: MOTION by Dr. Cramer – *Approve Dr. Robinson for credentialing.* Second by Superintendent Olson.
  Yes – Peterson, Cramer, Rohr, Yabut, Olson, Sagness
  Absent – Wilke

  Dr. Chad Christensen: MOTION by Superintendent Olson – *Approve Dr. Christensen for credentialing.* Second by Representative Rohr.
  Yes – Peterson, Cramer, Rohr, Yabut, Olson, Sagness
  Absent – Wilke

  Dr. Nancy Laney: MOTION by Dr. Cramer – *Approve Dr. Laney for credentialing.* Second by Superintendent Olson.
  Yes – Peterson, Cramer, Rohr, Yabut, Olson, Sagness
  Absent – Wilke

  Sarah Berg: MOTION by Dr. Cramer – *Approve Sarah Berg for credentialing.* Second by Representative Rohr.
  Yes – Peterson, Cramer, Rohr, Yabut, Olson, Sagness
  Absent – Wilke
  Follow-up: None noted.

- **Medical Staff Resignation and Retirement**
  Discussion: Dr. Krance, Dr. Lisota, and Dr. Whitcomb have resigned. Judy Birger is maintaining credentialing and will be working part-time.
  Recommendation: None noted.
  Follow-up: None noted.

Reports:

- Annual Human Resources Report - Bobbie Miller, HR Generalist
    - Report taken off agenda due to information that needs to corrected. This report has been moved to the next quarterly meeting.

- Superintendent's Report – Aaron Olson, Superintendent
    - Joint Commission survey visit completed at the end of March. The survey was successful. No significant findings largely due to a previous mock survey and the work of staff.
    - Transitioning of some clients to the Bridges program from the Tompkins Program occurred back in October. Through the course of that process, other needs were identified, and clients will be coming back to the Tompkins program. This program will be in partnership with the Department of Corrections of Rehabilitation (DOCR) and is scheduled to start in May.
    - In terms of the new State Hospital, architects, staff, and others are re-engaging with areas of the new State Hospital, especially areas that weren't touched upon last October. The new State Hospital also provides a nice resource/focus related to staff recruitment and retention. Finally, future workflows are being aligned to the new hospital.
    - There is ongoing work to make sure that our staff and clients are safe. Cameras being added to the current location.
    - Revenue Cycle Manager continuing to identify areas of revenue.
    - Introduction of Leonard Pease, Interim Director of Nursing, to group.

- Medical Director's Report – Dr. Yabut, Medical Director
    - Newly hired staff and staff resignations discussed.
    - There continues to be a demand for forensic services. Forensic services options, processes, collaborative work with the courts and behavioral health clinics, as well as data collection pertaining to outpatient competency restoration presented by Dr. Stephenson.
    - Optometrist, Dr. Taya Patzman, started working this past month in the Consult Clinic for one day per month.
    - Dr. Mark Rodlund stepped down as Director of Psychology in April. Dr. Nathaniel Stephenson is currently the forensic lead.
    - The North Dakota State Hospital continues to be a patient site for University of North Dakota medical students and psychiatric residents.
    - All full-time medical staff have attended at least 50 percent of medical staff meetings.

- Quality Management (QM) Comparative Statistics Report– Deb Eissinger, QM
    - The mock survey process enabled our staff to be more confident and relaxed during the Joint Commission visit.
    - The Joint Commission surveyors worked very collaboratively with staff. They were teaching and guiding during their visit.

- Financial Report – Courtney Peterson, Assistant CFO
    - The anticipated percentage spend is around 88%. Average between the

State Hospital and the Sex Offender Treatment and Evaluation Program (SOTEP) is about 79%. NDSH is close to anticipated budget including New State Hospital funds.
    - The New State Hospital amount of 12.5 million increases to 15.5 million towards the end of the biennium. As of March 31st, 10.5 million New State Hospital funds were expended.

- Safety and RIS Management Report – Larry Culp, Director of Safety/Security
    - Code Red policy updated and added to drive.
    - Fire and smoke doors continue to be inspected.
    - APR section site visit completed last month, and tabletop exercise being planned for early June.
    - Tornado drills were completed in April.
    - Camera additions project ongoing with installation being done.
    - Card reader project for LaHaug doors has been completed. Full-time locking hardware to Learning Resource Center outside entry and first floor interior hallway doors added. These doors will be changed to card readers in the future.

- Plant Services Report– Jeff Comer, Plant Services Director
    - There are 37 plant services employees, and the department is fully staffed. Two summer temporary positions will be posted soon.
    - Preventative maintenance program is ongoing. An average of 100-150 work orders completed weekly with about 150-175 open work orders noted.
    - A water main break occurred and was dug up and repaired last quarter.
    - James River Correctional Center (JRCC) built a new maintenance shop. The old maintenance shop will be demolished.
    - Capital projects are being wrapped up.
    - Chiller project completed last week.

- Department of Health and Human Services Report – Pam Sagness, Chairperson, on behalf of Dirk Wilke, Interim Commissioner of ND DHHS
    - Update from Session:
        - Discussion shared regarding who the State Hospital serves and how that differs from the private sector. We are a network of public and private providers together and work is done that is not competing because often we serve different populations and assist because of specialty. Contracts already exist with private hospitals with HHS reimbursing bed days if there is no other coverage available.
        - There has been continued investment in other inpatient beds in the private sector. Funds are being provided for 30 inpatient beds at Bismarck CHI prioritizing youth. We also opened a partial hospitalization program with them providing a full continuum of services. 24 beds have been funded at Altru, and 10 adult inpatient beds have been funded at CHI Williston.
        - When meeting with those involved in the court system, the primary complaint usually is related to accessibility not success. Front door

and back door considerations need to be considered, it needs to be the right person arriving and this person needs a place to go upon discharge. Developing locked long-term residential facilities discussed. Recommendation for a plan to be ready for the next biennium.
        - There was funding in the budget to continue the transformation of the human service centers into behavioral health clinics with the goal of becoming Certified Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). With the CCBHC continuation, there are 103 clinic positions needed, 58 just to meet current demand, and an additional 43 to expand as a CCBHC.
        - They also did increase two million dollars in expectation for us to capture revenue. A lot of work is being done with our revenue cycle and a Revenue Cycle Director was hired a year ago.
        - The State Lab is continuing to be built.

- NDSH Staff and Public Comment Period
    - A question was presented regarding specific provisions for reservations and the care of youth and addiction treatment. No specific legislation noted that would impact tribal participation. Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Vouchers are still being provided along with services for anyone who is in North Dakota, whether they are living on a reservation or not.
- Other Business

MOTION by Superintendent Olson – *Accept the standing reports.* Second by Dr. Yabut.
Yes – Peterson, Cramer, Rohr, Yabut, Olson, Sagness
Absent – Wilke

Adjourn: 10:31a.m. MOTION by Superintendent Olson - *Adjourn meeting*. Second by Dr. Yabut. Unanimous approval.

Next Meeting: June 9, 2025, 9:00am, Chamber of Commerce Conference Room or Teams

Recorded by: Jodi Grugel