



**Hospital District #6 Harper County**  
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[pattersonhc.org](http://pattersonhc.org)

***Mission Statement: Hospital District #6 provides high quality, patient, and family centered health and wellness services in partnership with our communities.***

**HD#6 HOSPITAL BOARD REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 23, 2025 – 5:19 p.m. – Patterson Health Center, Large Conference Room**

**PRESENT:**

**Board of Directors**

Jan Lanie, Amy Walker, Stan Wedman, Kara Bello, Tim Penner

**PHC** Sarah Teaff, CEO; Lori Allen, COO; Robert Ritter, IT Director; Kim Barwick, HR Director

**Guests**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Lanie called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**BOARD EDUCATION or PRESENTATIONS:** Sarah Sampson, Fee Insurance, presented the 2024 end of year review for Allied, Patterson Health Center's employee group health self-insurance plan.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the December 19, 2024, regular board meeting were presented for approval. Motion to approve by Bello; seconded by Lanie; motion carried unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS, POLICY REVIEW & APPROVAL:** none

**MEDICAL STAFF AND CREDENTIALING REPORT:**

The Executive Medical Staff met on January 22, 2025, to considered credentialing applications from:

- New appointments –
  - Jeremy Theisen, M.D. – StatRad (Provider Credentialed by Proxy)
  - Joseph Lewis, P.A. (Allied Staff – ER)
  - Justin Kerby, II, M.D. (Consulting – Radiology)
- Reappointments –
  - State Rad – (Providers Credentialed by Proxy)
    - Artin Aharonian, M.D.
    - Janet Amundson, M.D.
    - Samih El-Akkad, M.D.
    - Mario Guidici, M.D.
    - Eric Olsen, M.D.
    - Christopher Walker, M.D.
  - Amy Madril, M.D. (Courtesy – Family Medicine)

- Resignations:
  - Demetrice Davis – Stat Rad
  - Sunil Gujrathi – State Rad
  - William Garlow, M.D. (United Radiology)
  - Rujuta Patel, M.D. (Access Telemedicine)

The applications were recommended for Board approval by the Executive Medical Staff. The board approved the medical staff applications and privileges as presented. Motion by Lanie, seconded by Walker. Motion carried unanimously

#### **OPERATIONS REPORT:**

**Quality/Infection Control:** None

#### **COO:**

- A copy of the PHC Newsletter for the first quarter of 2025 prepared by Kristen Birket, Marketing Director, was shared with board members. The issue will be sent to the publishers soon.
- Board members were invited to attend the Anthony Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on January 30, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. where Patterson Health Center will receive the Innovative Technology Award in recognition of adding dialysis services. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Birket or Allen by January 24, 2025.
- Bridgette Hendrick, Dietary, has completed the Certified Dietary Manager program and is in the process of scheduling her certification exam. Lakin Clark, Dietitian, has served as Hendrick's preceptor while in the program and is helping her prepare for the exam. With the CDM credentials, Hendrick will be able to serve swing bed patients to develop a nutrition program as part of their care plan. Hendrick's certification will be beneficial as we succession plan for future retirements. In response to other hospitals who are struggling to fill their Dietitian openings, we are in the process of contracting Clark to provide CMS required Dietitian coverage.
- The Business Office will be adding another funding option for patient accounts. PayZen offers a flexible interest/fee free option for patients with up to a 60-month payment plan. Offering various payment options should mitigate bad debt, reducing the likelihood of sending patient accounts for debt collection and improve cash flow. PayZen's process includes an evaluation of the patients' credit score as well as other factors surrounding their ability to pay. However, every patient will be approved for the program regardless of credit score. Other hospitals who utilize PayZen have shared that it's been received well by their patients and that it has had a positive impact on their bad debt and cash flow.
- The structural engineer was on-site today to evaluate potential remodel plans for the Wellness Center in Harper. It's anticipated that his report will be received prior to the next board meeting. Aaron Schule, Maintenance Director, will present his findings to the board upon receipt.
- Regular cybersecurity monitoring continues, including dark web scans, to proactively identify and mitigate potential security threats. No significant incidents or data breaches have been observed.
- Wendy Booker, Physical Therapist and former employee, will be returning to serve a 13-week assignment through the travel agency she is currently employed with. This will provide extra help in the rehabilitation department while we continue our search for a permanent physical therapist.

**CEO:**

- Josh Ellis, Physician Assistant in the Emergency Department, will be renewing his employment contract. Megan Nelson, APRN, will hold her first clinic on January 24, 2025, and her schedule is already fully booked for upcoming Fridays. She will transition to full-time practice in the rural health clinic on February 28, 2025. Leah Gerdes, APRN, has successfully transitioned to her full-time role as a hospitalist.
- Patterson Health Center remains a contracting provider with Blue Cross Blue Shield. In 2024, Patterson Health Center completed its first full year with the accountable care organization (ACO) to provide annual wellness visits for Medicare patients. The program aims to generate Medicare savings while offering providers extended time with patients to focus on their overall health. As of December 31, 2024, PHC billed 264 annual wellness visits, a significant increase compared to 16 billed in 2023. These visits, fully covered by Medicare, resulted in increased revenue through value-based reimbursement in addition to traditional fee-for-service payments, highlighting the success of the organization's performance in the first year.
- The administrative team plans to engage in targeted discussions with managers during the first quarter of 2025 to review expenses and explore cost-saving opportunities. With funding sources continuing to decline post-COVID, controlling expenses remains a critical focus.
- Tyra Hostetler has been officially accepted into the Social Work Program at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. This achievement highlights her commitment to advancing her education and skills in licensed clinical social work. Upon completing her LCSW, Hostetler will join the rural health clinic team, enhancing patient care services.
- In preparation for the annual board meeting in May 2025, board members Amy Walker and Stan Wedman, whose terms are ending, are both eligible to serve another term if they choose to.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

Owen reported on December 2024 Financials. The financials are currently unaudited; Forvis Mazars, an accounting firm, will be on-site the week of March 3, 2025. December's activity in cash accounts was reviewed that included payments received and expenses paid out. Payments received from insurance and patients were \$1,073,320. December included two payrolls paid and four account payable runs. Annual loan payments to USDA-EMR and for the remodeling of the SCDME/Wellness Center building were made totaling \$657,225.18. Days Cash on Hand dropped down to 140 days. Patient Accounts Receivable increased for the year with an AR balance of \$3,299,607.00 and AR Days at 35.78. The Profit and Loss Statement included a review of revenue and expenses. Gross Patient Revenue increased for the month of December and overall saw a YTD increase of \$818,522 or 3.47%. Inpatient revenue saw an increase in revenue in December and an overall 19.28% YTD increase with an additional 103 patient days compared to 2023. Swingbed revenue saw a slight decrease in revenue in December and YTD was down 339 patient days that caused a \$467,333 decrease in revenue. Outpatient revenue increased in December and also had strong 3.21% YTD growth. Clinic revenue increased in December by \$53,057.00 and has a \$49,120.00 YTD increase in revenue. Operating Expenses decreased in December by \$50,657.00 and increased YTD by 1.68% or \$436,897.00 for the year 2024. Depreciation expense, which is a non-cash expense, was \$2,839,172 YTD. December ended up with a Loss of \$332,091 and YTD Loss of \$2,818,434 (unaudited).

Accounts payable for December were \$1,788,990.97. Motion by Penner seconded by Wedman to approve accounts payable. Motion carried unanimously.

**HARPER COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION (HCHF):** Minutes from their previous meeting were reviewed. The Love Lights dedication was held Saturday, December 21, 2024, the luminaries were beautiful. The Foundation's annual meeting will be held February 23, 2025, at West View in Harper. The group is planning a trapshooting fundraiser in the Spring.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS: Bylaws** –The Hospital Bylaws amendment was presented which changes the wording for the annual meeting "...to be held at 7pm on a date in May" to "...in the month of May at a suitable time and location in Harper County". Members reviewed the bylaw amendment. As provided in the bylaws, the amendment will be considered for action at the February 27, 2025, regular meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 7:15 p.m. the hospital board entered executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Open session to resume at 7:30 p.m. Motion by Bello, seconded by Lanie. Motion carried unanimously. Open session resumed at 7:30pm at which time a motion was made to extend the executive session by 10 minutes. Open session to resume at 7:40 p.m. Motion by Penner, seconded by Bello. Motion carried unanimously. Open session resumed at 7:40 p.m. No action was taken while in executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned to 7:40 p.m. Motion made by Bello; seconded by Penner. Motion carried unanimously.

  
Kara Bello, Secretary

Approved by the Board 2/27/25 (Date)