

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**October 6, 2021**

**6:00 P.M.**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Orlando Adamson, M.D., William Frishman, M.D., Renee Garrick, M.D., Herman Geist, Susan Gevertz – via Webex, John Heimerdinger, Mitchell Hochberg, Patrick McCoy, Tracey Mitchell – via Webex, Alfredo Quintero, Mark Tulis, Richard Wishnie

**VOTING MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Zubeen Shroff

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Israel, John Flannery – via Webex, Martin Rogowsky, Michael Rosenblut

**STAFF PRESENT:** Julie Switzer, EVP, Chief Legal Officer  
Gary Brudnicki, Senior Executive Vice President  
Kara Bennorth, EVP  
Valerie Campbell – VP, Chief Compliance Officer  
Marc Chasin, M.D., CHIO  
Anthony Costello, EVP, Chief Operating Officer  
Michael Doyle, M.D., Executive Director and CMO, HealthAlliance  
Mark Fersko, Revenue and Finance Advisor – via Webex  
Paula Fessler, Chief Nursing Executive  
Michael Gewitz, M.D., Executive Director, MFCH  
Mary Leahy, M.D., CEO, Bon Secours Charity Health System  
Josh Ratner, EVP, Chief Strategy Officer  
Morgan Bonavita – Manager, Network Contracts

**Motion to Approve Recommendations for Appointments, Reappointments, Additional Privileges, and FPPEs.**

MR. HOCHBERG ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS, REAPPOINTMENTS, ADDITIONAL PRIVILEGES, AND FPPEs. MS. GEVERTZ MOTIONED, SECONDED BY DR. GARRICK. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Mr. Ratner provided a government and community relations update to the Board. He stated that the Network is engaged in 23 community outreach events. Examples include the Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce Elected Officials Breakfast, Ulster County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, White Plains Wellness Festival and the Margaretville Cauliflower Festival.

Mr. Ratner informed the Board that WMCHealth has identified 14 projects as eligible for FEMA reimbursement, and project submission has been extended to December 31, 2021. He stated that the reimbursement covers incurred expenses relating to COVID-19 that have not been reimbursed by another source. Mr. Ratner advised that the 14 eligible projects have a potential reimbursement value of \$13.8 million.

Mr. Ratner informed the Board that the Network launched a brand awareness campaign focusing on the Heart and Vascular Institute, as well as NeuroSciences, on September 19, 2021. He stated that this is a multimedia advertising campaign to raise service line profiles and connect Network/local capabilities. Mr. Ratner advised that future campaigns will focus on Women's Health, ED/Trauma, and Pediatrics.

Mr. Ratner presented a Health and Wellness Series Educational video on how to prevent falls.

Ms. Bennorth reviewed the August 2021 Development Dashboard for the Board. She stated that for the month of August, \$494,012 was received, bringing the total year to date August to \$3.8 million.

Ms. Bennorth compared the revenue activity summary for year to date August 31, 2020 to August 31, 2021

Ms. Bennorth advised the Board of major gifts, ongoing hospital campaigns, and corporate sponsorships.

Ms. Bennorth reminded the Board of the upcoming WHUD Radiothon on November 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Costello updated the Board on several in-house construction projects, such as the Main Tower basement and the Main Tower/ACP Corridor, 4 North, and Taylor Pavilion Medicine Offices.

Mr. Costello informed the Board of the following clinical updates at MHRH:

- 3 Spellman Pediatric Unit – demolition commenced September 2021;
- Diagnostic Cardiac Cath Lab – go live projected late October 2021;
- VIR Equipment Upgrade – completed October 2021; and
- Tiger Text implementation to enhance communication between clinical team members.
  
- Operational Updates:
  - Main Lobby Renovation – Design Phase to be completed Q4 2021;
  - APS Orthopedic Practice – Design Phase for addition of Diagnostic Radiology installation to be completed Q4 2021; and
  - TDSS (work order) system implemented September 2021.

- Physician Recruitment (APS):
  - Subrata Kar, DO (Cardiology); and
  - Pratik Mondal, MD (Cardiology).

Dr. Doyle, Executive Director of HealthAlliance, informed the Board of the following:

Clinical updates:

- Cath Lab fully operational:
  - 24 cases in September;
  - 92 cases to date; and
  - 14 transfers to WMC for bypass.
  
- Women's Health:
  - Kingston – adding minimally invasive GYN and Uro-Gyn; and
  - Margaretville – continued monthly Women's Health clinics.
  
- Mountainside Residential Care Center:
  - Remains COVID free; visitation in accordance with NYS guidelines;
  - Dr. Khurram Farooq appointed as medical director; and
  - Survey prep.
  
- Volume recovery:
  - Stable ED and inpatient volume at 85-90% pre-COVID; and
  - Ambulatory OR volume at pre-COVID levels.
  
- Behavioral Health:
  - 68% of Psychiatry patients are treated and released, and of those admitted, 100% of them are at WMCHHealth Network;
  - 66% of Substance Abuse patients are treated and released, and of those admitted, 45% of them are at Broadway;
  - Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) at Margaretville;
  - HRSA Grant for peer support in Margaretville; and
  - Satellite clinic license application; resuming in-person visits in school next week.
  
- Kingston COVID-19 Testing Site:
  - Daily tests average 32 per day; and
  - Open Monday – Friday.
  
- COVID Vaccination POD:
  - Resumed vaccinations for staff and 3<sup>rd</sup> dose for immunocompromised; and
  - Continuing to provide vaccinations in Margaretville Hospital.
  
- Surveys and Accreditation:
  - AHA Get with the Guidelines Gold Plus Award for Stroke.
  
- Employee and Community Engagement:
  - Hospital tours;
  - UC Chamber Breakfast and Commerce Expo;
  - YMCA Tour de Kingston; and
  - O+ Festival.

Dr. Leahy, CEO, Bon Secours Charity Health System, informed the Board that there are seventeen COVID positive inpatients across the three hospitals, of which two-thirds are unvaccinated. She advised that to date 1,932 COVID patients have been discharged from Charity.

Dr. Leahy advised the Board that the 1199 contract was agreed upon by the League of Voluntary Hospitals and is expected to be ratified shortly. She stated that during year one, the contract provides a \$3,000 bonus for all 1199 members, with a salary increase of 2%. Dr. Leahy advised that after the first year, the salary increase is between 2.5% and 3.5% over the remaining years of the contract.

Dr. Leahy provided the following facility and service line updates:

- The GSH patient elevator renovation project was completed;
- Renovations continue on the imaging center at GSH;
- The Medical Village project has entered its final phase;
- Plans for the SACH OR project have been submitted to the local town village for approval;
- The Joint Commission surveyed GSH on September 28<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>; and
- GSH – MBSAQIP Bariatric Certification Survey took place on September 30, 2021 and we are waiting for the report.

Dr. Leahy advised the Board that Charity had 330 births for the month of September 2021, 286 at GSH and 44 at SACH.

Dr. Gewitz informed the Board that the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital ("MFCH") is in the process of revitalizing its Maternal Fetal Medicine Program.

Dr. Gewitz provided the following update on the Regional Milk Bank:

- 2021 through September – there have been 22 donors who provided 329,529 cc's of donated, pasteurized and processed milk. This equaled 11,000 ounces or 2,750 4 oz. bottles; and
- Savings of \$60,000 in purchase expenses for outside sourced preemie milk.

Dr. Gewitz updated the Board on the growth of the Infusion Center. He stated that medical and pediatric oncology services have increased. Dr. Gewitz advised that Genetics has new programs, including clinical and research.

Dr. Gewitz advised that the MFCH received a second AAP VIP grant for general pediatrics.

Dr. Gewitz informed the Board that the Active Regional Trauma Education/Awareness Program will be hosting an event in conjunction with Empress, on Pediatric Car Seat Safety on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Gewitz advised the Board of the following CME Schedule:

- October 25<sup>th</sup> – CVA/Stroke;
- October TBD – Air Methods;
- November – Cardiac Emergencies; and
- December – Pediatric Trauma

Dr. Gewitz advised that pediatric volume at MHRH is very strong.

Dr. Gewitz discussed the pediatric Transfer Center volumes and pressures. He stated that there is a national EMT shortage.

Dr. Garrick provided the following CMO update:

GME Professionalism Seminar:

- Upcoming seminar series on professionalism involving a simulation lab.
  
- Accreditations:
  - There have been 5 surveys since the last update.
  
- Quality Initiatives:
  - Sepsis update; and
  - Cerner update – ongoing optimization for data analytics and standardization of care.
  
- New Clinical Rounding Initiatives:
  - Coordination of clinical care and patient experience.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Tulis, Chair, Finance Committee, informed the Board that the Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting. He stated that the Committee reviewed the financial statements for the period ended August 31, 2021.

Mr. Tulis informed the Board that management presented Resolution 8, to increase the value of its current TD Lease from \$15 million by an additional \$15 million, to a total of \$30 million. He reminded the Board that the TD Lease provides financing for medical and IT equipment.

MR. HOCHBERG ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 8 AUTHORIZING MANAGEMENT TO ENTER INTO ALL COMMITMENTS AND FINANCING AGREEMENTS ATTENDANT THERETO TO IMPLEMENT THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESOLUTION. MR. WISHNIE MOTIONED, SECONDED BY MR. QUINTERO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Tulis informed the Board that management provided a presentation to the Finance Committee on a new Bed Tower project with the maximum capacity of 128 ICU beds and all required support spaces. He stated that the Corporation must file a Certificate of Need (“CON”) application with the New York State Department of Health. Mr. Tulis advised that the project is a critical component in the Corporation’s investment in its facilities to continually improve the clinical care it provides to its patients as well as patient experience. He stated that the Committee recommended approval of Resolution 9 to the Board, authorizing the Corporation to take all steps necessary, including the filing of the CON application to effectuate commencement of the project.

MR. HOCHBERG ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 9, AUTHORIZING THE CORPORATION TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY, INCLUDING THE FILING OF THE CON APPLICATION, TO EFFECTUATE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW BED TOWER PROJECT. MR. TULIS MOTIONED, SECONDED BY MR. WISHNIE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**QUALITY COMMITTEE**

Ms. Gevertz, Chair, Quality Committee, stated that the Committee met on September 10, 2021.

Ms. Gevertz advised the Board that Dr. Garrick previously reviewed the report of the Quality and Safety Committee meeting of June 10, 2021, at its last meeting.

Ms. Gevertz advised the Board that the Committee received a presentation on Oncology by Dr. Cairo. He highlighted the following:

- WMC/MHRH Cancer program;
- Cancer Quality Improvement highlights for 2020;
- Pediatric and Adult Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation Monthly Infection Control Surveillance Summary and data for 2020;
- 2021 recruitments to the Cancer Center;
- Multidisciplinary Tumor Board Schedule for 2021 and related data;
- Tumor Board American College of Surgeons and Commission on cancer standards compliance for 2020;
- HSCT (clinical) audits;
- HSCT (Apheresis) audits;
- Cellular Therapy audits;
- Foundation for Accreditation of Cellular Therapy;
- WMC HSCT and Cell Therapy leadership;
- License for Tissue Bank Operations and FDA approvals; and
- Influenza vaccine to at Risk Pediatric Oncology patient data for 2020-2021.

Ms. Gevertz advised the Board that the Committee also received a presentation on the Nursing Quality Council by Ms. Fessler. She highlighted the following:

- Nursing Quality priorities and initiatives;
- Falls and demographic information;
- Pressure injuries;
- Device injuries;
- HAPI Prevalence Rate Stage 2 and above data;
- Nursing Shared Governance: Creation of Unit Councils;
- WMC Nursing Research Council;
- Collaborative Care and Partnerships;
- Overall patient experience data;
- HCAHPS data;
- Valhalla Nursing/HR Scorecard;
- RN separation data;
- RN Education data; and
- 2021 Regulatory update.

Ms. Gevertz stated that Ms. McFarlane provided the regulatory report, and an update on recent surveys for the Committee.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

MR. HOCHBERG ASKED FOR A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 6, 2021, MEETING OF THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS. MR. TULIS MOTIONED, SECONDED BY DR. FRISHMAN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

  
AnnMarie Fernandez, WCHCC Assistant Secretary