

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**October 7, 2020**

**6:30 P.M.**

**VIA WEBEX**

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

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Julie Switzer, EVP, General Counsel  
Gary Brudnicki, Senior Executive Vice President  
Kara Bennorth, EVP, Chief Administrative Officer  
Marc Chasin, M.D., CHIO  
Anthony Costello, SVP, Professional Support Services  
Michael Doyle, M.D., Executive Director and CMO, HealthAlliance  
Mark Fersko, EVP, Financial Planning  
Paula Fessler, Chief Nursing Executive  
Michael Gewitz, M.D., Executive Director, MFCH  
Mary Leahy, M.D., CEO, Bon Secours Charity Health System  
Jordy Rabinowitz, SVP, Human Resources  
Josh Ratner, SVP, Strategic Planning

**CALL TO ORDER**

The October 7, 2020, meeting of the Westchester County Health Care Corporation (“WCHCC”) Board of Directors was called to order at 6:10 p.m., by Mr. Hochberg, Chair. A quorum was present.

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Orlando Adamson, M.D.	Mitchell Hochberg
William Frishman, M.D	Patrick McCoy
Renee Garrick, M.D	Tracey Mitchell – Via Webex
Herman Geist – Via Webex	Alfredo Quintero
Susan Gevertz – Via Webex	Zubeen Shroff
John Heimerdinger – Via Webex	Mark Tulis
	Richard Wishnie

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Flannery – Via Webex  
Michael Israel  
Martin Rogowsky – Via Webex  
Michael Rosenblut

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board moved into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategic planning.

MR. HOCHBERG ASKED FOR A MOTION TO MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. MR. SHROFF MOTIONED, SECONDED BY MR. MCCOY. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

MR. HOCHBERG ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2020, MEETING OF THE BOARD. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. WISHNIE, SECONDED BY MR. TULIS, TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2020, WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL STAFF**

Dr. Frishman provided the report of the President of the Medical Staff. He presented a credentialing packet (dated October 7, 2020, and attached to these minutes) containing information on Credentialing Appointments, Additional Privileges, and FPPEs.

A discussion ensued.

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

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

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Ms. Bennorth advised the Board that work continues on WMC's Healing Chronicles video, which will chronicle the COVID-19 pandemic response across WMCHHealth.

Ms. Bennorth informed the Board that the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital ("MFCH") Walk is currently in progress, with thirty one teams actively walking virtually throughout the Hudson Valley.

Ms. Bennorth informed the Board that WMC's virtual three race series in October, a 5K, a 10K, and the Healing Half has kicked off.

Ms. Bennorth advised that work continues on WMC's virtual Benefit. She reminded the Board that this will be a one hour produced program to benefit WMCHHealth network wide, premiering on November 12th. Ms. Bennorth stated this will be a combination of storytelling, guest appearances, entertainment, and fund raising opportunities.

Ms. Bennorth informed the Board that on the community engagement front, GNYHA will be launching a Community Violence Prevention series and will feature WMCHHealth. She stated that WMC's Stronger Together Series, which was started to benefit its employees, was so successful that the program is being introduced to the community. Ms. Bennorth stated that WMC has started a Business Activation Plan as a result of several businesses and community based organizations expressing interest in WMC's resiliency programs. She advised that WMC received the HLNy Diversity Leader Award for 2021.

Ms. Bennorth reminded the Board of WMC's successful digital marketing efforts during the COVID pandemic which drove business to the testing tents and call centers. She stated that WMC is now pivoting those marketing efforts to drive business back to the service lines. Ms. Bennorth advised that WMC's recent ad campaign received over 5 million views on its organic social website. She stated that WMC has a digital ad campaign for the Valhalla ED, as well as the new Maria Fareri Children's Healthcare Services at MHRH, and its 24/7 Children's Emergency Room.

Ms. Bennorth presented the Video of the Month to the Board featuring the WMCHHealth Network.

Mr. Costello presented a slide show of ongoing construction projects. He reminded the Board that WMC took advantage of its low census on 4 South in the main tower earlier this year, and completely demolished and abated the existing unit, which consisted of 22 patient rooms. He stated that the work is being done by the in-house staff, which decreases the cost of outside contractors by approximately fifty percent.

Mr. Costello showed images of the Ambulatory Care Pavilion's ("ACP") 6<sup>th</sup> floor patient room expansion into the main tower project. He stated that floors 4-6 are completed and the 7<sup>th</sup> floor should be completed within a month or so, creating an additional 48 private patient rooms in total.

Mr. Costello showed images of Central Sterile Processing and advised that new sterilizers and washers are being added to meet the demand of the increased elective surgery volume with quicker turnaround times for instruments.

Mr. Costello showed images of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the ACP where Walgreens will be located. He reminded the Board that Walgreen's has entered into an agreement to provide an outpatient pharmacy, and will deliver prescriptions to the patient's bedside upon discharge.

Mr. Costello showed images of the OB/GYN suite at 19 Bradhurst Avenue. He stated that Dr. Tedjarati is focused on rebuilding the Maternal Fetal Medicine program. Mr. Costello advised that WMC is awaiting approval by DOH on the completed space.

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

- Maria Fareri Children's Healthcare Services – 5 bed unit and pediatric ED room – preliminary planning for expansion;
- OR efficiency assessment continues with 2 Endo suites re-opened in order to maximize volume and physician satisfaction; and
- 5 Cooke renovations – architectural design phase initiated.

Mr. Costello informed the board of the following physician recruitment at MHRH:

- MHRH Pediatric Physicians – preparing outpatient space for pediatric specialties and surgeons;
- APS Neurosurgeon – Dr. Arundhati Biswas;
- APS Hospitalist recruitment continues – Dr. Zeshan Latif; and
- APS Cardiologist - Dr. Lovely Chabra.

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

- NYS Top Performer, Sepsis;
- Temporary Cath Lab equipment delivered;
- Electrophysiology;
- Cardiology Grand Rounds; and
- Volume Recovery continues, currently between 85-99% in ORs, ED, Imaging and Cardiology.

Dr. Doyle stated that HA is working in conjunction with Dr. Ferrando to transition behavioral health patients seen in the ED who require inpatient treatment to MHRH. He stated that detox services are still being provided on the Broadway campus.

Dr. Doyle advised that the Kingston COVID-19 test site averages 20-30 tests daily. He stated that the hours have been scaled back, but are prepared to increase if needed. Dr. Doyle stated that HA is working with the county on an alternative location during snow season.

Dr. Doyle updated the Board on the Mary's Avenue Construction Project:

- Blasting is complete;
- Ongoing work:
  - Underground plumbing and electric;
  - Pouring concrete foundations;
  - Caissons going in; and
  - Demolition/abatement in SMC and Lab.

Dr. Doyle informed the Board of the following community engagement:

- Kingston Heal Well Committee;
- Finnegan Golf Committee;
- REACH; and
- Margaretville Community Town Hall.

Dr. Leahy, CEO of Bon Secours Charity Health System, updated the Board on COVID-19 in Rockland and Orange counties. She stated that Bon Secours Community Hospital ("BSCH") covers four of the current hot zones. Dr.

Leahy advised that there are presently 8 COVID patients at Good Samaritan Hospital ("GSH"). She stated that Charity is working with the local Rabbis to enforce the wearing of masks and social distancing.

Dr. Leahy informed the Board that there were 337 births at Charity for the month of September.

Dr. Leahy informed the Board that the Joint Commission visited GSH and BSCH to survey the Opioid Treatment program.

Dr. Leahy advised the Board that GSH performed its first two TAVR procedures on Monday. She stated both patients went home within 24 hours.

Dr. Leahy advised the Board that drive up Flu clinics have begun.

Dr. Gewitz informed the Board that to date there have been 216 patients treated in the new pediatric ED at MHRH. He stated that telehealth services will be provided to MHRH from the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital ("MFCH") for additional support.

Dr. Gewitz advised the Board that the MFCH is looking to implement a MY REGISTRY program for the holidays to facilitate all of the donations. He stated this will link the children's requests with donors.

Dr. Gewitz informed the Board that the FDA just approved a study to investigate the use of cell therapy to treat COVID-19 related Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C). He stated that this is a multi-facility trial.

Dr. Gewitz advised that WMC is looking into a potential new organizational approach to "personalized medicine" through the use of genetics.

Dr. Gewitz stated that the MFCH has reached level 4 eligibility for the National Association of Epilepsy Centers.

Dr. Garrick provided a COVID update to the Board, and stated that Don Chen is now the Medical Safety Officer. She announced that flu shots are now being distributed through the drive up tents, and will serve as a dry run for when the COVID vaccine becomes available.

Dr. Garrick informed the Board that the Triennial DNV survey went very well.

Dr. Garrick informed the Board that most of the medical staff has now been trained on Cerner. She stated that go-live will begin next Tuesday.

Dr. Garrick stated that Risk Management has reinvigorated its Safety Council, which is made up of various providers and staff interested in working collaboratively and becoming experts in TeamSTEPPS.

Dr. Garrick advised that WMC received an EPIC Grant, a research grant given to facilitate the research training of young attendings. She stated that Dr. Phillips received the grant, which involves basic science, research and genetics.

Mr. Israel presented a Resolution to the Board, thanking Beth Davis, who served in the capacity as Sr. Vice President, Deputy General Counsel, in the Department of Legal Affairs of WMCHHealth since March 19, 2007. He stated that Beth provided invaluable legal services to WMCHHealth with great expertise, professionalism and extraordinary dedication. Mr. Israel stated that the Board of Directors would like to thank Beth for her many years of distinguished service to WMCHHealth.

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Tulis, Chair, Finance Committee, stated that the Committee met this afternoon, prior to the Board meeting. He stated that the Committee approved the minutes of the September 9, 2020, meeting.

Mr. Tulis informed the Board that the Committee recommended approval of a Resolution to the Board attesting that WMC's Act Program received new Medicaid funding, as an "add-on" to its Medicaid rate, as of January 1, 2020, and as of April 1, 2020 (the "Funding") for the purpose of increasing the salaries and salary-related fringe benefits of Direct Care, Direct Care Support, and Clinical staff, all as defined by New York State ("NYS") (the "Funding Purpose"). He stated that the NYS Office of Mental Health requires that the Corporation attest that the Funding is being used, and shall continue to be used, solely for the Funding Purpose.

MR. HOCHBERG ASKED FOR A MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION ATTESTING TO THE FUNDING BEING USED FOR THE FUNDING PURPOSE. MR. TULIS MOTIONED, SECONDED BY DR. ADAMSON. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **TECHNOLOGY AND PATIENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Shroff, Chair, Technology and Patient Experience Committee, stated that the Committee met on July 24, 2020.

Mr. Shroff advised the Board that the Committee discussed COVID Learnings and the Patient Journey in terms of:

- Visitation: provider, patient and family communications;
- Telehealth; and
- Technology updates

Mr. Shroff stated that in April 2020, WMCHHealth's visitation was down 89% due to COVID. He provided the following examples of WMCHHealth's response:

- 1 - Daily report from MDs to family
- 2 - Daily reports from nursing to family
- 99 – iPads deployed for provider and patient/family communications
- 196 – eICU escalations
- 100-200 - Daily Comfort Calls to family of COVID and ICU patients
- 3,667 - New admit texts
- 9,222 - Outreach calls to date
- 11,565 - Support Line Calls

Mr. Shroff informed the Board of the following new process upon admission: all emergency contacts receive a text message regarding resources, opt-in and frequency; comfort call outreach is now made as per family's request above; and the support line remains open 24/7.

Mr. Shroff advised the Board of the following recent In-Room Technology:

- Ipad distribution
- Virtual Visits
- eICU Consults
- Translation services
- Pilot – PACU and Charity - VOCERA

Mr. Shroff stated that a discussion was held on the role of Telehealth and eICU COVID support, as well as on the Patient Access Journey in a post-COVID era.

### **QUALITY COMMITTEE**

Ms. Gevertz, Chair, Quality Committee, stated that the Committee met on September 11, 2020.

Ms. Gevertz advised the Board that Dr. Garrick reviewed the report of the Quality and Safety Committee meeting of June 11, 2020. She highlighted the following reports: Critical Care Committee, Emergency Medicine, myCare Follow-up, and Orthopedics. Dr. Garrick also reviewed the QA/PI reports submitted by Neurology, Neurosurgery, the Nursing Quality Council and Urology.

Ms. Gevertz advised the Board that the Committee received a presentation on the Nursing Quality Council by Ms. Scuderi. Ms. Scuderi presented the details of a review of key patient safety and care activities including:

- The Critical Care Committee;
- Emergency Medicine;
- myCare Follow-up; and
- Orthopedics

Ms. Gevertz informed the Board that the Committee received a presentation on the Surgery Quality Committee by Dr. Latifi. Dr. Latifi presented the detailed report of the Quality activities of the Department of Surgery and discussed the following:

- The use of Optimal Resources for Surgical Quality and Safety;
- Growth and expansion of the Department;
- The Ambulatory Care Pavilion, which has resulted in improved services and was converted to an ICU during COVID-19;
- Three Quality Topics were discussed in detail: deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism, perioperative hemorrhage, and pressure ulcers;
- A Team Based Innovative Approach to COVID-19 critically ill ventilated patients;
- Optimization and expansion of resources; and
- Departmental wide initiatives, including monthly quality and safety meetings that involve the entire faculty, housestaff, fellows and students

Ms. Gevertz stated that Ms. McFarlane provided the regulatory report for the Committee.

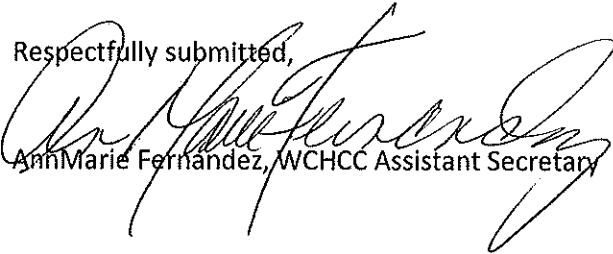
**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MR. HOCHBERG ASKED FOR A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 7, 2020, MEETING OF THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS. DR. FRISHMAN MOTIONED, SECONDED BY MR. SHROFF. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AnnMarie Fernandez", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the typed name.

AnnMarie Fernandez, WCHCC Assistant Secretary