



**MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN NYE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049**

**March 15, 2018**

**6:00 p.m.**

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Chairman Eason opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Ken Eason  
Vice-Chairman Cathie Clifford  
Secretary/Treasurer Justin Zimmerman  
Trustee Karmin Greber  
Trustee Roni Link  
Assistant County Manager Lorina Dellinger

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge was recited.

**2. Approval of the Agenda for March 15, 2018 (Non-action Item)**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said item 5 could be removed from the agenda.

**3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Three-minute time limit per person.) Action will not be taken on the matters considered during this period until specifically included on an agenda as an action item (first).**

There was none.

**4. Announcements (first)**

Chairman Eason advised the Board was talking with a physician from Las Vegas who was interested in working with Renown in Tonopah. An agreement had not been reached between Renown and the doctor at this point, but Chairman Eason thought he would be a good fit and was hoping to have him on the agenda at the next meeting.

**5. For Possible Action – Emergency Items**

This item was removed from the agenda.

**6. Trustees'/Liaison Comments (This item limited topics/issues proposed for future workshops/agendas)**

Trustee Greber asked to have an update on the medical records disposition on the next agenda.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7. No Action – 1) Presentation of the reconciliation package; and 2) update on the progress made by Renown Health & Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017.**

Kim Pearson from Renown said they were currently doing x-rays for the community and were almost at the point of being able to do labs. She was waiting to hear back from the State on some questions. A list of specialists had also been provided.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman explained he had asked for the list, but not for the Board. There was a person from the public who had asked for it.

Ms. Pearson said they were also not at the point where they could do CT scans as they needed an MD in place for the contrasting. As far as recruiting staff, she went to renown.org today and the MA-PAR position was posted (Requisition #137772) there along with other search engines like Monster and Career Builder. The nurse requisition should be posted within the next few days as well.

Trustee Greber asked why this was taking so long. She knew RNs who were currently looking for work who were interviewing elsewhere because they could not find the job.

Ms. Pearson recommended the nurses apply for this position until the nurse requisition went in. She explained typically there were no nurses in the medical group so they had to create the job, which was why it was taking so long.

Ms. Pearson then discussed the invoice noting \$26,000.00 of revenue was generated in January, 2018. She reviewed each line item and what it was for.

Trustee Link asked if the call center had been used.

Ms. Pearson explained it was used when the clinic could not answer the phone and it rolled over on Thursday night. She continued her update by advising they had been open five days a week since March 5, 2018, and had seen 25 urgent care patients since, five of which were critically transported to the emergency room. They also had nine occ-health visits.

Ms. Pearson discussed the marketing beginning with the plans for an open house during Butler Days. However, that was also the weekend of graduation and Jessica Thompson would not be available. Ms. Pearson said they would probably see if there was another date to have that as she wanted Mrs. Thompson to be present. Lastly, on March 12, 2018, a Facebook announcement went out from the Hospital District.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman advised that did not happen because he did not receive the final press release and that whole timeline had been pushed back.

**7. No Action – 1) Presentation of the reconciliation package; and 2) update on the progress made by Renown Health & Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017-Cont'd.**

Ms. Pearson said releases were coming out and they would do mailers. She would discuss the timeline with Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman off line, but she said there was a huge marketing push going out.

Trustee Greber commented she had received nothing and asked if the marketing was dependent upon this Board. She was under the impression the Board was here to give advice to the marketing department.

Ms. Pearson advised Renown liked to collaborate so she would take this off line with Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman and figure out the new timeline for it.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said it would be very soon. He could have something as early as tomorrow and would inform everyone when the ball really started rolling. He also agreed with the desire to collaborate on any marketing as this was a joint venture.

Trustee Greber asked if the Board was also supposed to contact the Senior Dimensions people who were put off all those months ago.

Ms. Pearson said Renown could call for the patients if they chose to be seen, but she did not know if there was an agreement between Renown and Senior Dimensions.

Trustee Greber asked if that was another misunderstanding as she was informed they were told they could not be seen in error. She hoped that Renown would use the same method to contact those people who were incorrectly denied service and just blanket the demographic and let them know that was an error.

Ms. Pearson said she would take that back and have something by the end of next week. She advised Senior Care Plus would also start marketing the area again in January, 2019, along with Hometown Health.

Gary Beck, Director of Rural Health Services for Renown, said he had only been in this position for a couple of weeks. He had some history with Tonopah and the clinic as he worked for Sierra Nevada Cardiology Associates for 19 years which had a clinic in Tonopah so he had the opportunity to get to know a lot of people in the community. He had been with Renown for seven years so he had 26 years in cardiology experience and was now branching out to include all health services offered by Renown. He said he oversaw all of the rural clinics for those 26 years and he had a passion for it. Mr. Beck said he was hopeful he could be a benefit to Renown and the community and looked forward to working with the Board.

Chairman Eason asked if the utilization report was current.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said it was 2017 data. He thought when he first got it that it was mislabeled. He added he received five of them in total in the last two days and he did not switch out the back-up. Next month there would be one that showed January and February, 2018.

**7. No Action – 1) Presentation of the reconciliation package; and 2) update on the progress made by Renown Health & Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017-Cont'd.**

Kevin Romero, Vice President of Operations for REMSA, advised the nurse health line launched on February 15, 2018, and the first call from Tonopah was received on February 20, 2018. There had been three additional since and Mr. Romero noted that was without any media as of yet. The community paramedics sitting in the audience had just completed their five weeks of training and were now doing their clinical rotations. They would start transitioning to other areas, including the Tonopah clinic, shortly. The integration with Renown Health had also begun and he was working very closely with Ms. Pearson to get them integrated into the clinic. Also in process was a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Nye County which would allow the community paramedics to be included on the 911 dispatch roll so they could be dispatched along with Nye County EMS to those calls. That MOU would also allow the community paramedics to assist with ALS in the back of a Nye County Ambulance.

Trustee Greber asked about double billing.

Mr. Romero explained the only entity that could bill was the transport entity. There may be some other opportunities where the transport entity could work on some billing efforts with ALS in the back of the ambulance, but the only billable entity was the transport entity.

Regarding community outreach and the nurse health line calls, Mr. Romero advised a printer would go out regarding the nurse health line the first week in April. A press release had been worked on and they were looking at social media. They would also be involved in the open house.

Trustee Greber stated it was the middle of March and there still had been no direct contact and none of the identifiable tangibles the community had been waiting for have occurred. She said she was still encountering people who were extremely surprised to learn Renown was in the community and what they could provide.

Ms. Pearson said she would go back and talk to the marketing team. They had been working behind the scenes but she would let them know there was a strong need to have the marketing done.

Mr. Romero said he would do the same, but he wanted to be careful on the community paramedic side until they were operating in Tonopah. The last thing he had for the Board was that they would have their first reporting package outlining the first quarter at the April meeting.

Trustee Link asked for the date and time the first paramedic would be seen in action.

Mr. Romero noted the end of the second quarter was outlined in the integration plan. That was what they were shooting for and he fully expected that to be obtainable.

Chairman Eason asked if a police officer was called to a house and the person needed medical care if dispatch would call the paramedics, the EMTs or the health nurse.

**7. No Action – 1) Presentation of the reconciliation package; and 2) update on the progress made by Renown Health & Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017-Cont'd.**

Mr. Romero explained that typically today they went through dispatch and it was treated as a 911 call. He assumed if that procedure continued they would get a joint response from a community paramedic and the Nye County EMS volunteer ambulance who would then discuss the best medical pathway for the patient. He said the goal was to keep the patient patriated within the community and eliminate the need for the EMS volunteer system to drive between two and six hours to turn around and come back to service the community.

Trustee Greber asked if the proposed telehealth paramedic that traveled to the scenes was a long-term projection that would be implemented.

Mr. Romero said they were doing many of the things in phases, so they were getting educated on this piece because that was something they were looking at doing in the future. He explained mobile telehealth in the way of EMS was very new technology and they had to phase it in. There were also issues of connectivity that had to be addressed.

Trustee Link asked if he had conferred with the Sheriff on the Spillman program which was a better way to communicate GPS addresses and patient information.

Mr. Romero said he was not aware of the Spillman program, but they were working with the County on the dispatch side of things and that would be a piece to be discussed.

Trustee Link asked about the schedules for the paramedics.

Mr. Romero said it would be a four day on/eight day off schedule.

Chris Mulkerns said at the last meeting she thought she heard community paramedics would start in April but now that was pushed back to the end of June and asked why.

Mr. Romero said within the contract implementation plan the end of the second quarter was stated, but he was hopeful for April. He did not recall who mentioned it on the record but that was probably where it was heard.

Jerry Elliston said Nye County EMS dispatched ambulances and billed for it. He was told that in the past when Life Guard was here they did the same things, but Nye County billed the patient for the service from the paramedics. They were billing for a service that the Northern Nye County Taxing District was paying for.

Chairman Eason said the County was supposed to reconcile that once a month with the Hospital Board.

Mr. Elliston asked if the County would give the money back.

Chairman Eason said that was what he understood, but if that was not the case it would be looked into.

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Kat Galli wanted to make sure the paramedics felt welcome. She said she worked for the Town of Tonopah and told them to come by the town office for information on what to do after their shift. She also said she was very pleased with the telemedicine and offered to distribute information during Jim Butler Days.

Regarding the ambulance billing, Lorina Dellinger said the County could bill at a higher rate with the paramedics. It would be discussed with the hospital district what that difference was and how to use those revenues. Ideas had been tossed around like using it to set up a fund to help the patients get back Tonopah should they have to be transported. She would inform the Board when the draft MOU was ready.

**8. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to consider development of a logo for the Northern Nye County Hospital District to include but not limited to public participation by means of contest or other appropriate platform as determined.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said Lorina Dellinger suggested this and he loved it.

Vice-Chairman Clifford remembered several years ago when the hospital was going to change their logo they put it out to the high school and the contest went on for a couple of months. There was some compensation to the winner and the recognition. She thought it was a great idea and that it should be limited to school grades seven through 12.

Chairman Eason asked if a committee was needed to oversee that.

Vice-Chairman Clifford and Trustee Link volunteered to be on that committee. Chairman Eason asked them to work together and put a report on the next meeting as to how to move forward.

Vice-Chairman Clifford said school was out at the end of May so something needed to be put out very soon.

**9. For Possible Action – Approval of invoices for payment.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said there were two invoices, a small one for legal fees for January and Renown's invoice for January.

Vice-Chairman Clifford made a motion to accept the two invoices; seconded by Trustee Link; 5 yeas.

**10. No Action – Update on the current status of the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said they were the same spreadsheet and reports as usual just updated to reflect what was just approved.

**11. No Action – Open Meeting Law review.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said the class was scheduled for tomorrow.

Trustee Link added it would be from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**12. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to set the next meeting location, time and date.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman made a motion to set April 19, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in chambers; seconded by Vice-Chairman Clifford; 5 yeas

**13. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (second)**

There was none.

**14. ANNOUNCEMENTS (second)**

Chairman Eason said there would be some items before the Board at the next meeting regarding an on-site provider.

**15. ADJOURN**

Chairman Eason adjourned the meeting.

Approved this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018.

  
Chair