



MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN NYE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049

September 20, 2018

6:00 PM

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

Present: Chairman Ken Eason
Vice-Chair Cathie Clifford
Secretary Treasurer Justin Zimmerman
Trustee Roni Link
Trustee Karmin Greber

Item #1, Pledge of Allegiance.

Led by Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman.

Item #2, Approval of the Agenda for September 20, 2018 (Non-action Item)

Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman suggested removing item 5. Trustee Link motioned to approve the agenda with Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman's suggestion. Vice Chair Clifford offered her second and the motion passed 5-0.

Item #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).

Horace Carlyle said that his comment is not meant to be received negatively. But as a member of the public, he said that he wasn't sure that the Board understood our funding as compared to the services we need to provide. He said that we operate on a deficit, and that is fine because we have a reserve, but that reserve can disappear. He said that if we are going to fund anyone based on short term loses, he believes that we should stay with one partner and that should be Renown as they have already invested hundreds of thousands of dollars. He said if we go off in all directions, our sustainability is cut down to three years. He said every cost we are dealing with is variable.

Carrie Duff from NyE Communities Coalition stated that the USDA Community Facilities Technical Assistance & Training Grant had been awarded to them. She went on to detail the goals of that grant as being a needs analysis, to determine the need for a building assessment, and to generate a prefeasibility study. She announced Russell Pillers as the project manager. She stated that they hoped to have a liaison assigned to the project.

Item #4, Announcements (first)

None.

Item #5, For Possible Action – Emergency Items

Removed from agenda.

Item #6, Trustees'/Liaison Comments (This item limited to topics/issues proposed for future workshops/agendas)

Chairman Eason stated that there were several people in attendance tonight to help us plan our way forward.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Item #7, No Action – 1) Presentation by Renown Health and Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority of their July 2018 reconciliation packages; and 2) update on the progress made regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017.

Jessica Thompson presented on behalf of Renown. She stated that patient volumes are steady, they are booked daily and are seeing overflow in their urgent care. Occupational Health is constantly on the rise and they have picked up CDL physicals as well. She also stated that their internet was recently upgraded, and their telehealth service is running better than ever. Jessica also announced a flu shot clinic that Renown partnered with Beth Ennis to offer on October 16th.

Chairman Eason asked why the invoice this month was higher than previous months.

Jessica stated that this invoice saw the new Medical Assistant's salary as well as higher patient count, and more patients equals greater supply related cost.

Vice Chair Clifford asked for a name of someone she could talk to regarding the gross patient revenue and what is deducted from that number to determine the net patient revenue. Jessica said she would get her in touch with someone.

Trustee Greber asked for an update on the timing for the new PA.

Jessica said that she would be on the ground in our clinic in December, but the date hasn't been finalized pending her training.

Trustee Greber asked about a statement that ran in the Tonopah Times stating that the PA wouldn't be able to write prescriptions.

Jessica stated that a correction had run in the following edition of the paper, and the PA will in fact be able to write prescriptions.

Louis Mendiola presented on behalf of REMSA. He reported a slight decline in Community Paramedic responses but stated that as we leave the summer season this decrease is normal. He also stated that transports and Nurse Healthline Calls remained average. He suggested a social media campaign to promote the Nurse Healthline further. He also stated that Kevin Romero would be taking over these reports going forward, as this is Louis' last meeting with us. He expressed that working with our community has been the opportunity of a lifetime, and he has accepted a position in Bozeman Montana and would be leaving REMSA.

The Board thanked him for his efforts and wished him luck in his future endeavors.

Item #8, No Action – Discussion and deliberation relating to improvement of the health of the population of northern Nye County

A) 2018 County Health Rankings – collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

Health Outcomes – Nye County ranks 16th out of 16 counties.

Health Factors – Nye County ranks 15th out of 16 counties.

B) Northern Nye County plan to improve the health of the county – gather a consensus of how we can accomplish this together.

Kirk Gillis presented for Renown Health. He said that the timing of this presentation and the announcement of the USDA grant being awarded couldn't be better. He said that his presentation tonight is step one towards a health needs assessment that was referred to as one of the goals with the USDA grant.

He took the board through some social determinants of health, many of these are beyond the realm of what can be controlled by a hospital, but they do add up to 50% of the cost associated with healthcare, and we can partner with agencies that can control these factors.

He stated that the statistics shown in his presentation are for Nye County as a whole. We can't break out Northern Nye County from the equation.

Trustee Greber asked if Esmeralda County was not ranked, and Kirk confirmed that they are not.

He stated that he thought there were opportunities to advance various illness and disease screenings to reach the goal of better health outcomes. He said that there are several items you can look at, and that we can't hope to cause better outcomes in 50 items, but we can take baby steps and work on three to five line items to bend the curve over a span of time of 5 or 10 years. Renown is interested in partnering with the District to get this done, but they cannot do it alone. Once the items have been identified, we can work together to move the needle, and report monthly/quarterly/annually to see how progress is coming along.

Kirk stated that heart disease, lung disease, diabetes and cancer make up about 64% of the healthcare spending happening across the board right now, and that is on trend with Medicare and Medicaid as well. So, these might be some ideal line items to choose.

To the goal of bringing in screening opportunities, he mentioned the Mammovan that comes through and offers mammograms in the community. He said that one key piece of this equation would be to make sure that a person who receives that type of screening, has their results logged with Renown, otherwise they won't count toward the goal.

Carrie Duff from NyE Community Coalition agreed that focusing on a few of these items is ideal. She stated that the Coalition will be having a meeting in early October where some of these goals could be identified.

Kirk suggested a survey be presented to the community to see what they identify as their needs. He stated that a survey before and after being exposed to the information contained in his presentation would also be interesting to see.

Beth Ennis expressed great support for this endeavor. She said that she has looked at this data before, and now realizes that all communities have the chronic health conditions present, and the goals should be to reduce the number of occurrences, prevent the occurrences, slow the progression with people who already

have the conditions, and slow the onset for people who don't yet have them.

Eileen Christensen with BEC Environmental said that they have worked with Nye County in the past and are having difficulty sending people to Tonopah knowing that there isn't emergency healthcare here. She said that they wanted to help, and they are able to write grants. She stressed the importance of momentum with a project like this, she said that if someone is able to identify an area in which they can help, and turn them loose on it, they are more than happy to help with the project.

Item #9, No Action – Discussion and deliberation on the Healthcare Services Needs Assessment/Future plans for a medical facility.

A) Needs Assessment

B) Strategic Healthcare Plan

C) Facility Plan

Kirk Gillis presented on behalf of Renown Health. He stated that the first step is to identify the collective needs of the community, and then plan a facility around those needs so as to be able to attract the right providers.

He stated that what we have now is a single tenant clinic that isn't able to check all of the boxes we require. The clinic isn't designed to be a multi-tenant building. He touched on some work that Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman has done to determine the most cost-effective route forward with the building.

Kirk said that it is difficult to find investors who will fund rural and frontier construction projects. He said that Renown is currently looking at scheduling urban projects at 2 or 3 years out due to availability of construction resources. He said another avenue to consider is modular units. He stated that construction costs for Renown's current projects are \$200.00 per square foot and the equipment necessary to operate a clinic is another \$200.00 per square foot, so a 10,000 square foot clinic would cost \$4,000,000.00 today. Kirk said that these costs are why Renown is looking to get out of the real estate business. The best way to approach these projects is to leverage as much Federal, State, County and/or grant monies as possible and look for a private investor to fill the remaining gap. Kirk said that he could share the names of other individuals Renown has been working with, with Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman, these people could potentially bring additional dollars to the table. Kirk did state that Renown would be willing to sign a long-term lease that would show potential donors/lenders that we will have the long-term ability to offer healthcare services from the facility. Additional space could then be backfilled with other tenants offering additional services.

Eileen Christensen with BEC Environmental stressed the importance of determining a route forward, because we won't be able to use Brownfield's money until we know whether we are renovating or demolishing the current campus.

Kirk Gillis said that the architects that Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman has identified or whoever is selected for the project will look at the cost benefit of either route and determine which is appropriate.

Eileen Christensen said there are issues with mold associated with the medical campus, and we may never be able to remediate that particular issue completely.

Chairman Eason asked what the amount of the grant was that was awarded to the District.

Eileen Christensen stated that the grant was for \$150,000.00 but \$50,000.00 of that is allocated for the Duckwater Tribe's water project.

Item #10, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation toward entering into a professional services contract with Bowerx Consulting, LLC.

Russell Pillers presented on behalf of his company. He detailed rural hospital closures across the country and expressed that what is happening in Tonopah is not unique, but that there are very unique aspects of our situation, like how remote we are. He said that he hopes to find a solution for Tonopah, and then see if it can be applied to other rural locations across the country.

Russell shared his project goals, but also expressed that they are just what he has learned over the years as being what could work best in our situation, but the direction will be dictated by the Board. But the long-term goal is a self-sustaining integrated healthcare system.

Russell went on to express that he understands that all of the Board members have other obligations and we are looking for someone who can push our agenda forward every day. He said that is what he is offering. He shared his experience with grant writing and plans to use them to aide in not only the long term sustainability for our healthcare services and facility project but also to fund his own contract.

Russell also shared what he believes could be an opportunity for partnership with Inyo County in California. He said he plans to explore a relationship of shared resources as they are in a situation similar to ours.

Russell also stated that identifying the services we need to offer will assist in determining if the building we have is feasible. He said that the building itself might be able to be rehabilitated, but it's basic structure might not meet our needs.

Russell ended his presentation by detailing the reporting he would make to the Board and his available fee structures.

Trustee Greber expressed great support for Russell's proposal.

Horace Carlyle offered public comment and stated that Dr. Pillers is probably a better investment than hiring an administrator or assistant. He stated that compared to what we've been working on over the past two years, what Russell is proposing is the best option we've seen yet. He also stressed the importance of understanding the ownership of the medical campus in Tonopah.

Vice Chair Clifford said that she liked everything Russell presented.

Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman said the main goal of tonight's presentation was to introduce the proposal in concept, the proposal provided was just a draft, and he thought the best path forward would be to work up a final proposal and send it off for legal review.

Trustee Greber wanted to accept the proposal in draft and move forward.

Vice Chair Clifford expressed support for Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman's suggestion.

Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman stated that he also was very interested in contracting with Dr. Pillers, but he would not support doing so without a legal review of the agreement.

Chairman Eason suggested a motion pending legal review.

Trustee Greber stated that she didn't see the value in further review.

Chairman Eason suggested developing a final contract, submitting it for legal review and then holding a special meeting to make it official.

Trustee Greber motioned to enter into a professional services contract with Bowerx Consulting, LLC pending legal review. Trustee Link offered her second and the motion passed 5-0.

Item #11, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation regarding hiring a part time employee to serve in a secretarial role for the Northern Nye County Hospital District.

Trustee Greber explained her vision of the scope of work this employee would handle.

Chairman Eason asked if this would be a part time position, and Trustee Greber confirmed that status.

Trustee Greber explained that she saw this position handling all of the basics that Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman is dealing with as well as attending the BoCC meetings, and outside meetings with Beth Ennis, or the NyECC and reporting back to our Board of their goings on and potential partnerships.

Vice Chair Clifford asked where this person would work from.

Trustee Greber explained that she had been working with Assistant County Manager Dellinger and arrangements were being made for an office and equipment for this person to work in the Tonopah Court House.

Vice Chair Clifford asked if we would have to pay the County for any of these services, including phone access, office costs like electricity etc.

Trustee Greber said no, the County would cover those costs.

Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman voiced his support for the position citing continuity alone. He stated the importance of remaining compliant with the OML and continuity between documents and the only way to guarantee that continuity is to place it on someone that will be with the board regardless of election results.

Trustee Link motioned to hire a part time employee to serve in a secretarial role for the Northern Nye County Hospital District. Vice Chair Clifford offered her second. Motion passed 5-0.

Item #12, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation regarding the unaudited budget status through June 2018 for the Northern Nye County Hospital District for fiscal year 2018.

Nye County Comptroller Savannah Rucker took the Board through the deadlines for expenditures and revenues. She also stated that the audit should be completed in November and presented to the Board on the first meeting of December. She also detailed the expenditure and revenue projections and actuals. Total revenues were higher than expected, due to Net Proceeds which is a very volatile revenue stream. She called for questions from the Board and there were none.

Item #13, For Possible Action – Approval of invoices for payment.

Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman took the board through the invoices and motioned to approve. Trustee Greber offered her second and the motion passed 5-0.

Item #14, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to set the next meeting location, time and date.

Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman stated that October 18th is the next third Thursday, but Vice Chair Clifford stated that she had a conflict on that date. She suggested the 25th.

Secretary Treasurer Zimmerman motioned to set the next meeting date as October 25th, 2018 in the Commissioner's Chambers at 101 Radar Road in Tonopah at 6:00 PM. Trustee Greber offered her second and the motion passed 5-0.

Item #15, General Public Comment (second)

Horace Carlyle said that Nye County had approved the Bill Draft Request to create a fire district to support emergency services outside of the Pahrump Basin. He stated that Commissioner Wichman and then Nye County Emergency Services Director Vance Payne appeared before the Tonopah Town Board on July 27th, 2016 and disclosed that the County had no legal obligation to fund emergency services. He stated that current BoCC Chairman John Koenig worked on this BDR with the assistance of County Manager Tim Sutton. He stated that if this is approved, it will assist the Northern Nye County Hospital District, but we have to identify how to lobby for this BDR. He said that the Board as a governing body has a lot of clout and especially if we can get REMSA to support it.

Carrie Duff presented information on a few projects that NyECC is currently rolling out that our District might be able to partner on.

Item #16, Announcements (second)

Trustee Greber stated that a full service urgent care is opening in Tonopah on December 1st. CNC Healthcare Services of Las Vegas is the consulting firm. She went on to detail all of the services that the business will offer, and the staff that they will bring in. She stated that they will offer onsite pharmaceuticals with non-narcotics. They stated that they are eager to staff the facility with locals. Trustee Greber said that they are going to begin renovation on the old DMV building and offer services from there. She also stated that they accept all major insurances.

Item # 17 ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned.

Approved this 15th day of November 2018.



Chair