

**BEAUFORT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BOARD MEETING– OPEN SESSION**

**MINUTES – January 31, 2024**

**BY ZOOM:** Dan Barton, Jane Kokinakis, D.O., Allison Coppage, Shawna Doran, Courtney Smith, Lynsey Rini

**PRESENT:** Vernita Dore, Doug Folzenlogen, M.D., Stephen Larson, M.D., Bill Himmelsbach (chair), Alice Howard, Richardson LaBruce, Eric Billig, M.D., Carolyn Banner, Ph.D., William Jessee, M.D., Russell Baxley, Karen Carroll, Kurt Gambla, D.O., Brian Hoffman, Chris Ketchie, Ken Miller, Dee Robinson, Kim Yawn, Victoria Viventi

Absent: Dave House

**Public/Open Session CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. House called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. The meeting has been posted. Victoria Viventi took roll call. A quorum of the Board is confirmed.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Billig for Board Members to go into Executive Session for the following purpose: Discussion of Medical Staff recruitment and contracting, strategic matters related to facility expansion and contractual arrangements with related partners. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jessee and unanimously approved.

**Public/Open Session MOTION:** A motion was made by Mr. LaBruce to re-commence into Public/Open Session at 9:04 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dore and unanimously approved.

Mr. Himmelsbach provided the mission statement.

Karen Carroll provided a patient story.

Beaufort County Drug and Alcohol Abuse– Mrs. Howard introduced Ms. Audra Antonacci-Ogden and Ms. Rebecca Whit with the Beaufort County Drug and Alcohol Abuse department. Ms. Antonacci-Ogden introduced Ms. Whitt as the new director, and Ms. Whitt shared updates on the departments initiatives and programs.

**CONSENT AGENDA – Approval of Minutes for December 13, 2023 and Special Called Board Meeting on January 10, 2024, Approval of Committee Reports, Patient Flow and Staff Reports** – Dr. Jessee made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Billig to adopt the agenda and reports as presented. Unanimous approval/no oppositions.

**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:** Dr. Billig reviewed the credentials report, to include a new critical care physician. Joint commission visit could be any day as the Hospital is within their survey year. The hospital is 81% compliant with Joint Commission tracers. Leap frog drug scan rates are at 97%. Total joint report was overall good and has increased over the past couple of years. Patient throughput report showed long waits in the ER, bed waits have increased on a national level. Dr. Banner inquired about the increased number of point

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replacements, which Dr. Billig attributed to increased number of physicians and an aging community.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR ISSUE IDENTIFICATION:**

Finance Committee: Mrs. Dore noted no issues. Mr. Miller noted they expect cash to drop next month due to a large payment for license tax in January.

Governance Committee: Mr. LaBruce noted the board met the continuing education requirements per the bylaws for calendar year 2023. The Governance committee will look into more educational options for 2024. The committee will continue to look for potential board members as board openings are 12-18 months away.

Compliance Committee: Dr. Banner noted Allison Coppage and team have done a great job keeping the hospital in compliance. Dr. Banner proposed a new meeting time for the compliance committee, as now it is dependent on when finance committee ends.

**MEDICAL STAFF:** Dr. Folzenlogen reported no issues on the credentials report.

**MEDICAL STAFF – *Credentials*:** The following practitioners requested Appointment:

Bruner, Evelyn, MD, Requesting Appointment: Consulting; Department of Surgery; Pathology; Coastal Pathology Laboratories; Fon-Ndikum, Jane MD, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Medicine; Hospitalist; Team Health Hospitalist; Gratia, Claudel, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Medicine; Hospitalist; Team Health Hospitalist; Keating, Anna, APRN, Requesting Appointment: APP; Department of Medicine; Neurology; Coastal Neurology Location; Lowry, Lacy MD, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Medicine; Hospitalist; Team Health Hospitalist; Miller III, Stephen, MD, Requesting Appointment: Locums; Department of Surgery; Surgical Specialist; Beaufort Memorial Surgical Specialist Loc.; Nunez, Rafael, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Medicine; Hospitalist; Team Health Hospitalist; Robinson, Taylor, NP, Requesting Appointment: APP; Department of Medicine; Cardiology; Beaufort Memorial Heart Specialists Location; Sangmuah, Eliza, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Medicine; Hospitalist; Team Health Hospitalist; Sotereanos, George, DO, Requesting Appointment: Telemedicine; Department of Medicine; Tele-Psych; DMH Telemedicine Peds Psych; Webb, Martin, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Medicine; Nephrology; Nephrology and Hypertension Medical Assoc.

Reappointment:

Belcher, Xavier, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Telemedicine; Department of Medicine; Tele-Psych; DMH Telemedicine Psychiatry; Billig, Eric B., MD, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Radiology; Radiology; Beaufort Medical Imaging; Childers, Braden, CRNA, Requesting Reappointment APP; Department of Anesthesia; Anesthesiology; Low Country Anesthesia; Clare, Michelle B., DO, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Emergency; Emergency Medicine; Team Health Emergency; Dean, Mark T., MD, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Orthopedics; Orthopedics; BOSS Orthopedic Spine Specialists; Derrick, III, Fletcher C., MD Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Ambulatory Primary Care; Internal Medicine; BM Low Country Medical Group Primary Care; Draves, Susan L., NP, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Ambulatory Primary Care; Primary Care; Chip Mobile; Guram, Shalik W., MD, Requesting Reappointment: Telemedicine; Department of Medicine; Tele-Psych; DMH Telemedicine Psychiatry; Kirshtein, Amy J., MD, Requesting Reappointment: Consulting; Department of Surgery; Pathology; Coastal Pathology Laboratories; McGuinness, Ian, DPM, Requesting Reappointment: Military Practitioner; Department of Surgery; Podiatry; Naval Hospital Location; Prewette, Ervin, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Telemedicine; Department of Medicine; Tele-Psych; DMH Telemedicine Psychiatry;

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Ricks, Alesia D., CRNA, Requesting Reappointment APP; Department of Anesthesia; Anesthesiology; Low Country Anesthesia ; Smalheiser, Veronica K., NP, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Ambulatory Primary Care; Primary Care; BM Low Country Medical Group Primary Care; Stock, Kent D., DO, Requesting Reappointment Active; Department of Medicine; Infectious Disease; Low Country Infectious Disease; Vane, Dennis W., MD, Requesting Reappointment: MUSC Affiliate; Department of Surgery; Pediatric Surgery; MUSC Pediatric Surgery/Okatie Medical Pavilion;

Resignations: Bodalia, Jayesh AA, Reflex Resignation; Dablock, Jennifer CRNA, Reflex Resignation; DeHart, Stephanie CRNA, Reflex Resignation; Dudhia, Summer MD, Reflex Resignation; Esmaeili Shandiz, Alaleh MD, Reflex Resignation; Eurick, Kyle, DDS, Reflex Resignation; Feller, Deborah CRNA, Reflex Resignation; Goetowski, Paul MD, Reflex Resignation; Johannesen, Zachary AA, Reflex Resignation; Perry, Shelly, NP, Reflex Resignation; Phillips, Alan, CRNA, Reflex Resignation; Shank, Erik, MD, Reflex Resignation; Snow, Timothy, MD, Reflex Resignation.

After review and the recommendation by MEC and then QIC, Dr. Billig made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. LaBruce to accept the Credentials Committee recommendations as presented. Unanimous approval.

**BMH FOUNDATION:** Mrs. Yawn advised the board of a site visit from the Duke Endowment for a grant to support Primary Care expansion and the Direct Primary Care program. There is a second site visit with the Duke Endowment at the end of February to support the GME readiness phase. The foundation did cross the \$1M threshold as of January. Mrs. Yawn gave an update regarding foundation board bylaw revisions that will come to vote for the board next month. Valentine Ball is next weekend and will support workforce development. Annual appeal is also doing well and have just crossed the \$450,000 mark. Mr. Himmelsbach noted the Medical Staff donated \$20,000 to the Valentine Ball fundraiser and expressed thanks for the kind contribution.

**CMO Report:** Dr. Gambla noted the GME feasibility study is completed and the two take homes are if the hospital were to do a GME program, it would be internal medicine and it would be not be financially feasible to do it solely through BMH but is feasible to be sponsored through a FQHC. The group is in discussion with BJHCHS to understand how a partnership would work. The MAT program is working with Beaufort County to integrate an SBIRT in the ER to drive referrals to MAT. Palliative care is still being evaluated. Sickle Cell has the new treatment out and waiting on insurance companies to pick up the cost of treatment. C-Diff 2 stage program is now implemented and working well. Radiation Oncology is adding a Space OAR to treat prostate cancer patients.

**PATIENT CARE SERVICES REPORT:** Ms. Carroll highlighted from her report the Palmetto Gold recipients to Kevin Kremer in the ER and Jaime Cuff in the Pre-Admission Testing clinic. The IV pumps are end of life in the hospital and currently going through trial.

**BEAUFROT PHYSICIAN PARTNERS REPORT:** Mr. Ketchie highlighted the newly implemented AI Scribe – DAX is going well and strongly accepted by the physicians who piloted it. The other initiative is the appointment accelerator that ties in with online check-in. The program can fill openings and bring patients in on average 30-35 days sooner than their scheduled appointment.

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**MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

Mr. Baxley reviewed the PATH scorecard with the recent graduates and current cohort, the program continues to be successful for employees and the organization. Nursing school final plan is for the Board's review in the board report. It is finalized and will be breaking ground in February. It is expected to start functioning and available for the fall school semester. The learning center also breaks ground in February, it will go behind the Medical Office Building next to the Hospital. OR renovation is going well, not much operational disruption and patient flow not severely interrupted. E&A Crisis Stabilization unit is going back to DHEC for approval. Balanced and Growth scorecards are available for review.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOIWNNG POLICY AS PRESENTED BY THE QI COMMITTEE: Providers Consult Notification, MS.43.** Dr. Billig made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Banner. Unanimous approval.

**DISCUSSION OR SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

Patient throughput report is available for review and an article regarding the board's fiduciary responsibilities.

**ADJOURN** – A motion was made by Mr. LaBruce, and was seconded by Dr. Jessee, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Larson, M.D.