

**BEAUFORT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BOARD MEETING BY ZOOM (DUE TO COVID-19) – OPEN SESSION**

**MINUTES – July 29, 2020**

**BY ZOOM:** David House (Chair); Bill Himmelsbach (Vice-Chair); Andrea Allen; Kathy McDonagh, Ph.D.; Richardson LaBruce; Faith Polkey, M.D.; Stephen Larson, M.D.; Eric Billig, M.D.; Alice Howard; Paul Sommerville

**PRESENT:** Russell Baxley; Ken Miller; Karen Carroll; Kurt Gambla, D.O.; Kurt Ellenberger, M.D.; Allison Coppage; Chris Ketchie; Brian Hoffman; Shawna Doran; Courtney McDermott; Debbie Schuchmann; Courtney Smith and Anna Sobiech

Absent: Hampton Long

**Public/Open Session CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. House called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. and took roll call. A quorum of the Board is confirmed. He stated that the Press had been notified. A motion was made by Dr. McDonagh to go into Closed Executive Session at 7:38 a.m. with the eight Board members to receive legal advice concerning the process to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees of Beaufort Memorial Hospital. The motion was seconded by Dr. Polkey, and unanimously approved. Mr. House stated that the Board will reconvene by Zoom meeting after the adjournment of its Executive Session.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. McDonagh to go into Executive Session at 8:30 a.m. to discuss MSPI, Quality Improvement, Medical Staff Credentialing, Strategic Planning, Contractual Arrangements, Legal and Personnel Matters. The motion was seconded by Dr. Polkey and unanimously approved.

**Public/Open Session MOTION:** A motion was made by Mr. LaBruce to re-commence into Public/Open Session at 9:21 a.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Polkey and unanimously approved. Mr. House took roll call.

Mr. House provided the mission statement.

Ms. Karen Carroll provided a patient story.

**CONSENT AGENDA – Approval of Minutes for June 24, 2020, Committee Reports & Minutes, and Staff Reports.** Dr. McDonagh made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. LaBruce, to adopt the agenda, amendment to the minutes and reports as presented. Unanimous approval/no oppositions.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR ISSUE IDENTIFICATION:**

Mr. House announced that Mr. Richardson LaBruce has assumed the role of Chair of the Governance Committee. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2020.

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**Finance Committee:** Dr. McDonagh referenced the Finance meeting which was held on Monday, July 27, 2020 and indicated that June financials were good due to leadership team's resiliency, focusing on quality, safety and financial discipline. She indicated that BMH received Health and Human Services infusion of funds in July bringing the total Federal funding to \$19.8M. BMH is anticipating detailed criteria and potential stipulations to meet the criteria. Dr. McDonagh provided a brief update on the Governmental Enterprise Accounts Receivable (GEAR) program. Letters will be sent in August to patients. BMH is sensitive to the accounts going through financial hardship during the COVID period.

**BMH FOUNDATION:** Debbie Schuchmann reported that Dr. Gambla will be assisting her with the Surgical Pavilion Physician Program (contacting physicians to get their support which is an important component for submission of grant proposals). New grant opportunities are being explored relating to supporting population health. The Foundation Board is looking to add four new Trustees. The intent is to bring the nominees to the BMH Board for approval in September.

**MEDICAL STAFF:** Dr. Ellenberger indicated that there were no outstanding issues.

**MEDICAL STAFF – Credentials:** The following practitioners requested appointment: Burleson, Braden, AA, Dependent Practitioner/ Anesthesiology (Temporary Privileges); Eurick, Kyle, DMD, Navy Active/ Surgery-Oral Surgery; Johannesen, Zachary, AA, Dependent Practitioner/ Anesthesiology (Temporary Privileges); Greensmith, J. Eric, MD, Locum Tenens/Medicine-Critical Care; Hale, Walter, AA, Dependent Staff/Anesthesiology(Temporary Privileges); Irish, Mary, MD, Active/Medicine-Internal Medicine Team-Health Hospitalist; Irish, Vincent, MD; Associate/Radiology-Beaufort Imaging; Kirkpatrick, Candace, CRNA, Dependent Practitioner/Anesthesiology (Temporary Privileges); Miller, Christopher, CRNA, Dependent Practitioner/Anesthesiology (Temporary Privileges); Pelfrey, Steven, CRNA, Dependent Practitioner/ Anesthesiology (Temporary Privileges); Powell, Amanda, PA-C, Allied Health Professional/ Surgery BPP Surgical Specialist; Russell, IV, James Sheppard, MD, Associate/Surgery-Otolaryngology; Wallace, Rhonda, MD, Community Active/Medicine-Family Medicine; Watson, Ross, MD, Associate/Medicine-Family Medicine BPP Beaufort Primary Care.

Reappointment: Binder, Christian, MD, Consulting/Radiology-VRC; Boatright, Karl, MD, Consulting/Orthopedics; Copeland, Robert, CRNA, Dependent Practitioner/ Anesthesiology; Diana, Perin, MD, Active/Ob/Gyn; Ellor, Susan, MD, Consulting/Telemedicine-Neurology; Goldberg, Neil, MD, Consulting/Radiology-VRC; Hill, Mary, MD, Active/Medicine-Psychiatry; Johnston, Stacey, MD, Active/Medicine-Hospitalist; Kelly, Brad, DO, Community Active/ Medicine-Internal Medicine; Kotinsley, Benjamin, MD, Consulting/Radiology-VRC; Mukonje, Terence, MD, Locum Tenens/Medicine-Hospitalist; Melendez, Octavio, MD, Active/Ob/Gyn; Murphy, Heidi, MD, Consulting/Telemedicine-Pediatrics; Plzak, III, Louis, MD, Active/Surgery-Urology; Polkey, Faith, MD, Community Active/Pediatrics; Renga, Vijay, MD, Consulting/Telemedicine-Pediatrics; Reuben, Jeffery, MD, Consulting/Orthopedics; Sarathy, Aaron, DMD, Active/Surgery-Oral Surgery; Sharma, Vishal, MD, Locum Tenens/Medicine-Hospitalist; Smalheiser, Stuart, MD, Active/Cardiology; Statler, Trenton, DPM, Active/Surgery-Podiatry; Stewart, Richard, DO, Active/Medicine- Gastroenterology; Strong, John, MD, Consulting/Surgery-Pathology; Trask, Samuel, MD, Community Active/Medicine-Family

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Practice; Tucker, Warren, MD, Consulting/Surgery-Pathology; Worsham, George, MD, Consulting/Surgery-Pathology.

Resignations: Maly, Christopher, DMD, Navy Active/ Surgery-Oral Surgery; Gies, Jeremy, MD, Navy Active/ Surgery-Oral Surgery, Sherban, Matthew, MD, Navy Active/ Surgery-Oral Surgery.

After review and the recommendation by MEC and then QIC, Mrs. Allen made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. McDonagh to accept the Credentials Committee recommendations as presented. Unanimous approval with the exception of Dr. Faith Polkey who recused herself from the vote.

**CMO Report:** Dr. Gambla indicated that the Medical Bylaws that were in final draft and reviewed by legal counsel will be brought to the Board after approval by MEC and the whole medical staff. He indicated that 340B is still active for Medicare but for Medicaid expansion BMH is waiting final guidance from the state. Opiates has been on the increase in Beaufort County and the task force has been revived to look at strategies. Dr. Gambla commended the medical staff for their resilience and collaboration during the COVID.

#### **ACTION ITEMS, POLICIES, DISCUSSION OR SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MEDICAL STAFF RELATING TO THE APPROVAL OF REFERRAL SERVICES IMAGING AS PRESENTED.** Dr. Billig made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Polkey. Unanimous approval.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MEDICAL STAFF RELATING TO THE APPROVAL OF REFERENCE LABS AS PRESENTED.** Dr. Billig made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Polkey. Unanimous approval.

**Supplemental information** – Mr. House referenced the article in the board packet regarding COVID racial disparities. He asked the question, “what can be done as a hospital and county to curb COVID cases relating to racial disparities” (how to reach people). Dr. Polkey provided an overview on testing and specified the ongoing need for culturally specific education. Dr. Larson provided a very brief overview on disparities in the hospital. *Mr. Baxley will run reports regarding admissions by race and will provide a graph.* Mr. House indicated that this topic would be beneficial to add to one of the Strategic Planning Committee Meetings.

#### **MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

COVID-19 Update and Discussion – Mr. Baxley referenced the COVID-19 reports that were provided in the board packet. He indicated that BMH continues to have conference calls with community leaders. A discussion ensued regarding county masking ordinances and expiration dates. Mr. Baxley provided current BMH statistics. He then reported on the status of PPEs and testing supplies. Mr. Baxley indicated that BMH is working on a temporary daycare to BMH employees which relates to staffing issues complicated by COVID.

BMH is tracking the most recent weather system.

Mr. Baxley indicated that BMH is delaying the employees survey and physicians survey.

Mr. House indicated that all BMH board and board committee meetings will be held virtually through the end of 2020.

**ADJOURN** – A motion was made by Mr. LaBruce, and was seconded by Dr. McDonagh, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David House