

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

MINUTES – September 29, 2021

BY ZOOM: Bill Himmelsbach (Vice-Chair); Richardson LaBruce; Vernita Dore; Dan Barton; Jane Kokinakis, D.O; Allison Coppage; Courtney Smith

PRESENT: David House (Chair); Stephen Larson, M.D.; Kurt Ellenberger, M.D.; Eric Billig, M.D.; Paul Sommerville; Russell Baxley; Karen Carroll; Kurt Gambla, D.O.; Chris Ketchie; Ken Miller; Brian Hoffman; Shawna Doran; Courtney McDermott; Debbie Schuchmann; and Anna Sobiech

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

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. LaBruce for Board Members to go into Executive Session for the following purpose: Discussion of Medical Staff recruitment and contracting, FY2022 Budget, FY2022 Strategic plan, strategic matters related to facility expansion and contractual arrangements with related partners. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dore and unanimously approved.

Public/Open Session MOTION: A motion was made by Mrs. Dore to re-commence into Public/Open Session at 10:03 a.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Billig and unanimously approved.

Mr. House provided the mission statement.

Karen Carroll provided a patient story.

CONSENT AGENDA – Approval of Minutes for August 25, 2021, Committee Reports & Minutes, and Staff Reports. Mr. LaBruce made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Billig to adopt the agenda, amendment to the minutes and reports as presented. Unanimous approval/no oppositions.

COMMITTEE CHAIR ISSUE IDENTIFICATION:

Finance: Mr. House indicated that August was another good month.

Governance Committee: Mr. LaBruce provided an update on the status of candidates. He referenced Dr. McDonagh's resignation and the open seat on the Board of Trustees. Mr. LaBruce indicated that after speaking to seven candidates, two of whom withdrew due to time commitments, the Governance Committee interviewed four candidates and a fifth candidate that was interviewed previously. All five candidates, who are willing to serve the hospital and the community, are exceptional (with diverse backgrounds). Within the next two weeks, the Governance Committee will hold a special meeting to discuss the two candidate names that

would be presented to the Board for consideration and approval and then sent to County Council prior to November 1, 2021. Other candidates from the list will be asked to join committees or will be asked to wait for a future vacancy.

BMH FOUNDATION: Mr. Dan Barton presented on behalf of Mr. Hampton Long. Mr. Barton reflected on the year that is coming to end of its fiscal year. He indicated that the Foundation is presenting one candidate for the Board's approval and vote. Mr. Barton thanked and acknowledged Debbie Schuchmann and her staff for raising donations in a difficult environment. Year-to-date \$1.48M was raised. Within 2021, the hospital was able to benefit from the receipt of 21 equipment items totaling \$2.1M. He indicated that the Valentine Ball successfully raised \$230K and over the life of the Surgical Pavilion Program \$2.7M was raised for FY2021. The Foundation Board just approved another \$492K for seven items towards improvements to the hospital. Mr. Barton made reference to the four new outstanding Trustees that had joined the Foundation Board. The Foundation Board would like to submit the name of Dr. John DeWitt for approval and a vote.

Quality Improvement Committee: Dr. Billig indicated that the Quality team continues to work through the latest covid surge. He provided an overview on the Joint Commission report, stroke program report, chest pain report (BMH was given the Gold Seal of Approval Award by the American Heart Association), SCHA report and the HCAP report. Readmission rates have decreased significantly over the past year.

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

MEDICAL STAFF – *Credentials*: The following practitioners requested Appointment: Cross, Michael, MD, Telemedicine/Medicine-Psychiatry; Delacroix, Johanna, MD, Locum Tenens/Pediatrics; Eden, Amanda, NP, Allied Health Professional/Medicine Palliative Care SC House Calls; Kasireddy, Uma, MD, Locum Tenens/ Medicine-Hospitalist; Nowell, Nathan, PA-C, Allied Health Professional/ Emergency Medicine; Rosenblum, Frederick, MD, Locum Tenens/Medicine/Critical Care/Pulmonary; Singleton, Rodmond, MD, Associate/Emergency Medicine; Yung, Jeffrey, DPM, Active/Surgery-Podiatry.

Reappointment: Arenth, Joshua, MD, Consulting/Telemedicine; Bishop, Laura, MD, Consulting/Telemedicine; Cusumano, Philip, MD, Community Active/Medicine-Internal Medicine; Ezeihuaku, Christopher, MD, Locum Tenens/ Medicine-Hospitalist; Kessler, Amanda, PA-C, Allied Health Professional/ Emergency Medicine; Kingston, Carlene, MD, Consulting/Telemedicine; McClelland, Alyssa, NP, Allied Health Professional/Medicine-Internal Medicine; Novikov, Mikhail, MD, Consulting/Medicine-Nephrology; Saunders, Gregory, AA, Dependent Practitioner/Anesthesiology; Sussman, Hy, MD, Consulting/ Medicine-Nephrology; Thorpe, Kimberly, PA-C, Allied Health Professional/Medicine- Gastroenterology; Veeraswamy, Ravi, MD, MUSC Affiliate/ Surgery- Vascular; Wooster, Mathew, MD, MUSC Affiliate/ Surgery- Vascular; Yamada, Lidia, MD, Consulting/ Telemedicine-Neurology.

Resignations: Hunter, David, MD, Active/Surgery-Ophthalmology; Farr, Kenneth, MD, Active/Surgery-Ophthalmology; Bell, Louis, MD, Active/Medicine-Gastroenterology; Callan, Elizabeth, MD, Telemedicine/Medicine-Neurology.

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

CMO Report: Dr. Gambla indicated that the Medical Staff Officers that will be presented for a vote at the next Medical Staff Annual Meeting remain unchanged for another two-year term: Kurt Ellenberger, M.D., Chief of Staff; Stephen Sisco, M.D., Vice Chief of Staff; and Christopher Benson, M.D., Secretary/Treasurer (nominations will be accepted from the floor). He provided an update on the potential formation of PERT (pulmonary embolism response team). BMH is looking for opportunities to expand 340B for contract pharmacy for oral chemo. A permanent Addiction Medicine Clinic will be opening within the next two weeks. Dr. Gambla provided an update on covid and the monoclonal antibody requests. A brief discussion ensued.

ACTION ITEMS, POLICIES, DISCUSSION OR SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. JOHN DEWITT TO THE FOUNDATION BOARD. Dr. Larson made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Billig. Unanimous approval.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO CREDIT AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE LINE OF CREDIT WITH REGIONS BANK AND TO APPROVE KEN MILLER, CFO AND RUSSELL BAXLEY, CEO TO EXECUTE THE DRAFT LINE OF CREDIT. Mr. Himmelsbach made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Dore. Unanimous approval.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE FY 2022 BUDGET AND FY 2022 STRATEGIC PLAN AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. Dr. Billig made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Vernita Dore. Unanimous approval.

MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Mr. Baxley referenced the Balanced Score Card for the organization and indicated that key KPIs are being tracked relating to balancing quality, safety, finance, growth, patient satisfaction, etc. for review.

Mr. Baxley provided an update on COVID and vaccines. He indicated that BMH is starting to experience a decrease in covid-19 patients across the hospital. He provided the hospital census. BMH continues to vaccinate on Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Vaccine Clinic. He indicated that BMH is in partnership with DHEC to allow the use of the Vaccine Clinic when not in use by BMH to vaccinate on Saturdays. Booster shots are being provided to healthcare workers and the 65+ age group or for the individuals that are compromised. Discussion ensued.

Recruitment and Retention Strategies – Mr. Baxley reported on BMH’s housing program that will be launched next month, which will offer loans to employees for closing costs or down payment costs, (employees could qualify for up to \$10K). Another opportunity would be to refinance while the interest rates are low. \$250K has been reserved as the pilot program. This is

to assist employees in reducing expenses and stop renting and instead purchase a home in order to build wealth. In order to participate, the employee must take financial planning classes. The program is unique.

Mr. Baxley recognized Courtney McDermott and indicated that she will be leaving BMH. Mr. Baxley acknowledged and thanked her for all she has contributed to the growth of the hospital. He commended Courtney's marketing and communication plans. He announced that Courtney was recognized by Becker's Hospital Review as the top twenty-five marketer for all of the health systems.

ADJOURN – A motion was made by Dr. Billig, and was seconded by Mrs. Dore, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Larson, M.D.