

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

**MINUTES – October 27, 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 Mrs. Dore 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. Billig and unanimously approved.

**Public/Open Session MOTION:** A motion was made by Mrs. Dore to re-commence into Public/Open Session at 9:00 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 September 29, 2021, Committee Reports & Minutes, and Staff Reports.** Dr. Billig made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Kokinakis to adopt the agenda, amendment to the minutes and reports as presented. Unanimous approval/no oppositions.

**BMH FOUNDATION:** Mr. Hampton Long indicated that this was a busy time for Foundation with the November Annual Meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Appeal Letter continues to go out, and the February 2022 Valentine Ball has raised \$113K to date towards the Valentine Ball. There has been great response from the corporate community in Beaufort County. Currently the Valentine Ball has a virtual and a live component. The Annual Appeal Letter has raised \$40K. Currently \$3.8M has been raised towards the \$5M goal for the Surgical Pavilion. Mr. Long indicated that the Virtual Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> is under the same format as last year. He indicated that the Foundation’s Executive Director, Debbie Schuchmann, will be retiring in the near future. He expressed gratitude for her great work on the Foundation over the years. Mr. House acknowledged and thanked her for her service on the Foundation.

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**COMMITTEE CHAIR ISSUE IDENTIFICATION:**

Quality Improvement Committee: Dr. Billig indicated that the Quality team reviewed the credentials and no issues were reported. The Medical Executive Committee provided a \$15K donation towards the Valentine Ball. The Joint Commission continues to monitor drug scanning rates. The total joint report numbers continue to look good. OR Stop Light report is status quo. He referenced the routine policy items that were listed under action items (minimal changes/grammatical). The Quality Committee is recommending these policies for approval.

Finance Committee: Mr. House indicated that the year-end results were strong. He attributed the two-year strong results to the management staff.

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

**MEDICAL STAFF – *Credentials*:** The following practitioners requested Appointment: Burk, Linda, MD, Locum Tenens/Pediatrics; Chicos, Celestin, MD, Locum Tenens/ Medicine-Hospitalist; Dolia, Jaydevsinh, MD, Telemedicine/Medicine-Neurology; Fletcher, Lauren, DNP, Allied Health Professional/Medicine- Palliative Care; Piacentino, Valentino, MD, Locum Tenens/Surgery; Qureshi, Furhan, MD, Locum Tenens/ Medicine-Hospitalist.

Reappointment: Martin, Kimberly, MD, Community Active/ Pediatrics; Reynolds, Victoria, NP, Allied Health Professional/ Internal Medicine; Bergmann, Shayla, MD, Consulting/ Pediatrics; Bernstein, Erik, MD, Consulting/ Medicine-Nephrology; Blocker, Edward, MD, Active/ Orthopedics; Brown, Kenneth, MD, Active/Surgery-Otolaryngology; Christian, Don, MD, Active/Surgery-Otolaryngology; Dardes, Nicholas, MD, Community Active/ Medicine-Internal Medicine; Dewitt, John, MD, Active/ Medicine-Psychiatry; Dreier, Yolanda, MD, Community Active/ Pediatrics; Edwards, Michael, MD, Active/Surgery-Podiatry; Ellenberger, Kurt, MD, Active/ Pediatric Hospitalist; Emrath, Elizabeth, MD, Consulting/ Telemedicine; French, David, MD, Consulting/ Telemedicine; Gilbreath, Michael, MD, Consulting/ Medicine-Gastroenterology; Gleichgerrcht, Ezequiel, MD, Consulting/ Telemedicine. Harvey, Harold, PA-C, Allied Health Professional/ Internal Medicine; Jackson, William, MD, Active/ Radiology; Jones, Kathryn, NP, Allied Health Professional/ Internal Medicine; Marflak, Carmen, CRNA, Dependent Practitioner/ Anesthesia; McEvoy, Danyel, MD, Consulting/ Surgery-Pathology; Moore, Pamela, NP, Allied Health Professional/ Internal Medicine; Moss, Miranda, NP, Allied Health Professional/ Internal Medicine; Newberry, III, William, MD, Active/Medicine-Oncology; Patel, Rupal, MD, Active/Medicine-Hospitalist; Presley, Bradley, MD, Consulting/Telemedicine; Shealy, Neal, MD, Active/ Medicine-Internal Medicine; Troxell, Annsley, PA-C, Allied Health Professional/ Surgery; Whalen, Allison, MD, Consulting/Telemedicine.

Resignations: Dippel, Roderick, MD, Active/Medicine- Family Practice

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

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**CMO Report:** Dr. Gambla indicated that the Medical Staff Annual Meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at which time the Medical Staff Officers will be presented for a vote (they 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). Dr. Gambla provided an update on 340B. Dr. Cusumano has transitioned exclusively to the Addiction Medicine Clinic. Palliative Care currently has four providers and will be expanding from five to seven days. The Monoclonal Antibody requests have been reduced. The training for Seraph technology is underway (an intervention therapy to assist covid patients).

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING POLICIES AS PRESENTED BY THE QI COMMITTEE:**

- **Medical Staff Appointment and Reappointment Process**
- **Medical Staff Services Advanced Practice Professionals Credentialing and Privileging**
- **Medical Staff Services Credentialing Verification**

Dr. Billig made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Kokinakis. Unanimous approval.

Mr. LaBruce provided an overview on the Governance Committee's selection process. The Committee conducted interviews with eleven candidates. After discussing the expectations of the Board of Trustees and qualifications, the Committee selected a slate of five candidates, and of those, the Committee is presenting two to the Board for consideration and approval and then send to County Council. The other three candidates will be asked to join committees or will be asked to wait for a future vacancy. After providing brief bios, Mr. LaBruce indicated that the Governance Committee is privileged and honored to present Dr. Angela Simmons (who is an incredible asset to the current committees of Finance and Quality that she is a member of) and Dr. Carolyn Banner (who holds a Ph.D. in Public Health and brings a comprehensive understanding of health delivery systems).

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE NAMES OF ANGELA SIMMONS, PH.D. AND CAROLYN BANNER, PH.D., HIGHLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO COUNTY COUNCIL.** Mr. Himmelsbach made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Dore. Unanimous approval.

Mr. House referenced the articles of interest indicating nursing is a top subject for all along with the faculty work force.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

Mr. Baxley referenced the Balanced Score Card for 2021 and indicated that it will be closed out and a new Balanced Score Card for 2022 will be presented.

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Mr. Baxley provided an update on COVID-19. BMH requested 900 pediatric vaccines from the State which will be provided through the Vaccine Clinic once final approval by CDC. The Vaccine Clinic continues to remain open Wednesdays and Thursdays with the intent of winding down the clinic at the first of the year. Mr. Baxley provided an update on volumes and referenced the Seraph treatment. A discussion ensued regarding opportunities of vaccine partnerships and promoting to school systems in coordination with parents and school board.

Recruitment and Retention Strategies – Mr. Baxley indicated that BMH will be launching the housing program in December (financing loans to employees as mentioned in September’s meeting). BMH will be announcing retention bonuses for BMH staff at the end of this week for a payout first week in December. BMH will launch the marketing campaign targeting nursing geographically through social media, google adds, and other opportunities.

**ADJOURN** – A motion was made by Mrs. Dore, and was seconded by Dr. Billig, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Larson, M.D.