

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

MINUTES – December 15, 2021

BY ZOOM: David House (Chair); Richardson LaBruce; Hampton Long; Allison Coppage; Debbie Schuchmann

PRESENT: Bill Himmelsbach (Vice-Chair); Vernita Dore; Stephen Larson, M.D.; Kurt Ellenberger, M.D.; Eric Billig, M.D.; Jane Kokinakis, D.O.; Alice Howard; Russell Baxley; Karen Carroll; Kurt Gambla, D.O.; Chris Ketchie; Ken Miller; Brian Hoffman; Shawna Doran; Dee Robinson; Courtney Smith; and Anna Sobiech

Public/Open Session CALL TO ORDER: Mr. House called the meeting to order at 8:20 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 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 Mrs. Dore and unanimously approved.

Public/Open Session MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. LaBruce to re-commence into Public/Open Session at 9:09 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dore and unanimously approved.

Mr. House provided the mission statement.

Karen Carroll provided a patient story.

CONSENT AGENDA – Approval of Minutes for November 22, 2021, Committee Reports & Minutes, and Staff Reports. Dr. Billig made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Larson to adopt the agenda, amendment to the minutes and reports as presented. Unanimous approval/no oppositions.

Governance Committee: Mr. LaBruce indicated that Beaufort County Council approved the appointment of Dr. Carolyn M. Banner to the BMH Board earlier this week. The Board will be welcoming Dr. Banner at its January Board meeting. Mr. LaBruce indicated that discussions are forthcoming relating to amending the bylaws to increase the board members from eight to nine.

BMH FOUNDATION: Mr. Hampton Long indicated that the next meeting of the Foundation is set for January 18, 2022. The Annual Appeal Letters have brought in over \$272K. The Foundation Valentine Ball has raised over \$140K to date with a great response for pre-ticket sales for the February 5th Valentine Ball. He indicated that dinner party hosts are still needed. Mr. Long reported and expressed gratitude for the \$50K signature gift that was received from a Foundation Board Member which was directed to the Surgical Pavilion Renovation Project. A total of \$4.1M has been raised towards the \$5M goal. Mr. Long indicated that Kim Yawn has

accepted the offer as the Executive Director of the Foundation. Both Mr. Long and Mr. House expressed their gratitude to Debbie Schuchmann for her continued support with the transition.

COMMITTEE CHAIR ISSUE IDENTIFICATION:

Quality Improvement Committee: Dr. Billig indicated that the Quality Committee did not meet in December. A full report will be provided at the January meeting.

MEDICAL STAFF: Dr. Ellenberger indicated that there were no outstanding issues on the incoming appointments. There were no policies to report.

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

Alvarez, Baby Ruth, NP, Allied Health Professional/ Internal Medicine; Carrese, Ian, PA-C, Allied Health Professional/Emergency Medicine; Crawford, Chelsea, PA-C, Allied Health Professional/Medicine-Nephrology; Eyad, Almallouhi, MD, Telemedicine/Medicine-Neurology (MUSC-Tele Stroke); Johnson, Ryan, DNP, Allied Health Professional/ Internal Medicine (Hospitalist); Malhan, Sameena, MD, Active/Medicine-Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation; Marino, Christina, NP, Allied Health Professional/Medicine-Oncology; Medbery, Clinton, MD, Locum Tenens/ Medicine-Radiation-Oncology; Padala, Sandeep, MD, Locum Tenens/Medicine-Nephrology; Reid, James, MD, Locum Tenens/Surgery-General Surgery; Shepard, Michelle, MD, Consulting/ Medicine-Nephrology; Shield, Sharon, NP, Allied Health Professional/Medicine (Hospitalist); Usifo, Katrin, MD, Active/Medicine-Internal (Hospitalist).

Reappointment: Brooks, Benjamin, MD, Consulting/Radiology-VRC; Busch, Carrie, MD, Consulting/Telemedicine-Pediatrics; Edenfield, Christopher, PA-C, Allied Health Professional/Hospitalist; Escarza, Robert, MD, Consulting/Emergency Medicine; Fox, Matthew, MD, Consulting/Radiology-VRC; Gearhart, Eric, PA-C, Allied Health Professional/Medicine-Internal Medicine; Jump, Candi, DO, Consulting/ Telemedicine-Pediatrics; Kasi, Nagraj, MD, Consulting/ Telemedicine-Pediatrics; Kennedy, Keiron, MD, Consulting/ Radiology-VRC; Lopez de Victoria, Elizabeth, MD; Consulting/ Telemedicine-Neurology; Marflak, Carmen, CRNA, Dependent Practitioner/ Anesthesiology; Mayne, Jennifer, MD, Consulting/ Radiology-VRC; Smock, Alison, MD, Consulting/ Telemedicine-Pediatric; Sparks, Erin, MD, Consulting/ Telemedicine; Tobin, Wayne, MD, Consulting/ Telemedicine-Neurology; Williamson, Katelin, DO, Consulting/ Telemedicine-Psychiatry.

Resignations: Burrus, Edward, MD, Active/Surgery.

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

CMO Report: Dr. Gambla indicated that a committee is being developed for the management of PERT (pulmonary embolism response team). He indicated that discussions have resumed with MUSC on developing a residency program. Dr. Gambla provided an update on the Palliative Care Program, indicating that with the support of four providers, BMH is looking at a seven-day service (which will allow BMH to apply for disease specific certification). Dr. Gambla provided an update on covid and the new monoclonal antibody therapy.

**ACTION ITEMS, POLICIES, DISCUSSION OR SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:
NONE**

Mr. House referenced the Beaufort County Releases Federal American Rescue Plan Funds Outline which was included in the board packet.

MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Mr. Baxley indicated that as part of the recruitment and retention plan, BMH has set up a new employee benefit relating to home buying assistance. BMH has set aside funds that will allow employees to purchase homes or refinance their current homes. BMH is working with CommunityWorks to provide a financial navigator who will assist applicants in navigating through the process and resources; a financial course will also be offered. The program will launch January 6, 2022. Mr. Baxley discussed the process for this program.

Mr. Baxley indicated that at the first Annual Medical Provider meeting, BMH talked about what the hospital system is facing, briefly discussed potential legislative changes, also discussed DSH [Disproportionate Share Hospital], inflation and supply chain concerns and potential cuts to clinical lab fee schedules.

Mr. Baxley provided an update on COVID-19. He indicated that tomorrow will be the last day for providing vaccines to the community. Mr. Baxley provided general statistics relating to vaccine clinics and testing sites. He indicated that after December 23, 2021, the testing that was behind the BMAC building will be transitioned to Express Care sites. The Chip Mobile will resume its original program of bringing health screenings to the community. Mr. Baxley provided an update on the vaccine mandate. He indicated that testing was down and positive tests were down.

ADJOURN – A motion was made by Dr. Billig, and was seconded by Dr. Larson, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Larson, M.D.