

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

**MINUTES – July 31, 2024**

**BY ZOOM:** Richardson LaBruce, Dan Barton, Tommy Harmon, Allison Coppage, Lynsey Rini

**PRESENT:** Doug Folzenlogen, M.D., Stephen Larson, M.D., Bill Himmelsbach (chair), Jane Kokinakis, MD., William Jessee, M.D., Eric Billig, M.D., Russell Baxley, Shawna Doran, Ashley Hildreth, Kurt Gambla, D.O., Brian Hoffman, Chris Ketchie, Ken Miller, Dee Robinson, Kim Yawn, Courtney Smith, Victoria Viventi

Absent: Carolyn Banner, Ph.D, Vernita Dore, Alice Howard

**Public/Open Session CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Himmelsbach called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. The meeting has been posted. Victoria Viventi took roll call. A quorum of the Board is confirmed.

**MOTION:** A motion was made Dr. Kokinakis 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 Mr. Harmon and unanimously approved.

**Public/Open Session MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Larson to re-commence into Public/Open Session at 8:54 a.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Billig and unanimously approved.

Mr. Himmelsbach provided the mission statement.

**Motion to amend the agenda and move the action items to the top of the agenda following the patient story.** Dr. Jessee made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Kokinakis. Unanimous approval.

Kevin Kremer provided a patient story.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Motion to approve the proposed exclusive anesthesia service line agreement between BMH and Low Country Anesthesia, P.A.** Dr. Billig made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. LaBruce. Unanimous approval.

**Motion authorizing the CEO to execute the necessary documents and provide funding to purchase 1.76 acres of property located at TBD Okatie Hwy, Tax Parcel #R610 036 0000 3212 0000 for \$850,000 consistent with the terms and sales price as presented in the letter of intent dated November 17, 2023.** Mr. Harmon made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. LaBruce. Unanimous approval.

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**CONSENT AGENDA – Approval of Minutes for June 26, 2024 Approval of Committee Reports, Patient Flow and Staff Reports** – Dr. Billig made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Jessee to adopt the agenda and reports as presented. Unanimous approval/no opposition.

**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:** Dr. Billig noted joint commission tracers were at 87%. Joint Commission arrived for the hospital’s triennial survey in July. Dr. Billig thanked the quality team for the hard work during the survey. Drug scan rates are at 96%, with a focus on ER. Joint commission recertification for cardiac, stroke and joint. Quality scorecard had a few stroke goals that were below target. C-section rates decreased to 24%. Total joint report looks good and improving patient reported outcome measures. Patient throughput report for the emergency room is similar to national rates and decreased down to 332 minutes from 442, Tending in the right direction.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR ISSUE IDENTIFICATION:**

Finance Committee: Mr. Himmelsbach reported on behalf of Mr. Harmon. The committee had another valuable education session on registration and billing.

Governance Committee: Mr. LaBruce noted the Governance committee continues the search for potential new BMH board members. Mr. LaBruce reminded the board to continue to track and send in any continuing education to receive credit. The next Governance committee meeting is August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Compliance Committee: Nothing to report.

Legislative and Community Outreach Committee: Mr. Himmelsbach reported on behalf of Dr. Banner. He noted Senator Davis was well prepared and shared good information with the new committee.

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

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

Connelly, James, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Radiology; Beaufort Medical Imaging; Hammond, Gaines, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active/Locum; Department of Surgery; Urology; Beaufort Memorial Urology Specialists; Harrington, Heidi, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Surgery; Plastics Surgery; Beaufort Memorial Plastic Surgery and Aesthetics; Lawson, Jonathan, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active/Locum; Department of Medicine; Pulmonary Critical Care; Beaufort Memorial Pulmonary Specialists; Martin, Charles, CRNA, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Anesthesia; Anesthesiology; Low Country Anesthesia; Mesenburg, Melissa, DNP, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Obstetrics; Primary Care; Beaufort Memorial Beaufort Obstetrics and Gynecology Specialists; Stevens, Andrew, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Medicine; Pulmonary Critical Care; Beaufort Memorial Pulmonary Specialists; Turnbull, Taylor, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Surgery; General Surgery; Beaufort Memorial Surgical Specialists; Webb, Megan FNP, Requesting Appointment: APP; Department of Medicine; Pulmonary Care; MUSC Health Pulmonary & Sleep Medicine

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Reappointment:

Binder, Christian, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Consulting; Department of Radiology; Virtual Radiology; vRad; Boatright, Karl, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Consulting; Department of Orthopedics/Surgery; Orthopedics Spine Specialist; Spine Institute of the Carolinas; Burleson, Braden, AA, Requesting Reappointment: Anesthesia Support Staff ; Department of Anesthesia; Anesthesiology; Low Country Anesthesia; Erb, Peyton, PA-C, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Obstetrics; Obstetrics; Beaufort Memorial Obstetrics and Gynecology Specialists; Goldberg, Neil, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Consulting; Department of Radiology; Virtual Radiology; vRad; Requesting Reappointment: Anesthesia Support Staff ; Department of Anesthesia; Anesthesiology; Low Country Anesthesia; Hale, Walther, AA, Hill, Mary, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Medicine; Psychiatry; Sea Island Psychiatry; Irish, Vincent, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Radiology; Radiologist; Beaufort Medical Imaging; Johnston, Stacey, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Medicine; Hospitalist; BMH Team Health Hospitalist; Kelly, Brad, DO, Requesting Reappointment: Community Active; Department of Ambulatory Primary Care; Family Medicine; Beaufort Memorial May River Primary Care; Melendez, Octavio, MD, Requesting Reappointment: ; Department of Obstetrics; Obstetrics; Beaufort Memorial Obstetrics and Gynecology Specialists; Miller, Christopher, CRNA, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Anesthesia; Anesthesiology; Low Country Anesthesia; Plzak, Louis, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Surgery; Urology; Beaufort Memorial Urology Specialists; Polkey, Faith, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Community Active ; Department of Pediatrics; Pediatrics; BJHCHS; Renga, Vijay, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Telemedicine ; Department of Medicine; Tele-Stroke; MUSC Telemedicine Affiliation; Reuben, Jeffery, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Consulting; Department of Orthopedics/Surgery; Orthopedics Spine Specialist; Spine Institute of the Carolinas; Riddle, Haille, NP, Requesting Reappointment: APP ; Department of Medicine; Psychiatry; Sea Island Psychiatry ; Russell, James, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Surgery; Otolaryngology; Charleston ENT & Allergy ; Sarathy, Aaron, DMD, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Surgery; Oral/Maxillofacial; Charleston Oral and Facial Surgery; Smalheiser, Stuart, MD, Requesting Reappointment; Department of Medicine; Cardiology; Beaufort Memorial Heart Specialist; Statler, Trenton, DPM, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Surgery; Podiatry; Low Country Foot and Ankle Institute; Stewart, Richard, DO, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Medicine; Gastroenterology; Beaufort Memorial Low Country Medical Group Specialty Care; Strong, John, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Consulting; Department of Surgery; Pathology; Coastal Pathology Laboratories; Trask, Samuel, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Community Active; Department of Ambulatory Primary Care; Concierge; Concierge Service; Tucker, Warren, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Consulting; Department of Surgery; Pathology; Coastal Pathology Laboratories; Wallace, Rhonda, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Community Active; Department of Ambulatory Primary Care; Family Medicine; Beaufort Memorial Bluffton Primary Care; Worsham, George, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Consulting; Department of Surgery; Pathology; Coastal Pathology Laboratories; Sanito, Nicholas, DO, Requesting Reappointment: Active/Locums; Department of Medicine; Pulmonary Critical Care; Beaufort Memorial Pulmonary Specialist

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Resignations:

Stafford, Christopher, MD, Resignation; Medicine, Tiley, Stephen, DO, Medicine, Resignation; Diana, Perin, MD, Surgery, Resignation

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

**CMO Report:** Dr. Gambla noted the medical staff did well with the joint commission survey with no findings. The Medical Staff and Finance team is working with Blue Cross Blue Shield on Delegated credentialing to assist in getting the providers credentialed quicker with BCBS. Discussions with MUSC to collaborate on some cardiology services. Pharmacy also did well with joint commission. Palliative care has an agreement under review. MAT clinic is piloting SBIRT with the provider, Kathy Sams, coming into the ER when there is an identified patient to hopefully get them into treatment sooner. Dr. Bergmann has been getting busier with the Sickle Cell clinic and has allowed the clinic to expand access.

**HR Report:** Mr. Hoffman noted a very good hiring quarter, hiring 10 more employees and 11 more RN's than the previous quarter. And 6 more employees and 11 more RN's than the same quarter previous year. Turnover Rates were similar to previous quarter and much better than the same quarter last year. 51 total agency employees, vacancy rates are down from last quarter.

**Beaufort Physician Partners Report:** Mr. Ketchie reported a good year so far, with projections of 20,000 more visits than last year. Recruitment has been busy with 6 new providers starting, including a new plastics practice.

**BMH FOUNDATION:** Ms. Yawn reported the foundation is just shy of \$3M for the fundraising. The team had a meeting with the Duke Endowment for a \$600,000 grant that went well and will be notified by December. Investment portfolio is just shy of \$25M. Ms. Yawn shared information on the new Vision Campaign that will be launching to encompass the future vision of Beaufort Memorial. It is important for the boards to be engaged in the capital campaigns and annual giving as level of engagement is often asked during the grant process.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

Mr. Baxley shared the PATH scorecard and noted the ribbon cutting and opening of the nursing school on the second floor of the BMH administration building. He noted the BMH pass rate for national certification exams is 97% compared to the national average of 77%. The goal of the nursing and education suite is to double the amount of nursing school graduates from USCB. The education department continues to work closely with the Beaufort County high schools to implement a CMA/PCT dual enrollment program, intended to launch January 2025. The OR entrance should re-open in September as the project moves into phase 2. The Crisis Stabilization Unit has run into some budget concerns and Mr. Baxley is currently in communication with the State to discuss moving forward with the build out. The Learning Center is on target for a September ribbon cutting. Growth and Balanced scorecard are available for review.

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**DISCUSSION OR SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

Three articles of interest were available to the board for their review.

**ADJOURN** – A motion was made by Dr. Jessee and was seconded by Dr. Billig, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Vernita Dore, Secretary**