

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

MINUTES – February 26, 2025

BY ZOOM: Richardson LaBruce, Alex Dorobantu, Anna Tabernik, Allison Coppage, Lynsey Rini, Courtney Smith

PRESENT: Bill Himmelsbach (chair), Vernita Dore, Tommy Harmon, Eric Billig, MD, Jane Kokinakis, DO, Carolyn Banner, PhD., William Jessee, MD, Alice Howard, Russell Baxley, Kurt Gambla, D.O., Karen Carroll, Shawna Doran, Chris Ketchie, Ken Miller, Dee Robinson, Kim Yawn, and Victoria Tinsley

Absent: Doug Folzenlogen, MD

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

MOTION: A motion was made Mr. Harmon 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 Dr. Jessee to re-commence into Public/Open Session at 8:47 a.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Banner and unanimously approved.

Mr. Himmelsbach provided the mission statement.

Karen Carroll provided a patient story.

CONSENT AGENDA – Approval of Minutes for January 29, 2025 Approval of Committee Reports, Patient Flow and Staff Reports – Dr. Kokinakis made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Billig to adopt the agenda and reports as presented. Unanimous approval/no opposition.

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

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

Lopinto-Khoury, Carla, MD, Requesting Appointment: Telemedicine; Department of Medicine; Remote Neuromonitoring; Specialty Care Group; Perumal, Shankar, MD, Requesting Appointment: Telemedicine; Department of Medicine; Remote Neuromonitoring; Specialty Care Group; Rawls, Benjamin, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active/Locums; Department of Medicine; Hospitalist; BMH Hospitalist; Tonry, David, CRNA, BSN, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Anesthesia; Anesthesiology; Low Country Anesthesia; Wise, Marshall, DO, BS, Requesting Appointment: Active/Locums; Department of Emergency Medicine; Emergency Medicine; BMH Emergency Medicine; Jackson, John, MD, Requesting Appointment: Consulting; Department of Radiology; Virtual Radiology; vRad; Aquisto,

Thomas, MD, Requesting Appointment: Consulting; Department of Radiology; Virtual Radiology; vRad; Verma, Adarsh, MD, Requesting Appointment: Consulting; Department of Radiology; Virtual Radiology; vRad; Kotarska, Maria, MD, Requesting Appointment: Consulting; Department of Radiology; Virtual Radiology; vRad; Fuller, Daniel, MD, Requesting Appointment: Consulting; Department of Radiology; Virtual Radiology; vRad

Reappointment:

Donovan, Mary, NP, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Ambulatory Primary Care; Primary Care; Beaufort Memorial Primary Care; Evans, Melissa, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Telemedicine; Department of Pediatrics; Pediatric Critical Care; MUSC Telemedicine Affiliation; Gault, Annemarie, NP, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Ambulatory Primary Care; Sickie Cell; Beaufort Memorial Sickie Cell Clinic; Grewal, Parnett, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Telemedicine; Department of Medicine; Tele-Stroke; MUSC Telemedicine Affiliation; Haro, Tyah, NP, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Medicine; Hospitalist; Beaufort Memorial Hospitalist; Keisler, Nikki, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Community Active; Department of Ambulatory Primary Care; Category Family Medicine; BMH Palmetto Medical Group; Ligon, Mary Catherine, PA, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Emergency Medicine; Emergency Medicine; BMH Emergency Medicine; Mack, Elizabeth, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Telemedicine; Department of Pediatrics; Tele-Pediatrics; MUSC Telemedicine Affiliation; Maurer, David MD, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Surgery; Otolaryngology; Charleston ENT; Muttal, Saraswati, MD, Requesting Appointment: Telemedicine; Department of Medicine; Remote Neuromonitoring; Specialty Care Group; Soriano, Jason, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Telemedicine; Department of Medicine; Remote Neuromonitoring; Specialty Care Group; Webb, Sally, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Telemedicine; Department of Pediatrics; Tele-Pediatrics; MUSC Telemedicine Affiliation

Requesting Modifications to Privileges

Resignations:

Sentman, Rebecca, MD, Nephrology, Resignation Letter, Bernstein, Eric, MD, Nephrology, Resignation Letter, Bazemore, James, MD, Nephrology, Resignation Letter, Fon-Ndikum, Jane, MD, Hospitalist, Resignation Letter, Weltz, Martin, MD, Oncology, Resignation Letter, Khomani, Abderrahim, MD, Hematology Oncology, Resignation Letter, Robinson Taylor, NP, Cardiology, Resignation Letter, Schaefer, Paul, PAC, Orthopedics, Resignation Letter, Blau, Sarah, PAC, Orthopedics, Resignation Letter, Wright, Jarrod, MD, Emergency Medicine, Resignation Letter, Wallace, Rhonda, MD, Family Medicine, Resignation Letter, Phillips, David, MD, Emergency Medicine, Resignation Letter, Cullen, Kevin, DO, Hospitalist, Reflex Resignation, Chase, Stacey, PAC, Emergency Medicine, Reflex Resignation, Martin, Devin, PAC, Emergency Medicine, Reflex Resignation, Osean, Justin, NP, Emergency Medicine, Reflex Resignation, Bradford, Timothy, DO, Hospitalist, Reflex Resignation, Robinson, Cindy, PAC, Emergency Medicine, Reflex Resignation, Gwynn, Eric, MD, Urology, Reflex Resignation

MOTION: After review and the recommendation by MEC and then QIC, Ms. Dore made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. LaBruce to accept the Credentials Committee recommendations as presented. Unanimous approval.

COMMITTEE CHAIR ISSUE IDENTIFICATION:

Finance Committee: Mr. Harmon noted cash collections are behind budget due to closures in January with the ice storm. The team expects cash to level back out by March. No further comments on Finance.

Quality Improvement Committee: Dr. Billig reported 100% compliance with joint commission tracers. Continuing sustained compliance reviews addressing the issues identified by the Joint Commission. BMH has received the Gold award for Stroke Care in 2025. HCAHPS are trailing slightly, the hospital has switched to electronic surveys which the team thinks will help improve the completion rate for a survey compared to a mailed paper survey. No further comments on the quality committee.

Governance Committee: Mr. LaBruce noted the meeting has been rescheduled to March 13th. Discussion items include new trustees and ongoing evaluations.

Compliance Committee: Meeting next month.

Legislative and Community Outreach Committee: Dr. Banner gave a brief update on certain legislative issues affecting healthcare. The committee is tracking closely with the SCHA and AHA. Dr. Banner inquired with the board if they feel it is appropriate to draft a letter detailing the impact these bills would have on Beaufort Memorial and hospitals. Mr. Baxley added detail on to specific bills, one being s46, the banning of non-competes and the corporate practice of medicine. He advised this would be problematic for the BMH, as physicians are currently under an employed model. The non-competes are a bit less of a concern, although would have a negative impact on hospitals that support start up costs for physicians and limit net new physicians coming to the market. Senator Davis is sponsoring this bill, and Mr. Baxley has been in touch as he is a local senator in Beaufort County. Discussion ensued, Ms. Dore commented BMH must make the hospital's opinion known. Mr. Baxley will continue to work with legislators on this issue. The board agreed on the path forward with updates to come. Lastly, the surgical tech bill requiring a certification in the state of South Carolina is under review, and a bill for itemized billing, which the hospital is following closely.

BMH FOUNDATION: Mr. Dorobantu noted the foundation fundraising goal is 57% ahead of prior year. There have been multiple grants received that have helped with the goal this year. The vision campaign continues to be underway.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Ms. Robinson highlighted the orthopedic marketing strategy in her report. Mr. Himmelsbach inquired about adding ASCs to the survey in addition to hospitals. No further questions.

MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Workforce Development: Mr. Baxley shared BMH is working with TCL to work on being an adjunct site for surg tech education. The dual enrollment program with the BC School District is underway and going well.

Construction Update: The Crisis Stabilization Unit construction is underway. Mr. Baxley reminded the board we received \$1.6M from the State in grant dollars for the project and BMH will cover the remaining \$200,000 for the project. Mr. Baxley touched on workplace violence and noted that BMH is vigilant in addressing this and has purchased a weapons detection system for the ER that will be installed by this summer. OR renovation continues to progress. Angio suite will also kick off construction in February along with a mobile unit for the temporary suite in front of the hospital during construction.

The growth and balanced scorecards are available for review in the board packet.

DISCUSSION OR SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Articles of interest were included in the board packet for review.

ADJOURN – A motion was made by Ms. Dore and was seconded by Dr. Jessee, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernita Dore, Secretary