

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

**MINUTES – April 30, 2025**

**BY ZOOM:** Richardson LaBruce, Alex Dorobantu, Allison Coppage, Ken Miller, Lynsey Rini, Courtney Smith

**PRESENT:** Bill Himmelsbach (chair), Vernita Dore, Tommy Harmon, Eric Billig, MD, William Jessee, MD, Alice Howard, Anna Tabernik, Doug Folzenlogen, MD, Russell Baxley, Kurt Gambla, D.O., Karen Carroll, Dee Robinson, Shawna Doran, Chris Ketchie, Kim Yawn, and Victoria Tinsley

Absent: Jane Kokinakis, DO, Carolyn Banner, PhD.

**Public/Open Session CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Himmelsbach called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 Personnel matters, Medical Staff recruitment and contracting, strategic matters related to facility expansion and contractual arrangements with related partners. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jessee and unanimously approved.

**Public/Open Session MOTION:** A motion was made by Mr. LaBruce to re-commence into Public/Open Session at 9:17 a.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dore and unanimously approved.

Mr. Himmelsbach provided the mission statement.

Karen Carroll provided a patient story.

**CONSENT AGENDA – Approval of Minutes for March 26, 2025. Approval of Committee Reports, Patient Flow and Staff Reports** – Mr. Harmon 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:

Chisolm-Page, Tammy, NP, Requesting Appointment: APP; Department of Ambulatory Care; Family Medicine; BPP Bluffton/Okatie Express Care Diemont, Angela, APRN, Requesting Appointment: APP; Department of Medicine; Palliative Care; BMH Palliative Care Program; Huffman, Samantha, NP, Requesting Appointment: APP; Department of Emergency Medicine; Emergency Medicine; BMH Emergency Medicine; Knapp, Edson, MD, Requesting Appointment: Consulting; Department of Radiology; Virtual Radiology; vRad; Ofir, Erez, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active; Department of Anesthesia; Anesthesiology; Low Country Anesthesia; Olsen, Angela, NP, Requesting Appointment: APP, Department of Ambulatory Care, Family Medicine, BPP Bluffton/Okatie Express Care, Prendergast, Suzette, NP,

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Requesting Appointment: APP; Department of Ambulatory Care; Family Medicine; BPP Bluffton/Okatie Express Care; Requesting Appointment: APP/Locum; Department of Medicine; Hospitalist; BMH Hospitalist Group; Rishel, Megan, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active/Locums; Department of Emergency Medicine; Emergency Medicine; BMH Emergency Medicine; Thomas, Matthew, MD, Requesting Appointment: Active/Locums; Department of Emergency Medicine; Emergency Medicine; BMH Emergency Medicine;

Reappointment:

Benton, Margaret E., NP, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Medicine; Psychiatry; Sea Island Psychiatry; Caglayan, Emre W., PA-C, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Orthopedics/Surgery; Orthopedics; BOSS Orthopedic Spine Specialists; Crisologo, John M., MD, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Medicine; Gastroenterology; BMH Low Country Medical Group Specialty Care; Dukes, Devin, PA-C, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Orthopedics/Surgery; Orthopedics; BOSS Orthopedic Spine Specialists; Hall, Katherine R., NP, MSN, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Ambulatory Primary Care; Primary Care; BMH Primary Care; Keen, Christopher, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Active/Locum; Department of Medicine; Pulmonary Critical Care; BMH Pulmonary Specialists; Knapp, Carri A., FNP-C, Requesting Reappointment: APP; Department of Ambulatory Primary Care; Primary Care; BMH Express Care & Occupational Health; Meehan, Patrick P., MD, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Medicine; Internal Medicine; BMH Hospitalist; Robinson, Ronald P., MD, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Radiology; Radiology; Beaufort Medical Imaging; Rudman, Larri N., MD, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Medicine; Internal Medicine; BMH Hospitalist; Simmons, George H., MD, Requesting Reappointment: Active; Department of Anesthesia; Anesthesiology; Low Country Anesthesia; Chiowanich, Peerapod, MD, Requesting Reappointment: Consulting; Department of Radiology; Virtual Radiology; vRad; Zahra, Khalil W., MD, Requesting Reappointment: Consulting; Department of Radiology; Virtual Radiology; vRad;

Requesting Modifications to Privileges

Fontana, John, MD,  
Department of Obstetrics,  
Honorary Recognition, 3/24/25

Resignations:

Fox, Rachel, APRN, Emergency Department; Reflex Resignation; Chahin, Majd, MD, Department of Medicine; Reflex Resignation; Garner, John PAC, Department of Ambulatory Primary Care; Letter of Resignation, 3/22/25; Haiyede-Shittu, Tayo, PAC, Emergency Department; Reflex Resignation; Miller, Natalie, PAC, Emergency Department; Non-Renewal; Pruitt, Megan, FNP, Emergency Department; Reflex Resignation;

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

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

- Autopsy, MS.02
- Emergency Department Communication with Medical Staff, MS.27
- EMTALA Medical Screening Examination (MSE), MS. 55
- EMTALA Transfers, MS. 56
- Health Status Statements MS 08

Dr. Billig noted the policies are approved through multiple sources before presented to the Board for approval to include: Medical Staff, Medical Executive Committee, Quality Improvement Committee to the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Billig made the Motion, which was seconded by Mr. LaBruce. Unanimous approval.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR ISSUE IDENTIFICATION:**

Finance Committee: Mr. Harmon noted March was a good recovery month financially with a strong profit. He noted this was Ken Miller's last meeting as CFO at BMH. Mr. Baxley provided a brief update on the CFO search.

Quality Improvement Committee: Dr. Billig noted there were a few two visits from the Joint Commission regarding sustained compliance and Department of Public Health regarding a complaint. Total joint report overall volumes have somewhat decreased due to two orthopedic surgeons leaving. Quality scores remained good. Quality scorecard had one metric below goal for PCI time to treatment. Stroke scorecard is slightly below goal, working on educating some of the locums providers. Falls and pressure ulcer rate are not quite at goal. A weapons detection system has been installed in the ER as part of the workplace violence initiative.

Governance Committee: Mr. LaBruce noted there is still one vacancy on the board. There will be more interviews scheduled before the next Governance committee meeting to pass along names to the board for review.

Compliance Committee: Dr. Jessee reported no concerns from the compliance committee.

Legislative and Community Outreach Committee: No updates to report.

**CMO REPORT:** Dr. Gambla noted there has been a lot of effort focused on Hospitalist/ER recruitment. Medical Staff services has been leveraging MD staff, a tool to assist with credentialing. Dr. Gambla has been working with MUSC regarding the transfer of patients for tertiary care to reset that process. Pharmacy has been looking for opportunities to maximize reimbursement with the loss of 340B. Palliative care has recruited a Board Certified palliative care Physician through Hospice Care of the Lowcountry. MAT and Access Health will be joining practices to assist with clinic support on both sides. Dr. Bergmann has almost fully transitioned to overseeing the sickle cell clinic. Bird flu is being monitored..

**PATIENT CARE SERVICES REPORT:** The nursing team had a Becton Dickerson conduct a vascular access management assessment to assess the practice around the use of BD catheters and to provide improvement opportunities surrounding IV catheter utilization. The virtual

nursing program implementation kicked off, this will be a 8–10-week implementation. The virtual nurse will begin by assisting with admissions and discharges. The Ivenix IV pumps go-live was April 8<sup>th</sup> and a smooth implementation. The pumps are fully functional throughout the hospital. Continue to have good luck with Canadian and Filipino nurse recruitment. There is a current increase in the number of RN applicants, although they are specialty specific outside of Med-Surg, which is why the Canadian/Filipino nurse recruitment is helpful filling those gaps.

**BEAUFORT PHYSICIAN PARTNERS:** Mr. Ketchie provided a strategic update for BPP. Online scheduling will go live next month. There has been an uptick in clinical support roles through partnerships like PATH and the school district and TCL. The whole group outside of Orthopedics is on board with the appointment accelerator through Phreesia. This helps bump up appointments when there is an opening. Multiple mid-level providers have started.

**BMH FOUNDATION:** Mr. Dorobantu shared the Foundation fundraising goal year to date is just over \$2.7M. There has been a mental health pledge for \$50k, to support the Crisis Stabilization Unit. The endowment payout to BMH is just over \$900k and the foundation board will be voting on this next meeting. Mr. Dorobantu shared efforts by the team in acquiring new donors with some unique strategies. The foundation shared the Honored Caregiver video with the board.

#### **MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

**Workforce Development:** Mr. Baxley shared the School District program is going well and will hire 5 CMAs/PCTs out of this program. Continue to work with TCL on a surgical tech program and adding a simulation lab to the education center in the BMAC. Mr. Baxley noted the hospital is working closely with SCHA and SC Legislators on certification of surgical techs.

**Construction Update:** The Crisis Stabilization Unit construction is underway and halfway through the first phase. Nearing completion of phase 2 of the OR project, upon completion there will be 1.5 new ORs (the .5 is upgrading an existing Cysto room to an OR/Cysto).

**Affordable Housing Update:** Working with the town of Bluffton to transfer the development rights for the Residential Development Units (RDUs) and working on a development agreement as well as reviewing the site plan with the Town. If all things hold true, groundbreaking would be in the December timeframe.

Mr. Baxley provided an update on a potential project to provide workforce housing in way of home ownership in partnership with Clayton Homes. These would be modular homes on land that BMH acquires. The potential plan has 20 planned units. This project is in the early phases and working through other partnerships such as the Housing Trust Fund and Community Foundation of the Lowcountry.

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

**DISCUSSION OR SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

**ADJOURN** – A motion was made by Ms. Dore and was seconded by Dr. Jessee, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Vernita Dore, Secretary**