



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 4:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ron Mischke, Jenifer Shassetz, Gene Davis, Tobie Alsup, Kevin Kessner, Richard Garber, and Shirley Coulter

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mike McCafferty, Dr. Gonda, Nathan Stutte, Joe Wright, Cody Sinclair, Nyle Morgan, Dr. Gross, Brendon Kerns, Amy Ligocki, Tom Ringley (County Commissioner), Tenille Straley, Paula Stevenson (guest of Joe Wright), Megan Ripley, Sharon Krueger, Sean Bonnet, Brittany Goodvin, Brent Maurhoff, Kelly Lieb, Ann Aksamit, Tommi Ritterbusch, Payton Gambill, Kristen Czaban, Alaina Bergstrom, Bryan Opitz, Liz Dearcorn, Korissa Duff, Jasmine Slater, Colleen Miller, Tonya Carlson, Dawn Morgan, Rob Forister, Jenny Teel, Ada Kirven, Brady Shoemaker, Jen Gaona, Erin Oetken, Dr. Steven Beverly, Dr. Ryan Villegas, and Kevin Koile with Sheridan Media

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Ron Mischke, Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS, INTRODUCTIONS**

Amy Ligocki introduces Dr. Steven Beverly, an OB/GYN that has joined the Women's Clinic. Dr. Beverly states that he has practiced in Louisiana, Kentucky, and most recently Utah as a hospitalist and in private practice, while serving in multiple leadership roles. Sheridan presented a unique opportunity for him, and a medical staff and community such as ours is hard to find. Mike McCafferty welcomes Dr. Beverly noting that he is a great fit for our community and we are lucky to have an experienced clinician join our team. SMH now offers five OB/GYNs to take care of our patients, where across the country, OB services are shutting down; most recently in Evanston, WY. Dr. Beverly notes that a lot of communities have trouble recruiting and employed physicians help stabilize the care offered with the physician being a part of the community.

Amy also introduces Dr. Ryan Villegas, who joined the hospitalist team in October. Dr. Villegas has ten years of experience and states that it is a pleasure to be at SMH. Dr. Villegas notes that there is genuine happiness to be working at SMH when interacting with staff in other departments. He finds the department to be well staffed, providing excellent coverage and overall a great place to work. He has felt supported since arriving and is happy to be here.

Mike McCafferty introduces Tenille Straley as the new compliance officer. Tenille was raised in Sheridan, having previously worked at First Federal as their compliance officer for ten years. Tenille states SMH is an amazing organization and she is looking forward to this partnership and working with the compliance program.

Ron Mischke congratulates the administration team on their recruitment and engagement of staff.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Kevin Kessner moved to approve the agenda as presented. Tobie Alsup seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Shirley Coulter moved to approve the minutes of the board meeting held on November 20, 2024 as presented. Gene Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Tommi Ritterbusch, Director of Continuous Improvement presents a recap the committee reviewed of the

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Homecare and Hospice annual summary, door to balloon time, blood audits and transfusions, restraints and seclusion, code blue/rapid response, flu and COVID immunization rates, workplace violence, staffing issues and nursing fatigue, FMEA, safety events and star rating education. There are no negative trends or areas of concern noted.

**PATIENT EXPERIENCE REPORT**

Kelly Lieb, Director of Patient Experience reports that the committee reviewed patient safety structural measures, the newly established patient family advisory council (PFAC) and NRC alert management/RL feedback data. The PFAC is a new safety measure with 5 domains, which SMH can attest to patient and family engagement. The PFAC is a formal group that will meet regularly for active collaboration on policy and program decisions.

**MEDICAL STAFF REPORT**

It is noted that this is Dr. Gonda’s final board meeting as Chief of Staff. Dr. Ratterman has been elected Chief of Staff effective January 2025 and will be attending board meetings effective then. Dr. Gonda reflects on his time over the last ten years, stating that he is really happy to have come back to Sheridan and working at the hospital. He appreciates all that the board does for the betterment of the hospital, and allowing him to do his work.

Amy Ligocki thanks Dr. Gonda for his efforts and time as COS and is excited for Dr. Ratterman to start in this leadership role. Amy provided to the board an outline of the committee assignments of the medical staff for 2025 which shows the dedication and leadership of the hospital’s medical staff in these volunteer positions. The board can expect an invitation to the Sheridan County Medical Society fundraising event on February 15 at Sheridan College. There will be a silent auction and live music to enjoy as well.

After review and discussion in Executive Session, Dr. Gonda, on behalf of the Medical Executive Committee and Credentials Committee recommends the following Medical Staff Initial Appointment and Medical Staff Renewals for consideration and approval.

**MEDICAL STAFF INITIAL APPOINTMENTS (ACTION)**

Name	Category	Specialty	Renewal Date	Affiliated Organization
Emma Dunn, PA-C	Advanced Practice Clinician - Physician Assistant	Hospitalist		Sheridan Memorial Hospital

**MEDICAL STAFF RENEWALS (ACTION)**

Name	Category	Specialty	Renewal Date	Affiliated Organization
Joseph Garcia, MD	Active Staff w Priv - May Admit	Cardiology	12/28/2024	SMH Heart Center
Abigail Holzwarth, NP	Advanced Practice Clinician - Nurse Practitioner	Nephrology	12/21/2024	Billings Clinic Nephrology
Tracy Jons, PA-C	Advanced Practice Clinician Physician Assistant	Women's Health / OBGYN	1/02/2025	SMH Women's Clinic
Aleksandra Kwasnik, MD	Telemedicine/Delegated (No Membership)	Critical Care	12/22/2024	Billings Clinic Pulmonary
Irene Lohkamp, MD	Telemedicine/Delegated (No Membership)	Internal Medicine	12/22/2024	Billings Clinic

Breanne Terakedis, MD	Active Staff w Priv - May Admit	Radiology	12/30/2024	Weich Cancer Center
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Kevin Kessner moved to approve the initial appointment and renewals as presented. Shirley Coulter seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

SameDay Health & Imaging – Sean Bonnet and Bryan Opitz are asked to provide an overview of the clinic operations. Sean states that the clinic opened at its current location at 1470 Sugarland Drive on December 3, and it continues to see more patients as the community learns about this location and option for services. Dr. Nickerson and Dr. Prior have great ideas and engagement with the team. Bryan reports that lab and radiology services are offered seven days a week, and patients can have a mammography screening on the south side of town; the new equipment has some artificial intelligence features. The dexa will be operational soon. There is a great collaboration of teams in place for our patients. Angie Erickson is the clinic manager and Caty Clabaugh is the supervisor and both have done impressive work at this location. We would like to see more blood draws done at this location to relieve the bottle neck at the hospital outpatient lab.

Northeast Wyoming Pediatric Associates – Mike states that the NEWPA physicians and staff will join the hospital team effective December 22, 2024. The pediatric service line is important to the community, so kids in the community with acute illnesses can be seen by a pediatrician. The collaboration with the OB/GYN and pediatricians on the delivery of babies is important and there is a strong group in place. Recruitment to pediatrics is challenging without having the right model in place to attract physicians into a community, and there is need to grow the capacity in caring for kids. NEWPA will partner with our family medicine physicians to grow access and availability in the outpatient arena. Family medicine will work with the pediatricians to care for entire families. NEWPA will continue to be in the same location where they run a great business; the hospital is excited to support them and the work that they do.

Big Horn Anesthesia Associates – the anesthesiology group has been invited to join as hospital employees, effective January 6, 2025. This allows an opportunity to increase capacity of services in support of growth in surgical services with ortho spine, and offering the platform for recruitment. And provide the group a level of steadiness in their business.

Lease | FF&E | Capital (Action) – there is a memo going out this afternoon, informing everyone that we will be bringing Sheridan Ortho physicians and staff into the hospital as employees, effective December 22, 2024. This will provide SMH the ability to work with them in recruitment endeavors, meeting the needs of the community and growing the practice to remain competitive in the community/region. The building Sheridan Ortho currently operates out of is owned by Sheridan Ortho and SMH will lease it from them. Within the lease, we will carve out the percentage occupied by Sheridan Ortho. SMH will purchase the equipment and furniture they have that will be used in order to operate the business. Mike is presenting a capital request in the amount of \$111,800 for FF&E (furniture, fixtures and equipment). This is an appraised value provide by Healthcare Appraisers. Gene Davis moved to approve the capital request in the amount of \$111,800 for the purchase of FF&E from Sheridan Ortho. Jen Shassetz seconded the motion. Motion carries.

### **FINANCE**

Financial Statements – Nathan Stutte, CFO reviews the November results with the board. There is a steep decline in patient activity across the organization and there is an inconsistent payer mix. This is odd as the decline is across the entire health system. There was some growth in rheumatology and ENT. In looking at December results, there is a rebound and robust growth at the WCC. The payer mix returned in December and results are better than a year ago.

### **FOUNDATION REPORT**

Richard Garber foundation board liaison states that the projected amount of \$15 million for the behavioral health project is now short, as the final figures are \$3 million dollars higher. The Foundation has accepted the hospital's request to help with \$2 million of the shortage, paying \$800K now.

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The Foundation has assisted with Quiet Kits to improve the patient experience with in the hospital, due to the noise from numerous construction projects. The foundation financed \$16K to this initiative.

Cody Sinclair stated that the Gratitude Report went out to thank our donors and give an overview of where we are headed next year. The Foundation hosted the Partner Breakfast where the foundation board served our employee partners and the partners voted on where the funds were to go. The Behavioral Health project was the top pick and \$50K will be going to support the project.

Ron Mischke states the work and commitment of the Foundation is a testament to the organization. Appreciation is extended to the Foundation for their continued work and support.

### **BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Rob Forister, Director of Facility Services states the emergency department reception and triage project will have a final inspection tomorrow; with a move in date to be the last week of December/first part of January. The pediatric phase of the EmPATH project is slightly delayed with a new projected opening in March. The construction documents for the actual EmPATH portion have been received and we are expecting numbers from the contractor soon. The Welch Cancer Center LINAC project had a budget of \$350K. The final number came in under budget at \$245K. A big thanks to a great team and Jordan Lentz's leadership for another project that was finished on time and under budget.

Mike asked Joe Wright, Payton Gambill and Nathan Stutte to come forward and thanked them for the work done relevant to the EmPATH funding. Joe states that the State has not added any additional personnel to manage the ARPA grants and administer the SLIB funds. At one point SMH were seven invoices deep with non-payment totalling \$1.8 million. Work has been done with Nathan and facilities to streamline our process with the State, and Payton has taken the lead to follow up on outstanding payments. SMH should be receiving funds totaling \$1.1 million next week. There was \$276,900 that the State indicated had already been paid. With Payton's diligence it was determined to have not been paid and will be forthcoming. There is now one outstanding invoice. This has a huge impact on the hospital's cash position in paying for the EmPATH project. Work with the County is going well and Nathan is working with them on a payment schedule for their portion towards the project.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

County Commissioner, Tom Ringley is recognized for his longtime commitment to the hospital and his service as a county commissioner. He is unsure of who will be taking his place in 2025, but he has made a recommendation to the commissioners. Tom was the SMH Foundation Executive Director for eight years and has served sixteen years as a county commissioner.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ron Mischke moved into Executive Session at 4:47 p.m.

General session reconvened at 4:55 p.m. to address medical staff credentialing. Please see above under the Medical Staff Report for action taken.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further matters to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Patty Forister, Recorder

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Kevin Kessner, Secretary