

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE MOREHOUSE PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1, D/B/A MOREHOUSE GENERAL HOSPITAL, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR SESSION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020.**

The Board of Commissioners of Morehouse Parish Hospital Service District No. 1, d/b/a Morehouse General Hospital, State of Louisiana, met in regular session for a meeting at its usual meeting place, the W. A. Rodgers Conference Room of Morehouse General Hospital, Bastrop, Louisiana, on Thursday, April 30, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., pursuant to written notice duly given and posted in the manner required by law.

As a result of the COVID-19 Emergency, the limitation on gathering of more than 10 (ten) persons and social distancing seating arrangement was observed. In accordance with Proclamation 41 JBE 2020, the public was notified to observe the meeting via teleconference as follows:

Public URL [https://mghnet-us.3cx.net/join/6rS4Vc41EDi3p\\_JCKG9Hsbqi](https://mghnet-us.3cx.net/join/6rS4Vc41EDi3p_JCKG9Hsbqi)

Present: Bob Green, Chairman of Commissioners and Commissioners, Nicolette Releford, John Yeldell, Susan Plonnigs, and Betty Alford-Olive.

Also present: Derrick Frazier, Chief Executive Officer; Tom Ramsey, Chief Financial Officer; and Linda Taylor, Executive Assistant and Recorder.

Absent: Ricky Smith, Legal Counsel

Present via teleconference: Dr. Curtis Sanders, Chief of Medical Staff; and Autumn Fulmer, Assistant Chief Nursing Officer.

Guests via teleconference: Wes Shafto, Bond Attorney; Craig Sims, CHC SVP Hospital Operations; Jason Bonner, MGH Accounting Director and Dorothy Thomas, Morehouse Parish Police Jury.

**Call to Order**

The Board of Commissioners of Morehouse Parish Hospital Service District No. 1, State of Louisiana, was duly convened as the governing authority by the Chairman, Bob Green.

**Invocation & Welcome**

The invocation was given by Mr. Ramsey.

**Roll Call:**

The roll call was held with four members present which met requirements for quorum as follows:

Present: Green, Yeldell, Plonnigs and Olive.

Absent: Releford.

## **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

## **OPEN SESSION:**

### **Amend the Agenda to add Physician Compensation:**

Mr. Frazier requested to amend the agenda to add Physician Compensation and discussion during the Administrative Report.

On a motion made by Ms. Plonnigs and seconded by Mr. Yeldell, the Board voted to approve amending the agenda to add Physician Compensation for discussion and approval. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Green, Yeldell, Plonnigs and Olive.

Nays: None.

Absent: Releford.

### **Approval of Minutes from last meetings, March 26, 2020 and Special Called on April 10, 2020**

On a motion made by Ms. Plonnigs and seconded by Ms. Olive, the Board voted to approve the minutes for the meetings held on Thursday, March 26, 2020 and the Special Called meeting held on Friday, April 10, 2020. The motion passed by voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Green, Yeldell, Plonnigs and Olive.

Nays: None.

Absent: Releford.

### **Medical Staff Report and Approval of Action Requests**

Dr. Sanders who was available via teleconference, stated the Bylaws/Credentials/ Medical Executive Committee (Bylaws/Cred/MEC) recommends approval of the action requests listing Initial Appointments and Reappointments for privileges as provided.

#### **Initial Appointments and Reappointments**

On a motion made by Mr. Yeldell and seconded by Ms. Plonnigs, the Board voted to approve the action requests for the Initial Appointments and Reappointments for privileges as requested and presented. The motion passed by voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Green, Yeldell, Plonnigs and Olive.

Nays: None.

Absent: Releford.

### **Nursing Clinical Report**

Ms. Fulmer who was available via teleconference, provided an update report on the COVID-19

Emergency. We have testing inside the hospital and drive up to the front entrance of the hospital. There were 80 tests performed in the hospital with 9 positive results. There were 98 tests performed in the drive through with 7 positive results.

Ms. Fulmer discussed the changes received from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CSM) regarding the COVID-19 testing which no longer requires a physician order. The governor wants the state to test residents so in Region 8 for Morehouse Parish, they are deploying mobile test sites. This allows residents to schedule for drive through testing. The hospital is providing this service and working to determine how to manage by increasing the schedule, the availability of tests, documenting and ramping up to provide services to the community.

Ms. Fulmer reported the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) counts for gloves, N95 masks, isolation masks, isolation gowns, and face shields on hand. The staff are being provided the PPE required to perform their tasks. Some of the gowns are reusable which reduces costs. There are tie-back gowns used for nurses and other staff as needed along with social distancing. For the Obstetrics (OB) patients, Dr. Sanders' procedure includes testing patients prior to surgery and quarantine or isolation if needed.

Ms. Fulmer stated the nursing staff know the proper PPE used for low risk, medium risk, and high risk when working. There were 7 staff with possible exposure, and all were tested with negative test results. We are routing employees through one door entry for screening prior to entering the building at the main canopy entrance. The clinics will screen employees at each clinic location.

Ms. Fulmer responded to questions of there being positive cases in Morehouse Parish and deaths. There have been no deaths reported at the hospital and if the public has a positive test in another parish and resides in Morehouse Parish that is where the test results and deaths are reported. The contact tracing will go through the Office of Public Health and patients maybe asked who they have contact with at home and other.

Ms. Releford arrived at the meeting at 6:51 pm.

There was further questions and discussion on all the staff wearing masks to keep from spreading the virus, contact with patients, and patients are sent home to self-quarantine. The staff are educating the public on not exposing others. Most test results are received within 48 to 72 hours. The hospital has ample supplies for now. The elective surgeries are now being scheduled and working with staff on PPE to control supplies and there are supplies on order that have not been received yet.

Mr. Fulmer reported that spray disinfectant was sent by Region 8 Emergency Response and appreciated. The community has been making cloth masks and providing donations which are accepted by Nursing Administration for laundry and monitoring supplies prior to use. The cloth masks and

bandana can be worn by those staff who are not in or around patient care areas.

## **Finance Committee Report – Tom Ramsey, Chief Financial Officer**

### **Financial Report – March 2020**

The Finance Committee meeting was held via video conference due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Mr. Ramsey stated the Finance Report for March 2020 was presented on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 and recommended for approval.

### **Approval of Financial Reports:**

On a motion made by Ms. Olive and seconded by Ms. Releford, the Board voted to approve the Financial Statement Report for March 2020 as presented and reviewed. The motion passed by voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Green, Releford, Yeldell, Plonnigs and Olive.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

### **Quality Assurance Review of Contract Evaluations**

There were no contract evaluations for review.

### **Approval of Contracts**

There were no contracts for approval.

### **Discussion and Approval of Ad Valorem Tax Renewal Election:**

Mr. Ramsey stated the purpose of the Ad Valorem Tax Renewal Election discussion and approval was for giving the public the proper notice of the hospital's intent to place the tax renewal on the ballot. This public notice was provided in advance for review.

Mr. Green read aloud the Public Notice of its Intent to Call for the Election and for its publication in the local newspaper as required:

#### **NOTICE OF INTENT TO CALL ELECTION**

“Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19.1 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, that the Board of Commissioners, acting as the governing authority (the “Governing Authority”), of the Morehouse Parish Hospital Service District No. 1, State of Louisiana (the “District”) at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 28, 2020, in the W.A. Rodgers Conference Room at Morehouse General Hospital, 323 West Walnut Ave, Bastrop, Louisiana, at 6:30 p.m., will discuss and consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to authorize the renewal or continuation of an existing ad valorem tax on all property subject to taxation within the District for the purpose of operating and maintaining hospital facilities within the District, upon approval by the qualified voters

therein, and if passed, for such tax to be levied thereafter.”

Mr. Ramsey discussed that the next steps will be to discuss and consider adopting a resolution taking the action of calling an election at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the governing authority scheduled for May 28, 2020 as stated.

**Approval of LA Hospital Association COVID-19 Grant Funds**

Mr. Frazier requested approval of the LA Hospital Association COVID-19 grant funds of \$6,185.64 (Six Thousand, One Hundred & Eighty-Four) dollars for reimbursement of procuring supplies and equipment in accordance with Centers for Disease Control (CHC) guidelines for this pandemic and to comply with requirements of grant reporting.

On a motion made by Ms. Olive and seconded by Mr. Yeldell, the Board voted to approve the LA Hospital Association COVID-19 grant funds in the amount of \$6,185.64 (Six Thousand, One Hundred & Eighty-Four) dollars and to authorize execution of the subrecipient agreement provided for the purpose of procuring supplies and equipment as outlined. The motion passed by voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Green, Releford, Yeldell, Plonnigs, and Olive.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no report for Old Business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Community Hospital Corporation Report – Craig Sims, SVP Hospital Operation**

Mr. Sims who was available via teleconference, stated the Community Hospital Corporation (CHC) report for April 2020 was provided in the binder. The report includes the updates from consultants working with Human Resources, Clinical & Quality, Finance Update, Revenue Cycle, Revenue Integrity, Managed Care, Information Technology, Supply Chain, and Marketing & Planning Updates.

Mr. Sims reported that the focus to keep employees safe while keeping the hospital operational has been positive. The materials and supply availability has been reported daily and weekly in meetings for the response, recovery and restoring the hospital to be ready for opening services. The financial support for following guidelines and resources has been monitored closely with our staff. The reserve funds from CMS have been provided and will be used only if needed. The CARES Act has provided funds for ongoing operations and will be audited if using more than \$2 Million dollars so the documentation will be critical to reference. We are anticipating a demand for supplies, so we are preparing for Phase 2 of the re-open. He praised and complimented all the staff working in the hospital

and recognized nurses this week. He stated there was a report for Executive Session.

**Review and Approval of CHC Management and Expenses Invoices**

Mr. Green stated the Community Hospital Corporation (CHC) Management Fee for the month of March services in the amount of \$30,000 (Thirty Thousand) dollars billed on invoice #5204 dated April 08, 2020 was received and presented for approval.

On a motion made by Ms. Plonnigs and seconded by Ms. Releford, the Board voted to approve the CHC Management monthly fee of \$30,000 dollars billed on invoice #5204 dated April 08, 2020 as presented. The motion passed by voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Green, Releford, Yeldell, Plonnigs, and Olive.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Mr. Green stated the CHC Expense invoice #5239 dated April 08, 2020 for expenses, rebate, services, and compensation pass thru expenses was provided. These expenses were for the month of March 2020 in the amount of \$17,577.32 (Seventeen Thousand, Five Hundred Seventy-Seven dollars & thirty-two cents) dollars for approval as reviewed by the Finance Committee.

On a motion made by Ms. Olive and seconded by Mr. Yeldell, the Board voted to approve the CHC Expenses on invoice #5239 in the amount of \$17,577.32 dollars billed on April 08, 2020. The motion passed by voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Green, Releford, Yeldell, Plonnigs, and Olive.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

**Administrative Report - Derrick Frazier, Chief Executive Officer**

Mr. Frazier reported that on April 10, 2020, Dr. Hamid Kakavandi, General Surgeon was given a 90-day notice terminating his contract effective July 09, 2020. The timing for a new search was a benefit as there are three (3) applications from general surgeon's searching for relocation during this pandemic. The hospital has a good financial position for candidates and other hospitals are reducing physician staff.

**Physician Compensation**

Mr. Frazier stated the recommendation from the Finance Committee was for approval to pay a fair portion of grant funds to compensate Dr. Raj Bhandari and Dr. James M. Smith based on the CARES funds the hospital received.

On a motion made by Mr. Yeldell and seconded by Ms. Releford, the Board voted to approve the Physician Compensation to Dr. Raj Bhandari and Dr. James M. Smith from the CARES funds the

hospital received. The motion passed by voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Green, Releford, Yeldell, Plonnigs, and Olive.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Mr. Frazier expressed his appreciation for Tom Ramsey, CFO, and the working relationship over the past few years for the success of the hospital. This was Mr. Ramsey's last meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to "LA. R.S. 46:1073":**

**Strategic Plans, Marketing Strategies & Compliance Report - New Business:**

On a motion made by Ms. Plonnigs and seconded by Ms. Releford, the Board voted to go into Executive Session for Strategic Plans and Marketing Strategies. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Green, Releford, Yeldell, Plonnigs and Olive.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:17 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

On a motion made by Ms. Plonnigs and seconded by Mr. Yeldell, the Board voted to return into Open Session. The motion passed by voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Green, Releford, Yeldell, Plonnigs and Olive.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:03 p.m.

**Amend the Agenda to add Management Services**

On a motion made by Ms. Releford and seconded by Ms. Plonnigs, the Board voted to amend the agenda to add Management Services. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Green, Releford, Yeldell, Plonnigs and Olive.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

**Management Services**

There was discussion to continue with Community Hospital Corporation (CHC) for management services and then an option to select new management by Alliant Management Services (Alliant).

On a motion made by Ms. Plonnigs and seconded by Mr. Yeldell, the Board proposed to cast

votes by roll call voting for the management services of future operations. Mr. Green called for a vote from each member. There were four (4) votes for Alliant: Green, Yeldell, Plonnigs, and Olive. There was one (1) vote for CHC: Releford. The motion passed for Alliant Management Services. There were none abstained and none absent.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, there was a motion made by Ms. Plonnigs and seconded by Ms. Releford to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Green, Releford, Yeldell, Plonnigs and Olive.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

The Board meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 8:08 p.m.

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**BOB GREEN, CHAIRMAN**

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**DERRICK FRAZIER, SECRETARY**