Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Emery County Care and Rehabilitation Center Board
December 2, 2015

The Emery County Care and Rehabilitation Center Board met in a regular Board Meeting on December 2, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. at the Emery County Care and Rehabilitation Center located at 455 West Mill Road, Ferron, Utah.

Board Members present:

Ross Huntington, Chairman
Don Childs
Dixie Fish
Lori Ann Larsen
Ethan Migliori

Others Present:

Penney Elliott, DON
Dr. Donaldson
Tony Martin, Traditions CFO
John Brammall, Owner of Traditions Health Care
Jen Boyack, Business Office Manager of Traditions Health Care
Mark Phillips, Integrated Physician Service and Home Care and Hospice Services

Welcome and Prayer

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Penney offered prayer.

Public Input

None.

Approval of October 28, 2015, regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the October 28, 2015, meeting minutes was made by Don and seconded by Dixie. Motion carried unanimously.

Medical Director's Report

Dr. Donaldson reported all is going well. John introduced Mark Phillips from Integrated Hospice Care, who has 26 years of experience with home care and hospice services. He then asked Dr.

Donaldson if he would consider being over the Hospice Program for our Center. Mark educated the Board on the ability of utilizing video conferencing in rural areas by making use of HIPPA-compliant software. This alternative takes advantage of Facetime with the physician, in addition to evaluations and documentation completed by a nurse. Nurses utilized for the video conference would be employed from our area. Dr. Donaldson requested that Integrated Hospice Care visit the clinic to meet the Physician Assistants there. Mark indicated that the nurses will visit the clinic as well as take care of marketing. CNA's and Personal Care Assistants will provide personal care services that require an encounter, such as bathing and dressing. They would also provide assistance by driving patients to appointments and helping with shopping and housekeeping. John will write-up a contract and e-mail it to Dr. Donaldson and Ross requested a packet be e-mailed to all board members.

Consultant's Report

Our patient census is currently at 27, with an anticipated increase of two residents by the end of the year. Our operational profit is $36,000 over budget for the year. Dixie asked about the insurance. Tony indicated that the new policy was submitted today and will increase costs by $15,000 per year. Tony reported that hospitals and nursing homes are being scrutinized regarding readmits and payments to hospitals. As part of that review, CMS is proposing a rule that a physician will be required to visit patients when they are readmitted back to the building. CMS is also proposing a 2% readmission rate holdback from hospitals if there are excessive readmits back to the hospital within 30 days. In an effort to comply with these regulations, we want to partner with hospitals that provide inpatient care to keep patients from readmitting. Tony discussed utilizing care pathways to help improve outcomes with patient admissions.

Tony provided the board with three different scenarios for wage increases for the staff. As part of that proposal, he provided projected labor hours for the coming year. The discussion by the Board included a flat percentage wage increase for higher-wage earners and a flat dollar increase for lower-wage earners. Lori Ann made a motion to increase higher-wage earners wages by 2% and lower-wage earners wages by $1.00/hour. Dixie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Tony went over the proposed budget with the Board members which included the purchase of a vehicle and anticipated Workman's Compensation and marketing expense increases. A motion was made by Ethan to approve the 2016 budget. The motion was seconded by Don and passed unanimously.

Administrator's Report

None. (Administrator was excused from the meeting.)

Director of Nursing's Report

Penny updated the board on Ileen's condition. She also reported that the ice machine up and running. Ross asked about staffing and Penney stated we are still looking for nursing staff.

Commissioner's Report

Ethan followed-up on the discussion held last time in regards to selling beds. He reported that option is idle until after the legislative session.

Chairman's Report

Chairman asked if there were any concerns. He then requested that the payment due to the County be made by the end of December.

Next Board Meeting – January 27, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned