

Minutes

Point Roberts Public Hospital District

March 1, 2018

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Dick Williams, Commissioner

Attending:

Commissioners: Dick Williams, Robin Nault, Kandace Harper
Superintendent: Elaine Komusi
Financial Auditor: Jackie Gibilterra
Recording Secretary: Reneé Coe
Absent:

Introduction of Guests:

Shanon Hardie, Fran Rozyskie, Kristy Steinberger, Vic Riley, Natalie Davidson, Shannon Tomsen (refused to sign the sign-in sheet), Pat Grubb (arrived at 7:30)

Approval of Prior Minutes:

Approval of minutes from previous PR PHD Regular Meeting (Feb. 7, 2018)

Motion: To approve all minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Business:

Financial Report

Jackie Gibilterra presented the financial report. Current month payables \$37,856.47. Payroll is \$1,926.

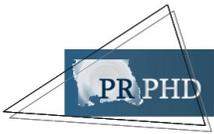
Note the following items:

- Whatcom County Fire District Annual Rent - \$15,224.98 (3% increase)
- Liberty Mutual for Bus. Auto/Commercial - \$1,301
- CNA for Management Liability - \$5,935

Bills presented for approval as follows:

Bills paid after the Feb. 7th meeting:

03/01/18 – UCNW – Contract - \$14,666.67
02/26/18 – Jackie Gibilterra – Professional Services - \$322
02/26/18 - CNA Insurance - \$5,953
02/26/18 - Liberty Mutual Insurance - \$1,301
02/23/18 – Point Roberts Press – Advertising - \$50
03/01/18 – Whidbey Telephone – Telephone - \$33.64
02/16/18 - Whatcom County Fire District - Annual Rent - \$15,224.98
02/28/18 – Whatcom County Fire District – Utility - \$224.73
02/27/18 – Bellingham Business Machine – Office Expense - \$26.79
02/19/18 - Renee Coe - Floor cleaner parts - \$53.66



Payroll as follows:

Renee Coe – Secretary - \$563.20
Heather Dixon – Cleaner - \$00.00 (Cleaner requested time-off)
Elaine Komusi – Superintendent - \$1,020.80
Kandace Harper – Commissioner - \$114
Robin Nault – Commissioner - \$114
Dick Williams – Commissioner - \$114

Motion: To approve warrants and payroll for prior months' expenditures as presented. Motion carried.

Superintendent
Report:

Superintendent Elaine Komusi

The Superintendent read from her prepared statement.

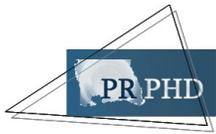
I would like to start tonight's meeting with an announcement that I have decided to tender my resignation with the Hospital District. In April this year, I will have been with the Hospital District for 12 years (2006).

There are 3 major drivers behind my resignation:

- 1. My parents are aging and my dad's recent health issues requires me to be more available to he and my mom in the evenings and weekends**
- 2. My work situation has changed. When I first started with the district, I had a young family and wanted to supplement my part time work in support of the community**
 - a. Over the years since then, my work situation has changed a few times, owning and operating my own business and more recently holding down a very busy and demanding full time role downtown Vancouver**

So with these 2 significant draws on my personal time, something had to go.

- 3. And the thing that needs to go is the situation in my life that creates the least positivity.**
 - a. That hasn't always been the case; I have always enjoyed my role of superintendent**
Having a clinic in Point Roberts that rivals the medical care you can get on the mainland is a huge success and requires ongoing focus to ensure that success long into the future.
As you know, my position is contracted to work 8 hours a week. Recently, my time as Superintendent has been spent more on reacting to situations, defending, following up on useless details, and in time spent strategizing how to minimize the damage created against the Hospital District, the Clinic and Unity Care's reputation by a very few individuals whose sole aim is to undermine the success of clinic



- b. This negative group has and continues to cost our district and the taxpayers money – through time spent on unnecessary and at times repeat public records requests, and costly attorney fees**
- c. These very few people (who create the most negativity, noise and work for us) cost us time, energy and quite frankly take the passion out of serving the community**

I'd like to make the following additional small points:

In a community this close, reputation is everything and these people have done everything they can to create doubt, spread untruths, and spend their time trying to point out the things they consider we are doing wrong.

Two of them sit here at every meeting with their cameras, recording devices, taking notes and trying to intimidate us. Well, you have failed. You do not intimidate us, you embarrass yourselves.

Your relentless pursuit to find negative things about the way we do business has failed. For almost 2 years, you cannot come up with anything other than 'we didn't post notices' even though we are not required to do so. Or, 'we need to put our minutes and agendas on the website' even though we are not required to do so.

It would be great if you took high road and recognized and celebrated all the wonderful things we do and the wonderful care and services this group provides to the community.

I believe that the superintendent's time could be much better spent on projects and tasks to better serve the community, the patients and the clinic staff.

I was going to take the high road myself and not mention any of these things – as a team at this table, we have been careful to stay focused on the positive things we can do and not get bogged down in the negativity of a very few people.

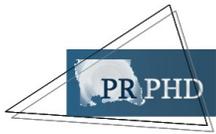
However, I felt it would be remiss not to mention the elephant in the room since it affects us all.

The other elephant that I need to call out is the new CARES program that the fire district is developing here on the Point.

The care that is provided through the CARES program is not meant to replace medical care, but rather to provide emergency response, education and referral services for those who need assistance

- In-home visits**
- Client assessments**
- Contacting and brokering with other Whatcom County agencies**

However, with a Nurse Practitioner assisting the program here on the Point, the



care they provide under this program will exceed the care normally provided in other communities where the CARES program operates.

Even for patients with Health Insurance, they still have deductibles to meet, copays to pay and in some cases have to pay cash for a visit to the Clinic. We can't compete with free.

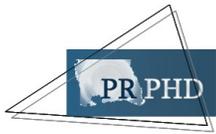
The community needs to be aware that the clinic needs patients to be sustainable long term. **The CARES program is not intended to replace a medical practice with continuity of care which is essential for healthcare.**

While the Clinic and the Hospital District can and should be supportive of this program, it is important for us to communicate to the community that we need their support.

The two elephants that I just mentioned are affecting our ability to continue our great work, take on projects and evaluate additional services on behalf of the Community. We need to call out for the community's support to prove the nay-sayers wrong and to get behind quality medical care which will serve their long term health needs. If we continue to ignore the two elephants, we risk losing the clinic.

After 12 years on the District, I would like to take a moment to celebrate a few great things:

- 1. We as a team have made extremely fiscally responsible decisions and I leave the District with years of balanced budgets which have lead to a healthy reserve fund**
 - a. I have created a number of spreadsheets, graphs, systems and processes that allow us to track and monitor key areas of the business**
 - b. I have worked to create unity between the three groups**
- 2. I feel proud of the highly qualified and caring team of professionals that we have at the clinic – people who truly care for the people of this community**
 - a. These negative individuals have created some very tough & negative conditions that the clinic staff have have had to operate in for almost 2 years now**
 - b. It's created an unhealthy working environment**
 - c. I would like to personally thank the clinic staff for their dedication to this community and for trying to push the negativity aside and be true professionals in their delivery of care**
- 3. I feel proud of the business partnership we have developed with Unity care which allows us to be supported as part of a broader network of expert medical providers and medical teams through Unity Care's other locations.**



- a. **We have made great strides to open up the lines of communication with the senior staff, create healthy transparency between the two entities and become partners in delivering outstanding health care to this community**
 - b. I believe that Unity's leadership & participation in our quarterly Hospital District meetings demonstrates transparency with regular financial reporting and clinic data
4. In addition to handling business operations well, we've responded well as a team to the huge number of changes in Health care over the past years....and there have been many!
 - a. And we've managed through a change in provider which is tough in any close and small community
 5. And, finally, I feel privileged to have worked with such outstanding and dedicated commissioners
 - a. I know that this recent change in the environment has been difficult on all of you as well, yet you continue to role model community leadership; taking the high road and demonstrating your values and dedication to the community month after month.

My next steps are to finalize my job description and then advertise the position. I will interview candidates and put forth those who are most qualified to the Commission to decide on the successful candidate.

I'll work closely with the newly appointed Superintendent for a month (a couple of meetings) to ensure that he/she is set up for success.

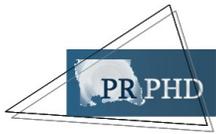
I will not be starting any new projects, but spending my time getting ready for someone to take over my role.

Nobody is irreplaceable and I strongly believe we can find a great candidate to replace me. Someone who will continue to lead the District to provide outstanding healthcare for our community.

Quarterly Update - Shanon Hardie - COO Unity Care NW

Shanon began by stating she will not go over the quarterly report. She went on to thank Elaine for the partnership and leadership she provided the HD as superintendent. She is proud of how far both groups have come in six and half years and said that Elaine will be greatly missed. Shanon added that she is sad and disappointed that any negativity impacted her decision to resign. The same negativity has had an impact on the clinic staff and Shanon stated that she spends too much time reinforcing the positive from the negative.

Shanon went on to say that Unity Care has provided Behavior Health Services and dental services to the community when their contract is to provide medical care only. The community needs to decide if they want Unity Care or not. Unity Care does not make any money from the Clinic. She also stated that it is her understanding that no other service provider has expressed interest in taking over the contract that they provide. She strongly believes the community needs



medical services but things need to change within the community's participation in and dissention of the Clinic or Unity Care will pull out. She added that she is concerned about the future with Elaine's departure.

Shanon praised the Clinic staff and said that the HD has been great partners and supporters of Unity Care. She is tired of being criticized as an organization for what they do everyday with great success and with great employees.

Shanon shared a letter that she received from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding Unity's federal grant program. The UDS report gave Unity Care NW the highest score of all 1400 community health centers (and 11,000 sites) in the state. Unity Care also scored in the 30% of all community health centers for social deterrents of health (i.e. homelessness).

With regards to the community survey, Shanon said she will focus on any trends from the survey and discuss feedback from staff. Patients first and staff second.

Commissioner Nault thanked Elaine for her services and expressed how much she will be missed as superintendent. Natalie also acknowledged Elaine's contribution as superintendent and thanked her for her support of the Clinic and Clinic staff.

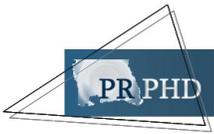
Shanon handed out the quarterly reports. She said the Clinic ended the year with a small surplus even with declining visits. Those factors included a change in the payor mix, pharmacy revenue and provider coverage with NP's covering the providers PTO over MD's. She said that some of the quality measure goals were met and some were not for the year and that all the quality measures were discussed in a meeting earlier with the Clinic staff.

Regarding the community survey, Commissioner Nault asked if the flexibility of Clinic hours is a possibility or switching hours to evenings and week-ends. Shanon said that a couple of comments in the survey may not warrant a change in the Clinic hours nor changing the staff's scheduled lives at this time.

Commissioner Williams asked the guests if they had any questions. Vic Riley and Shannon Tomsen carried on a lengthy dialog with the group.

Other:

Commissioner Williams attended the Fire District meeting and said the fire district told him the insurance for the HD could be carried as a rider with the fire department's insurance policy. Elaine said that we just renewed all the policies with the HD. Dick also asked if Whatcom PT carriers their own insurance when using the Clinic space. Elaine said it is outlined in their contract that they must carry their own insurance while using the space. Commissioner Williams requested a copy of Elaine's resignation letter.



Next Steps

- Elaine will post a notice for her position
- Elaine will present the final survey results at the next meeting

Next Meeting:

Regular Meeting: Wednesday April 4, 2018

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Signatures:

Respectfully submitted by: Reneé Coe

Dick Williams

Robin Nault

Kandace Harper

Reneé Coe