

Minutes

Point Roberts Public Hospital District

Wednesday August 14, 2024

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Stephen Falk, Commissioner (via Zoom)

Attending:

Commissioners: Stephen Falk, Sara Oggel, Noel Newbolt
Superintendent: Barbara Wayland
Financial Advisor: Paulette Ladner (*in attendance @ 7:30 pm*)
Recording Secretary: Farrah Carsten

Introduction of Guests:

Dr. Sean Bozorgzadeh, Pat Grubb – APB, Campbell McClusky, Vic Riley, Kandace Harper, Annette Hamm, Jen Kurcz, Mary

Public Comment: Vic Riley took a moment to thank Sara and Noel for extending SuperTrack's contract to a 3-year term. He asked Stephen what he is hoping to accomplish within the 17 months left in his term and why he would want to stay on the board after everything that has happened. Stephen answered that he generally does not respond to questions during the comment period but that he has nothing particular on his agenda to be accomplishing during the remainder of his term. Kandace Harper said "ditto" on what Vic Riley stated.

Approval of Prior Minutes:

Approval of minutes from previous PRPHD Regular Meeting (July 10, 2024)

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

Financial Report:

Financial Report:

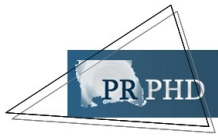
Stephen Falk presented the financial report. Current month payables \$17,006.03 / Payroll is \$3,254

There are no items to note.

Bills presented for approval as follows:

Bills paid:

07/31/24 – SuperTrack Urgent Care PLLC = \$16,000
07/31/24 – Point Roberts Bookkeeping = \$750
07/30/24 – Whatcom Cty Fire Distr. #5 = \$42.84
09/26/24 – Whatcom Cty Admin Svc (Qtr 3) = \$220
08/01/24 – Whidbey Telecom = (\$6.81)
08/01/24 – Bellingham Business Machine = \$0



Sara Viant has emergency medicine experience and is a much better fit. Also, the Clinic started to provide hydration therapy and IV therapy to those patients who need it because it could rely on her skills. If she is unable to provide 2 days at the clinic, they will have to rely on new recruits.

SuperTrack hasn't heard from their vaccine supplier but their name is on the top of their list and as soon as they hear the distribution dates, they will setup vaccination dates for the Point Roberts community.

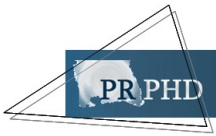
The Clinic is all stocked up on medications for Fall especially antibiotics. SuperTrack is pushing to provide more antibiotic choices for patients in the form of pre-packs so the roundtrip from Blaine or Bellingham pharmacies won't be necessary for community.

Dr. Bozorgzadeh received the modification on the 3-year extension to the contract and they will be signing it and sending it back to the hospital district.

Stephen asked for clarification on the vaccines being offered and if it was the flu or Covid vaccine. Dr. Bozorgzadeh made clear it was for the flu vaccine and further elaborated that the Covid vaccine keeps changing and it's unclear what the recommendations are whereas with the flu vaccine it's a tried-and-true method. They take 20 of the most common flu strains of the year and push it into a vaccine. SuperTrack has seen quite a few mild cases of Covid but none of the patients have been hospitalized for illness. Dr. Bozorgzadeh feels that the general consensus is that herd immunity is now at a much better place and access to Paxlovid is a good medication that works well for people.

Noel asked if the RSV vaccine will be available as well as the flu vaccine. Dr. Bozorgzadeh said RSV has always been a problematic virus for children and adults didn't suffer badly from RSV until the lockdown and the post-Covid era where they started to see a combination of influenza and RSV and sometimes Covid and RSV. He stated it's a relatively new phenomenon and will educate himself about what the recent recommendations are and will either provide an answer via email or present the answer at the next meeting. Sara asked if he could provide the information at the next meeting because it's something everyone would like to hear to which he said yes.

Stephen asked about a note he saw in regards to Clinic hours changing. Dr. Bozorgzadeh said that Dr. Evans changed from Thursday to Wednesday due to nursing availability. Noel asked if he was still running an ad in the APB and if these changes will be reflected to which he responded yes it will take place via Alex and he will look into it to make the changes are noted. ** During the meeting Deanna sent a text to Dr. Bozorgzadeh that the updated hours are already posted on NextDoor and Point ePost. He asked her to get in contact with Pat Grubb so that it will be reflected in the APB.



Superintendent's Report:

Barbara had noted on the agenda a draft of a new retention policy. She contacted the association and Matt sent her the state's position on the retention like how long it should be but it never actually states any designation as to how long it should be. She carefully read the policy that Farrah sent to her that was approved by the hospital district earlier. She doesn't see any reason to change it.

Stephen mentioned that SuperTrack was okay with the proposed amendment language to which Barbara responded yes. Stephen added that they'll get the amendment and have it signed.

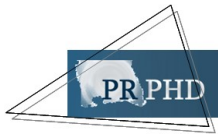
Noel inquired about Barbara looking into or if she knew about adding two members to the board. Barbara said she didn't know but that she believed Shannon Riley had information. Vic Riley responded that Shannon did complete research on the topic. Barbara said she would give Shannon a call to find out what she learned and would send the information out. Sara said it needs to happen.

Annette Hamm interjected. She has extensive experience, 35+ year healthcare background and a Masters in Organizational Psychology within the Canadian healthcare system. She wanted to know how decisions were made and what influenced people when they made decisions which "somewhat depressed" her as a result of what was happening in the Canadian healthcare system. Annette wants to encourage increasing the number of committee members to an absolute minimum of 5 people. She further mentioned that one of the things that would be valuable is creating subcommittees who could discuss issues before the meeting and that the research says that having more members on a committee will result in making the best decisions.

Other:

Selection of Chair & Vice Chair: Stephen mentioned the Chair and Vice Chair were selected last year, but not this year. Stephen to remain as Chair (Sara recommended him to stay on) and Noel volunteered to be Vice Chair. In January 2025 they can decide again, although it will still be the three of them in 2025 (Stephen's term ends at the end of 2025).

Stephen received a note from Pat Grubb about RCW 70, government increasing the possible district commission size, and he responded that it's not an issue they would have to take up.



September Meeting: Discussion was had regarding changing the next meeting in September because Farrah will be out of town on 9/11. Paulette will not have received any invoices and will not be able to present the financials if the meeting is scheduled at the very beginning of September. It was decided the next meeting will be held on Monday September 9th @ 5 pm and Stephen said the agenda will need to get out in advance of that meeting on usual time.

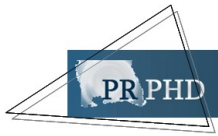
Superintendent's hours: Stephen brought up an issue that he and Barbara have discussed regarding the superintendent's hours. It was authorized to be set at 60 hours maximum per month 2-3 years ago. He suggested to retroactively authorize 69 hours per month (not knowing how the auditor will look at it) rather than leave it as an anomaly in the record. Noel asked if the 69 hours is to cover payroll that was already submitted and approved to which Stephen responded Barbara's hours for July were only 60 hours and was approved at this meeting. Barbara explained that Stephen's recollection was that the authorization was for 60 hours maximum per month whereas she misunderstood and thought it was 3 hours per day for 5 days a week. This way if the maximum hours are authorized this time, then there will be no need to take money away and going forward she will submit 60 hours of work time as she did this month.

Motion: To retroactively authorize 69 hours per month for the superintendent's past work hours. **Motion carried.**

Skagit Regional Health – blood draws: Stephen wasn't aware that Skagit was providing blood draw services in Point Roberts and wanted to discuss this further as it was brought up at the last meeting. Dr. Bozorgzadeh had stated during the July meeting that SuperTrack wouldn't be providing blood draw home visits due to potential health concerns and the liability that would come with that. Stephen suggested taking a vote to indicate that PRPHD did not object to having Skagit Regional Health continue to provide this service, but PRPHD would not be funding it under the budget and PRPHD would need to check with the lawyers to make sure there isn't a fundamental issue with such an arrangement.

Barbara mentioned Dr. Anwar did not run an ad this month to which Stephen responded that it had no relevance to this discussion because it was actually being done under the offices of Skagit Regional Health and not under Dr. Anwar. Barbara explained that she had spoken with someone who had talked to Skagit and they were not aware of Deborah Shields was seeing patients in Point Roberts and Barbara doesn't want to be the oversight person. It would be up to Skagit if they would want Deborah to continue seeing patients in the community.

Sara said that she had heard that if one hospital district is providing services in another hospital districts area that they need to have permission to do so and the licensing has to do with it statewide, it's not county by county. Stephen added that he knows it's not a licensing issue, it's more of political district issue and that they're a different district operating services in our district which he doesn't mind and Noel was in agreement with him.



Barbara expressed concern about unlicensed home healthcare workers operating without oversight and if there were a bad outcome on one of those home visits that could bring on a lawsuit and it concerned her greatly that this has been going on in Point Roberts hospital district and in the community where the hospital district supports a physician-run clinic, that they shouldn't have somebody from the outside seeing patients.

Stephen said it's been going on for some time without any concern from the District and it wasn't interfering therefore now would be the time to decide if the District wants to be involved. He also pointed out that Barbara's position is that had the District been aware, we would have objected to it.

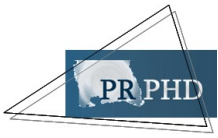
Kandace Harper highlighted that WA State law states that there has to be a legal contract or agreement between the two hospital districts for someone of another hospital district to come in and provide services. She didn't have the RCW on hand but she could provide that information if needed. Although Stephen appreciated her comment and said it's a useful point but it isn't an underlying premise to the problem. PRPHD is one of the two bodies and if both bodies reached an agreement there's no issue. The question he is asking is if PRPHD would ever want to and he was curious as to Sara's position is.

Dr. Bozorgzadeh asked about the blood draw services provided by Skagit Regional Health, which lab the blood samples were sent to and if patients were being billed for this. Stephen was unaware of the details other than possibly 50-70 patients in Point Roberts having been served in that way.

Annette Hamm asked if patients who have blood drawn are also patients of the Clinic, raising medical-legal issues and she expressed a willingness to work with Skagit Regional Care to increase services for Point Roberts residents. Dr. Bozorgzadeh responded that if these people are also patients of the clinic, SuperTrack would have to have full chain of custody of the lab results. He said he reached out to Circle of Care and advised them that SuperTrack will do whatever they can to help people at Point Roberts tap into that resource with the consent of their patients. Dr. Bozorgzadeh is fully supportive of whatever Skagit Regional Health can provide to the people of Point Roberts because it will elevate their level of service

Stephen once again posed the question to Sara whether she had any position one way or another about this issue. Sara replied that she is open to looking into providing blood draw services for Point Roberts residents that have great difficulty getting out of their homes but lacks specific information to make a decision at this time.

Barbara will follow up and get the information that she can and report back at the next meeting.



Next Regular Meeting: Monday September 9th, 2024 @ 5:00 pm in person at the Community Center and via ZOOM

Meeting adjourned: 7:43 p.m.

Minutes approved verbally at the following month's meeting.

Stephen Falk

Sara Oggel

Noel Newbolt

Farrah Carsten