

## Minutes

Point Roberts Public Hospital District

Wednesday April 10, 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 - Absent  
Recording Secretary: Farrah Carsten

### **Introduction of Guests:**

Dr. Sean Bozorgzadeh, Alexandra Wiley, Pat Grubb – APB, Virginia Lester, Dr. John Anwar, JR Healthcare Consultants, Kandace Harper, Allison Calder, Anelle Norman, Lauren Elizabeth, Vic Riley, Elisabeth Mason, Barbara Bradstock, Isobel, Trent Viant, Galen Wood, Peter Perich, Olivia Hughes

**Public Comment:** Vic Riley spoke about Public Hospital Districts having very specific legal requirements under the RCW that don't apply to any other taxing districts. He referenced the Association of Public Hospital Districts legal manual and commissioner guide, the superintendent's role and the Oath of Office. Vic said some of Stephen's actions are contrary to both the laws and the oath, that he has been usurping the role of the superintendent, interfering with the administration of the district, is not impartial and is putting other interests ahead of the public interests. He specifically mentioned the contract renewal period in 2020 and that Stephen voted for a less qualified provider.

Peter Harry, a resident of Point Roberts, spoke of his support for Dr. Bozorgzadeh and the staff at SuperTrack. He's been a patient since SuperTrack came to Point Roberts and he's happy with the care he receives such as having telemedicine available when he's unable to drive to Bellingham, the ability to receive antibiotics at the clinic versus driving through 2 borders for a prescription.

### **Approval of Prior Minutes:**

Approval of minutes from previous PRPHD Regular Meeting (March 13, 2024)

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

### **Financial Report:**

#### **Financial Report:**

Stephen Falk presented the financial report. Current month payables \$16,976.03 / Payroll is \$3,425.28

There are no items to note.





**Superintendent's Report:**

Matt Ellsworth of the AWPHD and Barbara are in the process of setting up a class (within the next month) for the commission on the Public Meetings Act.

**Other:**

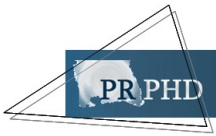
Dr. John Anwar provided a presentation introducing his WA state licensed team and the services they can provide.

- Deborah Shields – PA-C
  - *Working for Skagit Regional Health*
- Jessica VanderWilp – PA-C
  - *Bachelor in Biochemistry*
- Tiffany Fisher – Billing, Credentialing
  - *Business Administration - MBA*
- John Anwar – MD
  - *Owner, JP Healthcare Consultants*

Dr. Anwar has been in business since 2014/2015 in Phoenix, AZ. He has been a resident since 2021 and learned about the place while attending a class at UC Davis on Culture & Geography. His Mother had a lack of access to healthcare and during Covid he saw a woman on TV from Point Roberts that had a major health issue, she wasn't allowed to travel through the border to seek medical care. This in turn motivated him. to provide medical services for the residents. During the pandemic he saw how the community came together such as the Fire Department. Dr. Anwar stated his goal is to bring patient care into people's homes. When Unity Care was under contract at the clinic, he contacted them via email to become a doctor with the clinic but didn't receive a response.

Noel asked John if he had contacted SuperTrack at all to which he responded he was not sure. Dr. Bozorgzadeh interjected that Dr. Lary had spoken with Dr. Anwar but he was in Arizona and only in Point Roberts part time.

Barbara mentioned the JP Healthcare Consultants ad in the APB states they see patients 18 years and older (adult medicine). SuperTrack sees patients of all ages and she asked how they would take care of the pediatric patients. Dr. Anwar answered that the PA's are independent practitioners, they can see pediatric patients and both Deborah and Jessica are licensed in family medicine. Barbara responded that as the physician Dr. Anwar is required to review pediatric care when he is not in fact providing pediatric care. Dr. Anwar said according to WA State law, the PA's are independent practitioners and they have to review 10% of their charts.



Dr. Bozorgzadeh remarked that PA's can't work independently but RN's can and he added that PA's need a supervising practitioner because children aren't little adults. Then Dr. Bozorgzadeh asked Dr. Anwar went to school in Barbados and if it was because he couldn't get accepted to an American or Canadian school. Dr. Anwar replied he was offended and responded it was due to costs. The two went back and forth. Dr. Bozorgzadeh mentioned this is the second time being undermined by Stephen by going outside of normal procedure to illicit a proposal. The contract stated to bring in 3 PA's and instead 3 MD's were brought in.

Noel asked Dr. Anwar if he was living in Point Roberts to which he said yes, he is here full time but commutes to Phoenix. She then asked how many days he would be at the clinic to which Dr. Anwar responded that if the commission were to consider him, he would provide the details in the proposal of everyone that is in the clinic.

Per Stephen, discussion was not being open to the public because this presentation was for the commission itself. Any questions or comments should be directed to Barbara Wayland.

***\*Stephen mentioned the next meeting will be in person (Hybrid) & ZOOM***

**Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 7:00 pm via ZOOM**

Meeting adjourned: 7:51 p.m.

*Minutes approved verbally at the following month's ZOOM meeting.*

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Stephen Falk

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Sara Oggel

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Noel Newbolt

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Farrah Carsten