

BOARD MINUTES  
OF THE  
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA  
July 26, 2022

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of the Hospital Authority of Columbus, Georgia (HAC) was held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, July 26, 2022. The meeting was held in the conference room at Orchard View on Whitesville Road in Columbus, Georgia, and by conference call. A notice was emailed to each member of the Board prior to the meeting. A copy of the notice was posted more than 24 hours before the meeting on the door of the building in which the meeting was held.

Present at the meeting were Chairman Ernie Smallman, and members Mike Welch, Jennings Chester, and Warner Kennon. Vice Chairman Sarah Lang and members Betty Tatum, Cynthia Jordan, and Dr. John Kingsbury were excused.

Britt Hayes, CEO, Rick Alibozek, CFO, and Jack P. Schley, Secretary/Attorney were also present at the meeting.

INVOCATION AND WELCOME

Chairman Ernie Smallman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Britt Hayes opened the meeting with a prayer.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

It was determined by Chairman Ernie Smallman at the start of the meeting that a sufficient number of members of the board were not present for a quorum.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Board Minutes from the June 28, 2022 Board Meeting were reviewed, but without a quorum no motion was made for their approval.

BOARD BUSINESS

No report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Britt Hayes gave the President's report:

**Muscogee Home Health:** Britt reported that he has received a fully executed asset purchase agreement and lease from Pruitt. Final steps to complete the transaction include publication of

notice in the Ledger Enquirer newspaper and submission of a closure plan to the Department of Community Health. Also, Pruitt has its own advisory board so the current local advisory board will no longer be needed.

**Orchard View Annual Survey:** Britt reported the plan of correction filed with the Department of Community Health was accepted and that State surveyors are visiting Orchard View to conduct a follow-up inspection with the results of the inspection still pending.

**New Quality Initiative:** Britt reported that a new QA Reader Software system has been installed which will assist upper management with detecting and treating various incidents Company-wide. It is being provided free of charge from our GL/PL carrier to enable HAC to react to events that have the propensity to be serious. Also, Britt reported that a new Rendover Project will be implemented for the staff. This program provides virtual reality dementia training at no cost. Staff members, including Britt, will participate in the training.

**COVID-19 Update:** Reported by Britt: Covid activity within our facilities is continuing to climb. Since our last Board meeting, 6 residents and 28 staff have tested positive.

DPH showed that Muscogee County's Positivity Rate has risen the last month and stands at 30.5% for the last two weeks (21.4% at last Board meeting). Georgia's positivity rate is 24.2% for the last two weeks (17.7% at last Board meeting).

Per federal directives, we now use the County's TRANSMISSION rate from the CDC to assess the frequency that we must test our staff. Muscogee County currently is in the ORANGE. The following chart shows routine testing protocols based on color.

High (Orange)	Twice a week
Medium (Yellow)	Once a week
Low (Blue)	Not recommended

*Note: "UP TO DATE" Vaccinated staff still do not need to be routinely tested.*

We have administered over 1,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses to staff and residents Company-wide. We received an additional 100 Moderna vaccines to be administered in-house. We offer them weekly to those residents and staff who want them.

DHHS has continued supplying antigen 'quick swab' tests, but quantities have ebbed and flowed in relation to the number of cases that we are reporting through the National Safety Healthcare Network (NHSN). The organization estimates the number of staff for your facility and the corresponding County Positivity Rate.

Monkeypox has also been declared to be a global health emergency by the World Health Organization, and Britt is monitoring the news of the outbreak to be prepared for local cases.

CFO'S REPORT

Rick Alibozek presented the financial report:

**Audit:** The year-end audit by the external accounting group DHG began this week. The results of the audit should be presented in October.

**City Pension Contribution:** The rising costs of the city pension plan caused HAC to enter into a separate 403b plan in 2017. At the time, the high cost of the pension plan was negatively affecting staffing and was deterring new employees from taking jobs with HAC. Since then, HAC has saved a significant amount of money due to the partial switch away from the city pension plan, this year resulting in a savings of \$312,000.

**Employee Retention Credit:** HAC has qualified for an employee retention credit, due in part to HAC's retention of employees during the pandemic. The credit will be for \$6.1 million. HAC's tax returns are being amended to take advantage of the credit. It is currently being determined which tax year the credit will be applied to.

**2013 Bond Refinancing:** The 2013 bond financed the construction of Orchard View. Refinancing under the bond will be available in April of 2023. Options are being explored to potentially refinance the bond. This will involve approval from the city. Current estimations indicate that refinancing could potentially save HAC up to 4%.

**Zoom Room:** Quotes have been received for adapting the conference room at Orchard View for Zoom meetings. The group that provided the quote estimated that a new television, computer, microphones, and a camera would be sufficient to adapt the space into a "Zoom Room" for about \$5,000.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 30, 2022.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

  
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JACK P. SCHLEY  
Secretary

  
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ERNEST SMALLMAN, IV  
Chairman