

BOARD MINUTES  
OF THE  
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA  
May 28, 2024

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of the Hospital Authority of Columbus, Georgia (HAC) was held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, May 28, 2024. The meeting was held in the conference room at Orchard View on Whitesville Road in Columbus, Georgia, and by Zoom video conference. A notice was emailed to each member of the Board more than 48 hours 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 acting-Chairwoman Sarah Banks-Lang, members Dr. John Kingsbury, Mike Welch, Chuck Hecht, and Wayne Joiner. Members Ernie Smallman and Warner Kennon, Jr. were excused.

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

INVOCATION AND WELCOME

The meeting was called to order and Mike opened the meeting with a prayer.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

It was determined that a quorum was present.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Minutes for the April 30, 2024 Board meeting were reviewed. Chuck moved for their approval and Sarah seconded the motion. The April 2024 Board Minutes were unanimously approved.

## BOARD BUSINESS

Jack reported that City Council confirmed the nomination of Tony Floyd to the Board, and that Tony's oath would be administered before the next Board meeting in June. Jack reported further that City Council received the Board's nominations to fill the seat vacated by Betty Tatum, and that Council's nominations should be presented for the Board to discuss at the June meeting.

Jack reported that a real estate transaction has been proposed to HAC, which currently owns part of the former Bibb Mill property in Columbus. The proposed transaction involves exchanging the Bibb Mill parcel for another property on Macon Road which currently has a potential buyer. The transaction would include the conditions that both properties are to be appraised and the Macon Road property must appraise for more than the Bibb Mill property for the sale to proceed. Additionally, all brokerage fees and costs are to be incurred by the recipient of the Bibb Mill property. Chuck recommended that a contingency be included stating the Macon Road property must sell for the transaction to be completed. Chuck commented on his familiarity with the Macon Road property, and Britt provided additional background information for the Bibb Mill parcel. Jack reported that an agreement is being prepared which will be presented to the Board at the June meeting for further consideration.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial and Statistical Reports were shared with the Board:

**Statistical Report:** Attached to these Minutes is the FY 2024 YTD Statistical Report.

**Financial Report:** Attached to these Minutes is the Hospital Authority of Columbus YTD Consolidated Income Statement through April 30, 2024.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Britt Hayes gave the President's report:

**MM Complaint Survey:** Britt reported that state surveyors visited Muscogee Manor for a Complaint Survey and remained for three days. The results of the survey revealed Muscogee Manor to be in compliance, and the Complaints were not substantiated.

**New Initiatives:** Britt reported that HAC conducted a mock survey at Muscogee Manor over three days to simulate a state survey and review HAC's compliance to identify any opportunities for improvement. Britt indicated the mock survey was a success and would be implemented in all of HAC's facilities.

Britt reported on HAC's participation in the Community Coalition's mass casualty simulation. The simulated event involved a plane crash at the Columbus airport. Britt reported that Fort Moore participated by controlling a fire within a helicopter shell on the runway, and student volunteers from Columbus State University played the roles of victims. Those participating in the simulation as responders included HAC and a broad selection of medical providers in the region. According to Britt, the simulation was productive and several opportunities for improvement amongst the responders were identified.

Britt reported that Post Acute Care Solutions will provide HAC with four months of MDS code systems consulting at no cost to HAC. Britt explained the consultants will review HAC's MDS codes and calculations to ensure HAC is capturing all available sources of revenue.

National Skilled Nursing Week was observed by HAC with a party themed as the golden age of radio. The event included food vendors, a car show, period music, performers, and games for both staff and resident participation. Britt reported the event was well attended.

Britt announced his plan for HAC to host a Lunch & Learn event and invite the discharge planners at LaGrange Hospital, WellCare Hospital in LaGrange, East Alabama Medical Center, and the Piedmont facilities in Columbus to create relationships with those individuals and build a

referral network to increase census. The Board discussed generally the idea of lunch-time sponsored events for creating referrals.

For a legislative update, Britt reported that President Biden vetoed the repeal of the Joint Employer Rule by the Labor Board, which will impact HAC's use of agencies and exposes HAC to potential liability in the event an agency's contractors are treated as employees. Britt indicated the veto may be challenged, or HAC will need to reevaluate its use of agencies.

**House Bill (5/16) to overturn Nursing Home Staffing Rule:** Britt reported that the U.S. House of Representatives introduced a bill to overturn the federal staffing rule for nursing homes.

**HAC Involvement at State Level:** Britt reported that HAC's staff participate in state-wide organizations relevant to the industry: Jennifer Kelley, the Administrator at Ridgecrest, serves as the elected Chair of the Georgia Emergency Preparedness Committee and is the current Emergency Preparedness Champion of the Year for Georgia, the GHCA Council Coordinator for Region I, and serves on the Regional Healthcare Coalition Executive Committee; Britt serves on the GHCA Legislative Committee and the DPH Covid-19 Steering Committee for Gov. Kemp; Rick serves on the GHCA Reimbursement Committee; Faith Scott serves on the GHCA Quality Committee; Kyle Fisette, HAC's Director of Clinical Operations, serves on GHCA's Quality Committee, Public Relations Committee, and Special Projects Committee; and Dean Tovey, HAC's Director of Quality and Regulatory Affairs, also serves on GHCA's Quality Committee.


**McKesson Results:** Britt reported that he expected to save \$87,000 by switching to McKesson as HAC's medical supplier, but the actual savings has amounted to \$169,000. Britt reported further on the improvements by switching to McKesson and the success of the decision.

**COVID-19 Update:** Britt announced that for the first time since April 2020 there were no new cases of Covid-19 across all three facilities.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at Orchard View.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



---

JACK P. SCHLEY  
Secretary/Attorney



---

ERNEST SMALLMAN, IV  
Chairman



