



Petersburg Borough
Petersburg Medical Center

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833

Meeting Minutes
Hospital Board
Work Session



Thursday, February 27, 2025

5:30 PM

Assembly Chambers

- A. Call to Order
Member Cook called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
- B. Roll Call
Member Cook conducted Roll Call:

PRESENT

Chairman Jerod Cook
Board Member Cindi Lagoudakis
Board Member Kimberley Simbahon
Board Member Joe Stratman
Board Member Jim Roberts

ABSENT

Board Member Heather Conn
Board Member Marlene Cushing

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion made by Board Member Stratman to accept the agenda, Seconded by Board Member Roberts.

Voting Yea: Chairman Cook, Board Member Lagoudakis, Board Member Simbahon, Board Member Stratman, Board Member Roberts.

3. Approval of Board Minutes

- A. Approval of January 30, 2025, Hospital Board Minutes

Motion made by Board Member Stratman to approve the board minutes from Jan 30th, 2025, Hospital Board Meeting as presented, Seconded by Board Member Roberts.

Voting Yea: Chairman Cook, Board Member Lagoudakis, Board Member Simbahon, Board Member Stratman, Board Member Roberts

4. Visitor Comments

None

A. Resource

Cindi Lagoudakis reported:

A review of hospital Key Volume Indicators showed an increase in clinic visits, including specialty clinics, and swing bed days, possibly due to a lack of Long-Term Care space. Emergency Room visits are down, likely because patients are opting for clinic visits. Long-Term Care is at capacity. The 340(b) program, aimed at reducing outpatient drug costs through Medicaid, has been added and should improve revenue. Strategic deferral of some expenses is planned to benefit Medicaid reimbursements in the upcoming rebase year. Despite higher expenses, hospital revenue remains strong.

The hospital's balance sheet shows 117 days of cash on hand, though payments have been delayed due to a PERS system hack, which should be resolved by April or May. The hospital expects an Employee Retention Tax Credit and is shifting to in-house billing, ending its contract with HRG by March, with a three-month payment obligation. Negotiations with Premera, Moda, and Aetna are ongoing.

National issues like Essential Air Service, federal employee cuts, and changes to Medicare and Medicaid could impact hospital operations, which will continue to be monitored.

B. CAH

Board Member Stratman summarized:

Recent CAH Quality meetings covered several updates and action items. Maxwell IT completed an audit, with a Tech Security Officer and Facility Safety Officer appointed to report to Compliance and policy creation is underway to support these developments. An updated policy list with designated owners is being compiled. Dr. Hess reported that colorectal screening documentation has been standardized, with staff updates forthcoming, closing this action item. We are working on integrating reminder letters into the Health Maintenance Tab. Updates on hospital price transparency, with future audit results to be shared. Monthly reports included updates on incidents, opioid reduction efforts, wellness initiatives, and facility improvements. Key issues include improving reporting processes in Skilled Nursing, addressing equipment issues identified during drills, and enhancing sterile processing procedures. Additionally, new emergency radios were received, and ALICE training planning is ongoing.

C. LTC

Board Member Marlene Cushing submitted report, that was read as follows:

Long Term Care Quality meeting February 19, 2025

Action items and various reports were reviewed. The most alarming discussion concerned a new plumbing leak discovered February 4th. The 6-inch steel sprinkler main had a failure due to aging. It was temporarily patched, but a more complete fix must await other replacement parts, including a back flow preventer that is obsolete. The process of fixing the main will necessitate shutting the water to the entire facility from the city water shut off, which could lead to other issues. This is yet another

warning that all the plumbing systems in the building can fail at any time, leaving the hospital unable to function. Member Stratman agreed to attend the March meeting.

D. Infection Control

Board Member Stratman reported as summarized: 2025 risk assessments will soon require committee approval, with goals reviewed for CAH and LTC. Staff were encouraged to review the ICAR for area-specific guidance and advised to declutter. A gap analysis is underway to improve compliance. The water management plan is complete, with daily flushing of low-use drains initiated, and plans are in place for borough partnership in routine water main flushing. Efforts are ongoing to install additional eyewash stations. EOC rounds were completed that morning. Action items included establishing workgroups for risk assessments, addressing LTC deep cleaning intervals, evaluating handrail conditions, and ensuring water management improvements. Antibiotic stewardship efforts face reporting barriers. Additionally, updates included progress on environmental services, vaccine efforts, and new projects such as sprinkler system repairs, new exterior lighting, a drinking fountain installation, and improved card readers for key access points.

E. Kinderskog

Board Member Cindi Lagoudakis reports: Kinder Skog is serving 32 youth for the spring session, with 107 youth on the waitlist. The biggest need is summertime, when school is in recess. Kinder Skog and ORCA Camps earned American Camp Association Accreditation. PMC Youth Programs is still in the process of becoming a state Child Care Assistance Program, to support families and reduce financial barriers to enrollment. Katie has been working on developing clear guidance for crisis management, staff orientation, staff competencies and skills. Several staff have had to reduce hours due to other commitments, however, Jake Clemens has been hired as a mentor, and has taken on some very helpful extra duties, as well. The 2024 Work Plan review showed that all goal were met. The 2025 plan was developed at a meeting on Feb. 17th and will focus on leadership and character development. Financially, approximately \$12,100 unpaid tuition fees remain from Summer 2024, which Kinder Skog is pursuing. WAVE wants to assist with funding, especially in the summer. Currently, two-thirds of Kinder Skog revenue comes from parents, and one-third from grants and donations including the Alaska Community Foundation. Rates have not been raised since 2018. A risk management team (called RAPT) that is comprised of representatives from various organizations and experiences will help with an assessment of and planning for Kinder Skog and ORCA Camps. The Wild and Scenic Film Festival was hosted last weekend as a fundraiser. There were some fascinating, fun and thought-provoking films shown at the Wright Auditorium. Hopefully, this will be an annual event. Thank you to Northern Lights Theater for donating theater space for the event. A parental assessment of impact survey was conducted and results reported. A majority of parents reported their youth gained positive attitudes toward outdoor activities since enrollment. There was also an increase in use of safety gear, improved sleep at night, more patience, accountability, self-discipline, and teamwork among other benefits after being involved with Kinder Skog. The survey also demonstrated parents value Kinder Skog staff, and see Kinder Skog as a family resource.

A. Imaging

S. Paul provided written report and expanded on the use of an ankle brachial index which is a test that compares the blood pressure in your ankles to the blood pressure

in your arms. It helps doctors check how well blood is flowing in your legs. It was estimated that a replacement would cost under \$10,000.

C. Long Term Care

H. Boggs provided written report and upon inquiry defined DON, as Director of Nursing.

D. Patient Financial Services

C. Lantiegne provided written report and expanded on the Count of Position graph clarifying that there are now a total of eleven hired positions in her department to accommodate in-house billing.

G. Executive Summary

CEO P. Hofstetter provided written report with attachments. P. Hofstetter reported on his attendance at Legislative Fly-In in Juneau noting discussions were held with key legislators, including Senators Hoffman and Stedman, and Representatives Zach Fields, Himschoot, and Calvin Schrage, focusing on budget priorities. Additionally, valuable conversations took place with Senator Gary Steven's office, Senator Gray-Jackson, Commissioner Crum, Commissioner Hedberg, and Senator Dunbar, providing insights into each legislator's unique focus. The primary emphasis was on capital funding, recognized as a long-term investment that supports economic growth and will significantly benefit the community.

P. Hofstetter included a letter written to Governor Mike Dunleavy from AHHA President and CEO, Jared Kosin, re: Priority Capital Projects to Modernize Community Health Infrastructure. Additionally, P. Hofstetter provided an update on the WERC building progress and attached the New Facility Progress Update flyer.

8. Unfinished Business

None.

9. New Business

None.

- A. By motion, the Board entered into Executive Session to consider medical staff appointments and reappointments.

Reconvened after Executive Session:

Motion made by Board Member Stratman to reappoint Dr. Emily Harvey and Dr. Ryan Fortna. Seconded by Board Member Simbahon. Voting Yea: Chairman Cook, Board Member Lagoudakis, Board Member Simbahon, Board Member Stratman, Board Member Roberts

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Board Member Roberts to adjourn, Seconded by Board Member Simbahon.

Voting Yea: Chairman Cook, Board Member Lagoudakis, Board Member Simbahon, Board Member Stratman, Board Member Roberts

Meeting adjourned.