



PO BOX 213, Vashon WA 98070
vashonhealthcare.org

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 15, 2021

Time: 19:00

Place: ZOOM Meeting, <https://zoom.us/j/94707956113>

Present: Don Wolczko, Secretary
Eric Pryne, Position 2
LeeAnn Brown, Position 3
Wendy Noble, Position 4
Eric Jensen, Superintendent
Jocelyne Weller, Administrative Director

1. Call to order at 19:00
2. Approve/Amend September 15 Agenda

Commissioner Pryne adds the 2022 Preliminary Levy Limit Worksheet under New Business.

Commissioner Pryne motions to approve the agenda as amended and Commissioner Noble seconds the motion:

“I move that we approve the agenda as amended.”

AGENDA APPROVED 4-0

3. Approve August 18, Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Pryne motions to approve amended minutes and Commissioner Brown seconds the motion:

“I move to approve August 18 minutes as amended.”

MINUTES APPROVED 4-0

4. Approve September 01, Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Brown motions to approve minutes and Commissioner Pryne seconds the motion:

“I move to approve September 01 minutes.”

MINUTES APPROVED 4-0

5. Superintendent Report, attached

Quarterly Report from Mr. Jesus Sanchez and Mr. Dustin Greer.

Mr. Sanchez reported that Sea Mar continues to build their patient support at the clinic. They are still looking to hire bilingual support staff. Sea Mar has signed a contract with the Vashon Pharmacy to offer 340B prices, which will lower prescription costs for all Sea Mar patients.

Mr. Sanchez discussed the patient wait time concerns from the Board and community. He said that Sea Mar is focusing on improving patient wait time. He explained that a long wait time is not unique to Sea Mar and it is an issue throughout the entire industry. He says Sea Mar uses a system called Smart Scheduling where complex, serious cases are not scheduled back-to-back because complex cases can take 30 minutes, whereas a routine exam is only 15 minutes. Sometimes there is an urgent walk-in case that needs to be seen right-away, which results in scheduled patients being pushed back. He added that how the clinic manages the patient during a wait time is also important. Sea Mar uses the AIDET system: Acknowledge the patient when they first come in; Income the patient of any updates; tell the patient the Duration of wait time; Explain what is going on; and thank the patient for coming in. He adds that Sea Mar has a strong policy of not turning patients away.

There were questions about the Granny's Attic grant application and type of x-ray taken at the Vashon clinic. Commissioner Noble said that Ms. Keri Barnes has applied to Granny's Attic to cover the cost of a digital ultrasound and Mr. Sanchez said that he thinks the clinic is only able to take standard x-rays but he will verify.

Mr. Greer reported that overall, the performance of the clinic is pretty good and stabilizing. Routine expenses every month are more consistent with fewer large changes from month-to-month. Most of the costs at the clinic are fixed. Patient mix is about the same every month with not much variability. The bottom-line in the last couple of months has been about 15K. He addressed some questions given to him:

- When will the Medicare mandate on Telemedicine end?
 - He does not know. This mandate was supposed to end in July but it was extended through October 1st. There are different things happening everyday like new funding sources, rules, incentives, and codes. Most of these are driven by COVID.
- How is the negotiation of a more favorable contract with Kaiser and other commercial payers on Vashon going?
 - He said that Sea Mar has started this with Kaiser but he has some other contracts to forward to Superintendent Jensen.
- What percentage of visits are Telemedicine visits?
 - Telemedicine visits are about 20% - 25%
- What is the reimbursement of a phone visit versus a video visit?
 - The video visits for the commercial payors rate are the same as an in-person visit because the coding is the same. For the Medicaid patients it is about 25% less.

- The phone visits are about half of what the in-person visit reimbursement is. Phone visits are only with existing patients.

Secretary Wolczko and the Board thanks Mr. Sanchez and Mr. Greer. Mr. Sanchez thanks the Board for their support. The Board's efforts to get the word out has helped the clinic get patients in.

Commissioner Pryne motions to approve the VHCD 2021/2022 Goals and Commissioner Brown seconds the motion:

"I move we approve the near-term goals as presented in the Superintendent's Report."

MOTION APPROVED 4-0

6. Unfinished Business

7. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee- Secretary Wolczko, Superintendent Jensen, Administrator Weller

The loan balance with King County is now -\$927,253.33.

- i. Voucher Approval

No warrants issued

- ii. Payroll Approval

No payroll disbursement

- b. Clinic Relations Committee- President Langland, Commissioner Noble
 - i. Update, see Superintendent Report

Commissioner Noble said that the clinic can do a COVID rapid test. She thinks the clinic tests symptomatic patients only and not for travel/other reasons.

- c. Outreach Committee- Commissioner Pryne, Commissioner Brown
 - i. Preparations for the "State of the District" forum on Oct. 14, see Superintendent Report

Commissioner Brown reported on how her meeting went at the JG Commons. There were about 10 people in attendance. A few were Medicaid patients and the rest were Medicare patients. They all use the Vashon clinic. Most of them attended the meeting because they had billing questions. She wonders if the Care Coordinator at the clinic can help with these questions. Commissioner Pryne thinks that there is billing help through Sea Mar's central system.

8. Public Input, up to 15 minutes collectively

Alan Aman appreciated the quarterly report from Sea Mar and the importance of going after commercial contract improvement. He said that one side of a contract deals with the cost of care which is the level of reimbursement. He would like to hear at some point as the contract continues to be negotiated if the cost per visit/per unit of service on Vashon is consistent with the market place. Regarding the behavioral health assessment committee, he attended and is a member of the committee. He is concerned that the problem they are trying to solve is not clear, so there is going to be some effort to clarify the objectives. He asked the Board to think about their position and role in other community efforts such as assisted living. Lastly, he asked if the Board will consider funding the pay down of the district's debt if there was a surplus of available tax dollars that go beyond the current commitments.

Secretary Wolczko replied that there is a seven-year commitment to pay down their debt to zero. He would love to accelerate the progression of this payment but that would mean a higher-level levy rate.

Debby Jackson asked if there are any implications related to the closing of the VCC or for the hospital district. She said that some hospital districts pay for nursing homes. She does not see that Vashon Health Care District could help pay for VCC unless there is a huge tax increase.

Secretary Wolczko replied that there will be meetings with other groups to discuss this issue.

9. New Business

- a. Vashon Community Care to cease services by the end of the year, see Superintendent's Report and follow this link:

<https://www.transformingage.org/vashon-community-care-to-cess-services-by-end-of-year/>

Commissioner Noble talked with Wendy Kleppe and Anne Atwell on the challenges of getting staffing before the announcement of the closure. They tried everything from sign on bonuses, talking to the community colleges and programs that train RNs and medical assistants and they have gone to job fairs. They cannot run the facility without staff. She wants everyone to know that they worked very hard to keep the facility open.

- b. 2022 Preliminary Levy Limit Worksheet

Comments:

Secretary Wolczko thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Pryne motions adjournment and Commissioner Brown seconds the motion:

"I move we adjourn."

ADJOURNMENT APPROVED 4-0

Adjourned at 20:41

The next Regular Board Meeting will be Wednesday, October 06, at 19:00 on ZOOM,
<https://zoom.us/j/94707956113>.