



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 20, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Eagle County Health Service District occurred on October 20, 2022 at 3 p.m. at 1055 Edwards Village Blvd., Edwards, Eagle County, Colorado, in accordance with the applicable statutes of the State of Colorado.

The following Directors were present and acting:

Janet Bartnik
Lynn Blake
Jack Eck
Scott McCorvey
Dan Smith

Eagle County Health Service District Staff in attendance in-person:

Jim Bradford, Chief Operating Officer
Ryan Bush, Operations Specialist
Jenn Cooley-Follett, Accounting Clerk
Dana Query, IT Administrator
Michelle Gennett, Human Resources Manager
Katie Coakley, Communications Specialist
Kelly Conrad, Paramedic
Chris Marsh, Paramedic
Jason Zeller, Medical Director
Scott Harmsen, Paramedic Supervisor
Amelia VanDyke, Paramedic
Steve Zuckerman, Paramedic

Eagle County Health Service District Staff in attendance virtually:

Brandon Daruna, Chief Executive Officer
Veronica Ross, Finance Manager
Graham Kane, Clinical Specialist
Hank Bevington, Paramedic Supervisor
Grant Middlebrook, Paramedic
Alice Harvey, Community Health Manager
Doug Krause, Paramedic Supervisor
Suzanne Ewing, Paramedic
Christopher Ewart, Paramedic
Greg Sawyer, Paramedic

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Jodi Nagle, Paramedic
Becky Cohen, Paramedic
Chris Rauzi, Paramedic
Ande Rasmussen, Paramedic
Jenny Ventimiglia, Emergency Medical Technician
Samantha Aaronson, Paramedic

Public in Attendance:

Kathryn Winn of Collins, Cole, Flynn, Winn & Ulmer (virtual)
John "Chip" Woodland

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Eagle County Health Service District was called to order by Mr. Smith on October 20, 2022 at 3:01 p.m. noting a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Woodland, as a member of the public and previous Board member, wished to express a few brief comments. Before COVID, the Board members sat in a row and faced the audience, so that they could see and address everyone present. The seating arrangements have changed and it feels different. Dr. Woodland wondered if it might not be nice to go back to the previous style of seating arrangement. He also noted that he recently worked alongside a group of ski patrollers volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is giving back to the community and some staff members may want to consider housing with them in the future. Lastly, Dr. Woodland inquired about the President's visit last week. Mr. Bradford stated that there were two ambulances in the motorcade and one stationed for the duration of the event at Camp Hale. No assistance was needed from any of the ambulance crews, other than attending via the motorcade.

CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Dr. McCorvey made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

GRATITUDE & POSITIVE PATIENT EXPERIENCE

Ms. Cooley Follett read two notes from patients thanking the Board of Directors and staff for the consideration of their accounts for financial assistance.

Mr. Daruna noted that not only did Paramedic Aaron Zinser receive the Medal of Valor from the county recently, but he was also given the same honor from the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado. He will be presented with the honor next month at Colorado State EMS Conference in Keystone.

The District expressed its gratitude to the Board members with personalized vests that were distributed today.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Dr. McCorvey to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Bartnik seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED to approve the September 15, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes and September Monthly Expenditures.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Housing Committee Recommendations

The Housing Committee has met multiple times in an effort to come up with a plan to help the District recruit and retain employees who live within the County and closely surrounding areas. The proposal offered today would provide a stipend to help with expenses for employees who live within the District or nearby. Mr. Smith clarified that there is no intention to vote today, this is strictly an open forum for discussion and questions surrounding the proposal. Of note, the District's down payment assistance program is completely separate from this proposal. Dr. McCorvey expressed concern over the expense of issuing such a stipend especially in comparison to the amount budgeted for salaries next year. He also had other concerns such as the amount of buffer in the budget for such an expenditure, sustainability of the District to be able to offer this stipend as more employees move within the boundaries, and whether executives would be included. Mr. Bradford commented that there was great value for the District in having many employees residing locally. There have been many operational struggles surrounding staffing shorter shifts and backfilling shifts when employees are sick or delayed due to weather or road closures. If there was a mass casualty in the District, having an increased number of employees who live in the county would assist with staffing the event with all hands on deck. Mr. Bradford added that it may help with future recruiting, as well. The concern was raised whether this proposal will help the District to get a mass infusion of employees to live in the county or end up just supplementing current employees who already live here. Ms. Bartnik was delighted that there is a goal, but believes it is a huge investment and may not be sustainable over the long haul. She would like to see a menu of options that are sustainable into the future. Ms. Bartnik supports looking at a percentage of the Area Median Income (AMI) and possibly providing a cap. Mr. Daruna believes the committee should continue to think about how to supplement employees who live locally. Mr. Smith believes lower stipends may have less impact which could lead to it being a true waste of money. Ms. Blake thinks there is a significant benefit to the community if employees of the District live within the county.

Ms. Bartnik would like Mr. Daruna to do a long term model of \$1000 stipend/month to show how much that would cost the District over the next 5-10 years taking into account inflationary pressures and rising cost of medical supplies.

New Billing Company Discussion & Recommendation

Mr. Daruna stated that the District sent out requests for a proposal from six billing companies. Four applications were received and three companies were interviewed. Those involved in the process were unanimous in their decision to recommend Sharp Ambulance Billing. Their customer service model was impressive. Sharp can commence with billing for the District within 60 days of signing a contract. They would also take over the existing accounts that had not been collected on after our existing contract with EMS Managing & Consulting concluded. Ms. Ross was impressed with their attention to the importance of revenue collection and customer service. In looking at the ability to bring it back in house, Ms. Ross noted that the amount of money spent by the District would be comparable, but the time to hire and train staff to bring it back in house would be lengthy and potentially difficult. Ms. Blake thought it was great that all of the billing staff at Sharp were CAC certified. Mr. Daruna used this billing company when he was employed with Gilpin County. Mr. Daruna contacted the director of Stadium Medical, who also uses Sharp, and he commented that the only thing he regretted was not contracting with them sooner. Sharp's billing system has great integration with ESO because they built the original ESO software. Ms. Bartnik was enthusiastic that Sharp was the most economical and that the District staff involved in the process recommended them unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith to approve Mr. Daruna and his designees to start the contracting process with Sharp Ambulance Billing with a start date of January 1, 2023 and to terminate the contract with EMS Managing & Consulting before November 1, 2022 . Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED to approve Mr. Daruna and his designees to start the contracting process with Sharp Ambulance Billing with a start date of January 1, 2023 and to terminate contract with EMS Managing & Consulting before November 1, 2022 .

Colorado's Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Program

Ms. Gennett explained that FAMLI is Colorado's paid family and medical leave insurance program. If part of the program, employees can apply for funds through the state to get reimbursed during qualified times. The premium is .9% of an employee's pay and can be split between the District and employee. Staff recommendation is to vote to opt out. Ms. Bartnik inquired if any of the staff had expressed interest in the program, which they have not. Currently, the District offers paid time off, sick time, extended leave of absences, short and long term disability. Cons of the program include the cost, the fact that it is administered by the state and employees have 30 days to notify employers. Ms. Winn explained that even if the District opts out, employees can still opt into the program. The State has not determined all the rules and regulations for the program yet. There is no benefit to the employer for their contribution.

Mr. Smith opened a public hearing to discuss the matter on the table. No members of the public commented. Mr. Smith closed the public hearing.

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A motion was made by Ms. Bartnik to vote to approve the Resolution for the District to opt out of FAMLI. Mr. McCorvey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED to approve the Resolution for the District to opt out of FAMLI.

Ms. Winn stated that the District needs to give notice to employees within 30 days and file a resolution with the State.

UPDATES:

Executive Report -

Mr. Daruna welcomed Dr. Jason Zeller, our new medical director. Mr. Dunn and Mr. Daruna attended the EMS World Mobile Integrated Health Symposium. It was very informative. The main take-aways were that the District is consistent with what other Community Paramedicine (CP) programs are doing and that the high performing organizations are very collaborative with their local health care systems. Many CP programs are moving towards total integrative services.

Financial Report –

Mr. Daruna stated that the budget planning process is moving forward. A copy of the budget will be supplied to the Board in the next few weeks. The District's expenses are on track.

Staff Reports-

The Community Paramedics program has seen continued growth. Ms. Harvey has had multiple meetings with Vail Health administrators and will be meeting with Mr. Lindley on Monday to continue discussions on collaboration. The CPs recently had a strategic work session with the new medical directors, which was amazing. Mr. Smith wondered about ambulatory detox numbers. Ms. Harvey stated that those numbers continue to grow. There was a 20-30% increase in ambulatory detox referrals last month.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Ms. Bartnik made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute §24-6-402(4)(c), C.R.S., Matters required to be kept confidential by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Mr. McCorvey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Board entered into Executive Session at 4:25 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve charitable write offs as recommended by staff in the amount of \$2436.40. Ms. Bartnik seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Bartnik made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. McCorvey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 20, 2022 at 4:31pm.

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Respectfully submitted,
Secretary for the Meeting
Jennifer Cooley Follett

Approved: Board of Directors





