



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 18, 2023,
3:00 pm**

The Regular Meeting of the Eagle County Health Service District occurred on May 18, 2023, at 3:00 pm 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:

Kala Bettis
Dan Smith
Lynn Blake
Scott McCorvey

Eagle County Health Service District Staff in attendance in person:

Brandon Daruna, Chief Executive Officer
Jim Bradford, Chief Operating Officer
Dana Query, IT Systems Administrator
Veronica Ross, Finance Manager
Michelle Gennett, Human Resources Manager
Katie Coakley, PIO/Communications Specialist
Jenn Cooley-Follett, Accounting Clerk
Jasmine Hermosillo, Administrative Assistant
Brenda Hazard, Community Paramedic
Will Dunn, Chief Clinical Officer
Alice Harvey, Community Health Manager

Eagle County Health Service District Staff in attendance virtually:

Scott Homlar, Paramedic Supervisor
Jason Zeller, Medical Director
Grant Middlebrook, Paramedic
Ande Rasmussen, Paramedic
Kelly Lombardi, Paramedic

Public in Attendance:

Chris Lindley, Vail Health Behavioral Health
Kathryn Winn of Collins, Cole, Flynn, Winn & Ulmer(Virtual)
Deb Cohen, Home Care and Hospice of the Valley

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 May 18, 2023, at 3:00 pm noting a quorum was present.

CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Smith motioned to accept the agenda as amended as sent to the Board on Thursday, May 11, 2023. Dr. Eck seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

GRATITUDE & POSITIVE PATIENT EXPERIENCE

Mr. Dunn commended Jess Pettie and Ande Rasmussen in their response to a suicide attempt call. During the call, it was reported that a young man had made multiple suicide attempts over the past year using Tylenol, a substance known to cause liver damage and highly toxic if misused. The patient experienced a panic episode and contacted emergency services. Jess and Ande effectively established a connection with the patient, redirecting the situation and ultimately saving his life. As the patient began to feel more comfortable, he disclosed the truth and changed the initial report from an anxiety attack to a suicide attempt. Mr. Dunn acknowledged the positive communication style and exceptional representation demonstrated by Ms. Pettie and Ms. Rasmussen on behalf of Eagle County Paramedic Services. Their actions had a significant impact on the community, aligning with the service's goal of providing exceptional care.

Mr. Daruna expressed gratitude to ECPS for their support during his one-year tenure with the district and mentioned that this meeting marks the final one for Jim Bradford, who is retiring next month.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. ~~Dr. Eck~~ seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. **4 Dr. McCorvey**

A motion was made to approve the monthly expenditures by Mr. Smith. Dr. Eck seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

UPDATES:

Election of Officers- Board Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer-

Mr. Smith presented the list of all of the available positions. However, it was agreed upon by all current members that they are to remain in their current roles. Motions were put forth by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Blake to retain the current officers for a two-year term.

Board Business Items

Community Health Presentation -Ms. Harvey presented the results and data from the year regarding the Community Paramedic Program in the Eagle Valley. It was highlighted that there is a clear need for additional in-home care services. The CP Program, which started addressing gaps in in-home care using a home health license in 2012 which became a Community Integrated Healthcare License in 2016, has been collaborating with Vail Health and other partners to meet home health gaps. Additional licensure could open up sustainable funding pathways for the CP program. Ms. Harvey officially presented a multi-agency collaboration proposal in hopes of providing comprehensive care for all individuals. It was noted that In Home Hospice in the Valley will no longer provide in-home care. The collaboration with Vail Health aims to address this gap and serve as a liaison. The plan is to request assistance from the Vail Foundation for an FTE position. By partnering with existing agencies that offer similar services, ECPS can bill Medicare and other insurance providers if services are provided collaboratively. The importance of coordination and efficiency in providing large-scale services was emphasized by Ms. Cohen, while Mrs. Bettis agreed that this collaboration would open up billing options and therefore, expand our resources. Mrs. Blake expressed satisfaction with the progress made by the CPs and sought clarification on acquiring the home healing license. Mrs. Harvey estimated a timeframe of 3-6 months which would in turn increase workload but create new roles for full-time employees as well as additional EMTs and Community Paramedics once the program is established. However, the license does not require new hires/FTEs but rather a well-defined plan. Mr. Daruna mentioned that the new CFO's expertise would assist in managing the increased workload. Mr. Lindley inquired about similar programs being implemented by other paramedic services, to which it was clarified by Mr. Daruna that while there are similar programs in larger urban areas, this initiative would be a fully integrated system without conflicting interests, especially with a population this size. Mr. Smith and Ms. Harvey clarified that the investment required to kickstart the program would range from \$150,000-\$200,000, with future funding needs still to be determined based on licensure. Ms. Winn did note that amending the budget is an option, however, is predicted to not be necessary. Further budget details require additional time for analysis. It was noted that a 50% recovery is possible.

Financial Statement Review & Update –

Ms. Ross provided an update on the current financial status of the organization. The expenditures were significantly below the anticipated budget, amounting to approximately 1.2 million dollars. This was due to certain planned expenses that were not executed as originally planned. On the revenue side, there was an increase in income compared to previous years, because of higher call numbers this past winter season. EMSMC transferred accounts totaling 1.28 million dollars to Sharp, our new billing company. It was revealed that some patients had not been billed under EMSMC. Upon thorough inspection, a substantial portion of these accounts will be transferred to our collections agency. The experience with EMSMC was subpar but that situation has improved with Sharp.

Executive/Operations Report–CEO

Mr. Daruna brought up the passing of SB303 a bill that will drop the current special district's tax benefits to 6.735%. In turn, this will decrease the special district's income from property taxes. There will be carve-outs for special districts that have essential services. This bill opens a voting option for a tax decrease which will be highly likely to occur. It is estimated that this change will not affect ECPS as much because of the increase in the value of homes. This change will affect the 2024 tax year if passed in the November election.

Two interns are set to start in June thanks to Ms. Gennett and Ms. Coakley. The new interns will begin their journey into EMS or healthcare in general.

The Nurse Navigation program is set to start at the beginning of July. This program has not been used in small areas like Eagle County in the past. We were approached by the state to be among the first districts with smaller rural populations. This program aims to enhance efficiency by directing non-emergent calls to a dispatch center based in Texas. The center will provide an estimated 3 - 5% of 911 callers' medical advice and/or connect them with CPs, telehealth, or CMM services. There will be thorough communication with the community to address this change. Dr. Zeller mentioned that working with Vail Health or another physician group that can do an ET3 connection first will ease into this program.

Executive/Admin Report-COO

Mr. Bradford mentioned that most calls received are related to head trauma. This past winter season was exceptionally busy. Therefore, the interfacility transports from Vail to other destinations were up 30% compared to previous winter seasons. We are still determining if the number trends will continue but we can aim to be more efficient with the staffing models to prepare.

Staff Reports –

Ms. Gennett informed the board that Mr. Daruna's review is scheduled. Additionally, she mentioned that the Conflict of Interest policy is currently being processed. The policy will outline circumstances in which an employee may engage in work outside of Eagle County Paramedic Services and whether such outside employment would be considered a part-time job. This policy aims to address any potential conflicts of interest that may arise.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bettis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.


RESOLVED to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2023, at 04:30 pm.


Respectfully submitted,

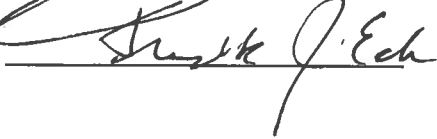
Eagle County Health Service District Regular Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2023

Secretary for the Meeting
Jasmine Hermosillo

Approved: Board of Directors







Susan J. Ech

