



Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



CHCC Board of Trustees
Thursday, January 21, 2021 @5:30 pm
CHCC Conference Room 3

Present: Lauri B. Ogumoro, Chair/Polly Masga, Trustee/Corinne Santos, Trustee/Esther Muna, CEO/Derek Sasamoto, CFO/Nancy Gottfried, Legal Counsel/Krishna Sebangiol/Trinidad Diaz/Chavel Green/Halina Palacios/Reyna Saures/Evita Kawai

Absent: Vice Chair Edward Deleon Guerrero (excused)
Trustee Fermin Atalig (unexcused)

- I. Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm
- II. Quorum was determined with three Trustees present.
- III. A motion was made to approve the Agenda. Motion was seconded. Agenda is approved.
- IV. Adoption of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the October 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Was seconded. Minutes approved.
A motion was made to approve the November 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Was seconded. Minutes approved.
A motion was made to approve the December 18, 2020 meeting minutes. The Chair want it noted that Trustee Santos recused herself from voting on the Credentials for Dr. Hofschneider. Was seconded. Minutes approved as amended.
- V. Public Comments: None
- VI. Credential Privileges – new and renewal Applicants were introduced as follows. All were approved by a majority vote from the Trustees:
New Applicants:
 1. Dr. Sarah Bergman Lewis, Pediatrician/Locum – no issues presented. Expected to arrive at the end of January. Privileges approved for 4 months.
 2. Dr. Clairalyn Baucom, Pediatrician/Locum – no issues presented. BLS will expire in June. Applicant will submit renewal copy before she starts. Expected to start in March. Approved for privileges for 5 months.Renewal Applicants:
 3. Dr. Mary Bellama, Dentist – no issues presented. BLS will expire in August. Approve for 1-year privilege.
 4. Seung Gin Lee, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist – Nursing License will expire on February 26, 2021. This application is put on hold until the NMI Board of Nursing approves his renewal. Will be discussed by the CHCC Board of Trustees again once it is approved by the Board of Nursing.

VII. Reports:

A) Management and Operations:

CMS Certification Update: received a call from the CMS Infection Control Nurse for updates on policies specific to COVID-19 response; testing policies and staff vaccination. Also inquired about the census on how many COVID patients there are, and how many out in the community. Have not heard back from them. Pending Tag –Electronic Health Record – with everything going on, the go live date has moved to mid-2021. At this time, working with a company who can help make sure that policies are reviewed, approved, and in line with the EHR upgrade. CMS issued a notice about a resurvey – no resurvey to date, but has been calling for updates; at times virtual discussions. Recertification will be done every 30 days until the public health emergency ends.

FQHC Lookalike: Currently working to submit application; target date is June 2021. Once application is submitted there is limited time to meet all the requirements. Invitation for the additional Board members have been sent and accepted. The Governing Board is the authority – same authority on the operations of the clinics mainly for policies. The Governing Board and new FQHC Board are to meet sometime in February. PIPCA – reached out to assist in the application process, have not accepted their offer. There is a lot of money available for Community Health Centers – possibility of new access point. There is a good chance of Rota application for FQHC Lookalike being approved. The goal is to make all our clinics become FQHC – to be able to have the 340B access to patients. \$15M new budget from US Congress for Community Health Centers. KCHC getting money for COVID Response, when they don't do COVID response.

Equipment: Radiology: Mammography System – Radiologist is on island. He is a Locum. The Radiologist who will be here for 2 years will be arriving. The Mammography Machine will be up and running by the first week of February.

Physical Therapy: improve staffing; trying to have more clinics in addition to the inpatient clinic.

Respiratory: the new Holter monitor is arriving soon; equipment for better outcome for patients.

Telepharmacy: has been implemented for Medicaid patients – agreement signed; will be billing for services. Better funding is expected from Medicaid as we are able to bill, instead of being distributed by the Provider clinics. Private insurance contracts are still being worked on.

Teledentistry: HRSA approved the CNMI designation for Dental Health as Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) on December, 31, 2020. The Oral Workforce Grant allowed carry over money to cover tele-dentistry such as zoom teleconference subscription, ipads, webcam, computers and intra oral cameras. Looking for funding for the Dentrix equipment. No funding from Tinian and Rota Delegation to date.

OD2A (Opioid Overdose Data to Action): Go-live date is set for January 31, 2021 for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Have Prescribers and Dispensers registering on the NextGenRx PDMP System.

Nursing: Mock survey was done; drive for updates and tracking has been created; policies have been reviewed and revised. COVID response – swabbing upon arrival at the quarantine site and on the 5th day. On-call for Quarantine and mass vaccination. Fall Prevention Program – falls are reported almost every month. Improvements such as the ceiling reminder for adult patients have been installed. Floor staff take turns going around reminding patients to be careful. Manikin – to improve training through skills competency. New Equipment – Vein Finder allows to channel the veins for staff to see and get to it at one time. Used especially for dialysis patients. There are currently 3 units in use at this time.

CGC: Some activities and encounters: Youth Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, Adult Mental Health and Disaster Case Management. There are active clients – goal is to try to reduce –

problems continue to exist. Have been doing outreach and training to get other agencies to be involved, and to get the community to recognize mental health issues.

WIC: there was an increase in WIC recipients in October and November.

EHDP: revenue generating: food handler certificates; sanitary permits. Helping out with logistics at the vaccination and swabbing stations. Personnel training through the year. Contact Tracing a part of this section

Other Updates: Kaitlyn Neises is working on the data plan for the universal health insurance that is due on March 21, 2021. Rescue Plan – vaccination; testing; contract tracing – supporting Public Health – there is some money for CHCC. Increase of minimum wage to \$15 will be applicable here in the CNMI as well.

Rota and Tinian Health Center: Rota Health Center received Certificate of Registration for RHC Laboratory. Will be issued a Certificate of Compliance after the first inspection. Outreach Clinic – an increase in Oncologist and ENT visits. Looking at other specialized services to bring to Rota and Tinian.

COVID-19 Update: numbers have changed. Doses administered: Dose 1 = 4695; Dose 2 = 3011, total 7,706. There is concern with the vaccine allocation for the next month. As for now we may run out. Age group lowered to ages 55 or older. There is enough vaccine to administer the second dose to those people who received their first dose. Rota and Tinian are still on the 1A category which are the healthcare workers and the man amko age 65 or older.

Boarder Testing: have had some cases of previous positive; should not be tested within 90 days – are considered noninfectious by CDC. Clinics – Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Point of Care – not used frequently as you have to be symptomatic in order to be used. Antibody (serology) is available as well. Swab station for travel is open Monday to Friday. CHCC lab approved Trusted Testing Partner for Hawaii effective December 31, 2020.

Medicaid Update: Public Health Emergency (PHE) is extended to April 21, 2021. 100% FMAP for vaccine administration fees – have been billing and getting paid. HR 3631 expires September 2021 which grants temporary increase in FMAP and Caps. HR 265 – to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to eliminate the Cap.

CUC Update: Draft letter to be expanded to include the creation of the CUC Government Rate for Water and Waste Water –our argument is that it was not done legally. CPUC – authority to only do interim – meaning not clear. It was never published. Will sent letter to AG stating that the procedure was not correct. The government rate for Water or Waste Water is 12 times more than the commercial rate. CPUC’s decision came out in 2010 – CHCC was not a corporation in 2010.

ESRD: Network 17 – CMS goal is 85% - we are at 88%. Dr. McNeely is back – wants all patients and staff vaccinated; will also be doing surgery here on island. Registration issues for Hemo patient’s vaccination process. Challenges – Vascular Access issues – will be resolved with Dr. McNeely’s training; Gaia Reporting – includes billing for dialysis; we are up from 2 stars ... yay!

B) Financial Statement: 1st Quarter results for Operations is based on budget authority submitted to the Legislature at \$96.43M.

Current Expenses \$17M: Personnel \$10.6M; Operations \$6.4M; Obligations \$1.2M (not yet paid) total Operations Obligation \$7.7M.

Total Cost for Operations is \$18.3 for the first quarter of the fiscal year. Cash Performance: Saipan – Revenue \$17.4M, Expense \$16.4M, Obligations \$1.2M – total cost \$17.6M – shortfall of \$210K. Tinian – Revenue \$404K, Expense \$257K – total cost \$271K – in the black with \$132K. Rota – Expenses \$364K, total cost \$398K. Total revenue for all three islands is \$17.8M; total expense \$17M.

Cash Performance: Saipan in black with \$982K. As of this report net gain of \$800K. Revenue breakdown: Medicare, Medicaid and Aetna are the three big payers at 83% of all revenue; other private payers at 4.2% - received \$469K from central government for prior year appropriation owed CHCC and \$534 in PRF.

Expenses: Personnel \$10.6M – 62% of all expenses; Medical Supply \$3.5M – 21%; Utilities \$1M – 6%.

COVID-19 Expenses: expenses through September 30, 2020 is \$7.7M; current fiscal year incurred is \$303K – total \$8M.

Uncompensated Care – total is \$3.9M - \$1.3M monthly.

Results of Operations: 5 year overview: total Revenue: 2016 - \$39.4M; 2017 - \$52.1M; 2018 - \$56.1M; 2019 - \$58.3M; and 2020- \$73M. Medicare in 2020 – collections improved tremendously = \$11M; a big increase for Medicaid as well - \$30.4M; Aetna - \$10M; other private payers \$7.7M; upfront payment – have up to one year to bill - \$3.2M. Expenses: 2016 \$47.1M; 2017 - \$48.4M; 2018 - \$56.8M; 2019 - \$69.4M; 2020 - \$79.4M.

Appropriations for FY21 – zero amount received to date.

- C) COVID-19 Update – please see Management and Operations Report above.
- D) Medicaid Issues - please see Management and Operations Report above.
- E) CUC Update - please see Management and Operations Report above.
- F) CMS & ECRI Update: The staff are getting used to seeing Chavel Green on the floor – this are in place. Will continue to monitor and see improvements. Two Yellows: 1 in Facilities – Falcon Fire doing on the ground servicing of the sprinklers. Back to Green – sprinklers are now up to date. Other Yellow – Providers on the 24 hours approval for the Dietician. Upon request from the Dietician through EHR – Provider’s approval should be within 24 hours of the request. Dr. Tudela is working to get things done in a timely manner. As for the other areas – will continue to monitor.
- G) QAPI Report: HIPPA Data – continuous training. Overall total of 66 training for the 4th quarter. Under the Other HIPPA Training Request - for the month of December is 40 for non CHCC staff dealing with patient information. Hospital Quality Data: Patient Safety/Clinical Risk for: October -6; November – 10; December – 9. Patient Grievance/Complaint for: October 1; November – 3; December – 1. For the 4th quarter Mortality: DOA – December – 1 from Rota; Chart Reviewed - 35; Code Blues – 8; Code Purple – 1. Infection Control: December numbers are not included in this report – for Surgical Site Infection there was 1 in November (OB). MDRO-HA 1 in October and none in November. QAPI Summary – Transmission Based Precautions (one of the findings from CMS) – November 100%. Should be high in December as everyone was able to go through the infection control training. Utilization Review Program: Observation – CMS standard that does not count as readmission. Should you come back to the hospital, be put in observation status and you come back within 30 days – we do not have to pay for it. This was an issue 2 to 3 years ago where most of the physicians will do staring admission. Now observation is being done first which does not change the standard of care. Challenges: Utilization Review team worked together to get the 2 long staying patients transferred out. Patient #1- made it safely to Guam, but suffered a seizure and had to be taken to GRMC. Patient #2 – as of today she is still at Marianas Resort, and paying for her own caregiver. Infection Control - completed mandatory training for CHCC staff. Public Health –

completed the ASTHO Hypertension funding – for the blood pressure cuffs and shoes for patient in Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

H) ESRD Update - please see Management and Operations Report above.

VIII. New Business

A) Board of Trustees Bylaws – Trustees will review Bylaws and submit recommendation. This item will be scheduled to be heard at another time.

B) Strategic Planning – this item will be scheduled to be heard at another time.

IX. Executive Session: 7:35 pm – a Motion to move into Executive Session was made. Was Seconded. Meeting moved to Executive Session. 7:44 pm – a Motion was made to move out of Executive Session was made. Was seconded. Meeting moved out of Executive Session.

X. Announcement

XI. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made. Was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.



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PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

CHCC Board of Trustee
Executive Session
Thursday, January 21, 2021 @7:35 pm
Conference Rm 3

Present: Lauri B. Ogumoro, Chair/Polly Masga, Trustee/Corinne Santos, Trustee/Esther Muna, CEO/Nancy Gottfried /Trinidad Diaz

Absent: Edward DLGuerrero, Vice Chair (excused)
Fermin Atalig, Trustee (unexcused)

- I. Call to Order at 7:35 pm
- II. Executive Session: Motion was made to move into Executive Session. Was seconded. Meeting went into Executive Session.
- III. Motion was made to move out of Executive Session. Was seconded. Meeting moved to regular session.
- IV. Executive Session adjourned at 7:44 pm