

SEELEY LAKE-SWAN VALLEY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2009

In Attendance

Trustees: Jeff Aresty, Twyla Johnson, Marianne Judge, Mary Ann Morin

Board Clerk: Marty Kux

St. Patrick Hospital representatives: Jim Gillhouse

Guests: Karen Pratt, incoming Board member

Absent: Kathy Maradeo

Call to Order

The regular monthly Seeley-Swan Hospital District Board meeting was called to order by Board Chair Jeff Aresty at 8:24 A.M. at Littlebird's Cafe in Seeley Lake. He introduced incoming Board member Karen Pratt, who will be seated at the May meeting.

Public Comments

None.

Old Business

- 1) Minutes from the March 3, 2009, Board meeting were unanimously approved.
- 2) Health Resource Guide: This matter is tabled until the next meeting because the booklet was not available for review by the Board.
- 3) Ceiling Fan: Aresty reported that the fan has been installed in the clinic's waiting room.
- 4) Health Fair: Trustee Marianne Judge distributed a list of suggested Health Fair Committees with a task list for each. Following Board discussion, Aresty assigned one or two Board members to each committee for planning and implementing the tasks listed. The Board unanimously approved that the Health Fair be held Saturday, September 12, 2009, at the Seeley Lake Community Hall from 10:00 A.M. through 2:00 P.M. and also unanimously approved a budget of \$500 for this event. Aresty requested that each Board member come to the next meeting with 5 ideas for improving the Health Fair. He will still contact the Chamber of Commerce with the idea of incorporating the Health Fair into a community-wide Business Fair in future years.

New Business

- 1) SSHD Financials: A financial statement reflecting the February, 2009, income, expenses, and account balance was unanimously approved, as were checks to Blackfoot Telephone for the April loan payment and to Lakeview Electric for installation of the ceiling fan. The Board also ratified the following expenses which were paid after the March 3 meeting: to Caron Corporation for the February tax levy payment, and to the Pathfinder for the second of two election notices.
- 2) SPH Report: Jim Gillhouse, SPH Practice Manager for the SSMC, reported that SPH has implemented a policy requiring a one day/month furlough for each employee as a means of coping with the economic downturn without reducing the workforce. However, the Transitional Care Unit has closed, affecting 30 staff members who have largely been absorbed into other areas. He also reported that former SPH/SMCC liaison Steve McNeece has been appointed President of St. Joseph Hospital in Polson.

3) Clinic Financials: Gillhouse presented the February and March YTD, 2009, Profit and Loss Statement/Budget and Prior Year Comparison for the Seeley-Swan Medical Center/Caron Corporation entity, as well as the statistical "Dashboard" summary for those months.

4) Management Report: Gillhouse announced that SSMC has implemented a policy of a 30% fee discount for cash payment at time of service for uninsured patients. This will also apply to all patients who agree not to have an insurance claim submitted by SSMC, but allowing them the option to self-submit the claim. This policy has been announced to Pyramid Mountain Lumber in hopes that more of those employees will be encouraged to use the clinic. The Board thanked Gillhouse for SPH's willingness to work with our communities in this manner, and then discussed ways to lower the cost of a first-time visit. Further discussion of this topic will be held at the next meeting.

5) Quality Improvement: Gillhouse reported that the staff is blocking out time to hold discussions regarding efficiency of operations. The goal is to ensure that a higher patient load can be accommodated during regular working hours. To this end, the staff has identified certain tasks that Nurse Practitioner Cindy Gallea has performed in the past which can/should be performed by various staff members--thus freeing up provider time to see more patients. A benefit of this is giving the staff more ownership in the process.

6) Review of Open Meeting Laws: Board Vice-Chair Mary Ann Morin attended an County-sponsored workshop on Open Meeting regulations and provided insight to the Board on Montana restrictions for public meetings, even those conducted electronically. This will be a matter of continuing discussion.

7) Chair Report: Aresty reported that the Seeley Lake Senior Citizens organization (Sela Senci) has decided to cease sponsoring the Seeley Swan Stage bus and is searching for a group to take over its operation. Following some discussion, the Board unanimously agreed that this was not an appropriate project for the Hospital District.

7) Practitioner Report: None.

Next regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2009, at 5:00 P.M. at the Seeley Swan Medical Center.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 A.M.

ATTEST:

Chair	Date	Clerk	Date