

“Caring for Our Community Like Family”



Valley Board of Trustees

MINUTES

April 20, 2020

Board Members Present

REMOTE: Erin Aboudara, Carol Barber, Lisa Brandenburg, Bernie Dochnahl, Janet Evans, Jim Griggs, Gary Kohlwes, Lawton Montgomery, Vicki Orrico, Julia Patterson, Donna Russell (Chair), Todd Starkey

Board Members Absent

Shamso Issak

Others Present

Brad Boswell, Theresa Braungardt, Jeannine Grinnell, Mike Hori, MD, Katina Maier, Wayne Manuel, Matt Mulder, MD, Liz Nolan, Jamie Park, MD, Rich Roodman, David Smith

GUEST: Mary O’Brien, Director Clinical Laboratory

REMOTE: Community Member: Barbara Farman

REMOTE GUEST SPEAKER: Cassie Sauer, CEO, Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA)

Recorder

Kathryn Holland (Remote)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Donna Russell called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. VOICE OF THE PATIENT

Theresa Braungardt shared a patient story regarding an elderly couple hospitalized with COVID-19. As the couples’ condition worsened, the staff took measures to place them together in the same room so they could spend final hours together. The family was grateful that staff enabled them to be together when the husband passed. The wife remains hospitalized on comfort care.

David Smith informed the Board that community member(s) had joined the meeting by phone. He advised that under Governor’s Inslee’s Proclamation #20-28, there has been a suspension of certain rules pertaining to public meetings whereby during the COVID pandemic public bodies are forbidden from holding in-person meetings, meetings must be held via teleconference, and the public must be provided with a method of participating via teleconference if they so choose. While today’s meeting is open to the public, it is not a public meeting.

3. CONSENT AGENDA AND ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: Gary Kohlwes moved to approve the consent agenda and Julia Patterson seconded the motion. The items moved for adoption were:

- Minutes of March 30, 2020
- Financial Vouchers/Warrants/Pay Apps dated March 30, 2020
- Surplus Property Resolution No. 097

The motion carried, 12-0.

4. BOARD EDUCATION

WSHA COVID-19

Cassie Sauer, CEO of the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA) presented the Board with a report related to COVID-19. She stated WSHA's vision is to lead, challenge and assist hospitals and health systems to improve the health of the communities they serve. Their work involves government affairs, improving safety & quality, coordinated action on major issues in patient care & power in unity such as patient coding as well as data analytics. WSHA represents all Washington hospitals.

WSHA's support regarding COVID includes advocacy for policy changes and financial support, interfacing with state and federal government to move hospital supplies more efficiently, holding multiple calls per week with clinicians regarding the latest news on COVID, the latest treatment protocol, crisis standards of care, speaking with media regarding COVID care, COVID testing waivers from the Emergency Medical Treatment Act and Active Labor Act, information sharing, and legal and financial assistance. Slides reflecting government-mandated social distancing and the IHME projections for resource needs including ICU beds and invasive ventilators were reviewed.

Personal Protection Equipment was reviewed at length including the importing of FDA level 2 surgical masks, distributing PPE at cost, the waiving of sales tax, prioritizing hospitals with the lowest supplies first, and Boeing amateur pilots volunteering to fly/transport PPE supplies to such remote areas as Forks, Port Angeles and Omak, Washington.

Ms. Sauer next discussed the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System, which is an FDA approved system to decontaminate N95 masks with vaporized hydrogen peroxide up to 20 times without degrading filter performance. Federally funded, this method of decontamination has helped with the PPE shortage.

Additional areas of focus included the rising number of COVID outbreaks in long-term care facilities which is now the responsibility of Admiral Bono, the financial impact of the COVID-19 crisis on hospitals and financial aid from CARES Act, federal funding, and a FEMA consultant was hired to navigate the federal process, hospital furloughing-low census and hospital labor pool was briefly discussed. A request for modification of the non-urgent procedures order was sent to Governor Inslee and WSHA anticipates a response soon.

In closing, key steps to exiting from this pandemic is the greater availability of PPE, widespread testing, contact tracing, safe places to self-isolate, antibody testing, better methods of treatment and the creation of a vaccine. Discussion continued at length regarding federal aid and PPE. (Reference the full presentation in Boardvantage).

COVID Update

Dr. Mike Hori, Valley's co-chair Infection Control Physician, provided a status of Valley's current COVID-19 situation. He stated it has been slightly over seven weeks since the first COVID patient was admitted to Valley. Since then, the hospital has been reconfigured both structurally and functionally. One of the medicine wards has become the post-op ward, the rehab ward has become the medicine ward, and the post op/ortho ward has become the ICU COVID ward. Thanks to the WSHA legal team, Valley now has a mobile care unit for testing between 53-80 patients per day via drive-thru auto nasal cultures. A respiratory urgent care unit is helping evaluate respiratory patients while keeping staff safe, caring for some 45-65 patients per day at these ambulatory units. This helps steer patients to the right area as well as relieve concerns for those who think they might have the disease. Unprecedented efforts from the I.T. Department have helped launch the Telehealth System leading to over 1800 telehealth visits at Valley since the system opened. Both Safety and Infection Control teams have undergone considerable changes in keeping staff safe while dealing with significant PPE restrictions. Valley will follow Northwest Health's lead in their pilot program utilizing the Battelle N95 sterilization.

Rough estimates indicate Valley has seen approximately 150 COVID-19 hospitalized patients since the outbreak and has discharged close to 80 patients while transferring 30-35 individuals to other entities within the UW Medicine system. Within the system to date, Harborview has 37 COVID patients, Montlake has 11, Northwest has 24, and Valley has 37 (28 in the COVID ward and 9 ICU). Staffing is stable and across the UW Medicine system, most entities are experiencing a downturn in cases.

Valley is involved in two treatment studies and possibly a third, namely, the IL-6 inhibitor which reduces inflammation, and the anti-viral drug Remdesivir, used primarily for pregnant women. Moving forward, Valley has started universal testing for COVID for anyone admitted. Dr. Hori complimented the Valley Geriatrics Team which is involved in testing in skilled nursing and assisted living facilities.

COVID Testing Update

Mary O'Brien, Director Clinical Laboratory, explained that the clinical lab environment is a highly regulated area within the hospital. Tests performed and lab analyzers go through a rigorous FDA approval process. Given the rapid movement of the pandemic, the FDA issued emergency use authorizations. The Gold Standard for testing is Polymerase Chain Reaction (PRC) testing which detects viral RNA. UW Medicine has high throughput analyzers and can run thousands of samples daily. Valley has ordered a smaller analyzer that can run 100-120 samples a day and expects delivery of necessary reagents this week. Other available tests were discussed, including serological blood testing of antibodies once a patient becomes symptomatic with the virus to determine possible immunity. Discussion continued at length regarding different levels of testing. (Reference the full presentation in Boardvantage).

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – COVID Related

Donna Russell reported that the April 14, 2020, Executive Committee meeting received a report regarding the financial implications associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the tactical strategies Valley has adopted to track the overwhelming number of elements necessary in responding to the pandemic. Wayne Manuel then provided an overview of the historical and current strategies associated with this endeavor, including the integration of UW Medicine objectives.

Compensation Committee

Ms. Russell reported from the last meeting held on February 18. Status of the current FY20 goals was reviewed as well as the upcoming goal planning for FY21. An Executive Session was held to discuss personnel matters. No action was taken.

Annual Review & Update of Committee Charters

Ms. Russell indicated the Executive Committee reviewed all committee charters and recommended final approval by the full Board.

MOTION: Bernie Dochnahl moved to approve the committee charters for the Executive, Compensation, Finance, Facilities & Audit, Joint Conference, and Nominating Committees. Vicki Orrico seconded the motion. The motion carried, 12-0.

Finance, Facilities & Audit Committee -- Financial Implications COVID-19

Jim Griggs stated the FF&A Committee was held prior to today's Board meeting. A review of the COVID financial losses was discussed along with a standard report of the March financials. The FF&A Committee charter was reviewed, and approval recommended to the full Board.

Joint Conference Committee

Bernie Dochnahl reported that April credentialing was reviewed and approved without incident. The committee charter was reviewed, and amendments recommended to the Executive Committee. Quality reports were discussed, and the quarterly Root Cause Analysis (RCA) and Incident Report was presented for the quarter October to December 2019. The January through March 2020 report will be provided in the near future. The meeting closed with Dr. Park providing a status report on the COVID pandemic.

5. INFORMATION REPORTS

UW Medicine Update: Due to the pandemic, Lisa Brandenburg's regular report was placed on hold. She mentioned the amazing infectious disease physician leaders working together to create policies and protocols for the system as well as sharing this information regionally and nationally. The first drive-through testing site was opened on the Northwest Hospital campus, as well as testing sites at Valley Medical Center, Issaquah Neighborhood Clinics, Harborview, and the UW Medicine main campus. Pioneer Square and two additional mobile vans were

opened for expanded testing of homeless and other disadvantaged populations. Telehealth rapidly expanded the ability to offer 2100 privileged providers in the system, taking daily visits from 200 to 1500 visits per day. Three years of telehealth implementation was achieved in just three weeks. She felt that this has permanently changed how people will visit their doctors in the future. The financial implications across the entire system are staggering. Estimated losses for a six-month period could reach as high as \$350M.

Administrative Update

Rich Roodman summarized the implementation of telehealth, learning the new science of this disease, dealing with financial ramifications, seeking financial aid, navigating staffing requirements, and rebounding from the losses and challenge of this disease.

Bernie Dochnahl mentioned receiving the quarterly MSSP Compliance Report which was provided to all Board members electronically in early April. Jeannine Grinnell indicated it was a clean report without any issues. The Board acknowledged they received, reviewed and accepted the report as presented.

Chair of the Board

Donna Russell stated the Board Education Retreat would not be held in June due to the COVID virus to allow the Leadership Team time to focus their energies on the pandemic.

6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Russell reminded the Board that the Board Calendar and Workplan are available for their reference on Boardvantage.

The Board recommended a formal “thank you” proclamation to those on the front lines during the COVID-19 crisis. Liz Nolan will coordinate individual Zoom recordings with Board Members who wish to say “thank you” to the staff which will be publicly relayed to staff in the near future.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Holland
Assistant to the Valley Board
Valley Medical Center

All reports and presentations reviewed by this committee were in draft format, unless otherwise noted in these minutes.