

“Caring for Our Community Like Family”



Valley Board of Trustees
MINUTES
August 16, 2021

Board Members Present

REMOTE: Erin Aboudara, Carol Barber, Lisa Brandenburg, Bernie Dochnahl, Jim Griggs, Shamsou Issak, Gary Kohlwes, Rita Miller, Lawton Montgomery, Donna Russell (interim Chair)

Board Members Absent

Todd Starkey

Others Present

IN PERSON: Jeannine Grinnell

REMOTE: Wayne Manuel, Matt Mulder, MD, Kim Nett, Jamie Park, MD, Kalen Privatsky, David Smith

Visitors: Ron Cohen, MD, Nancy Eveleth, Katina Maier, Hiroshi Nakano, Liz Nolan

Recorder

Erica Duston

I. CALL TO ORDER

Interim Board Chair, Donna Russell, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

II. VOICE OF THE PATIENT

Kalen Privatsky shared a story about his mother’s recent injury from falling off a ladder and transportation provided by Airlift Northwest followed by two successful surgeries performed at Valley and physical rehabilitation at UW Medicine.

III. CONSENT AGENDA AND ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: Gary Kohlwes moved to approve the consent agenda. Jim Griggs seconded the motion. The items moved for adoption were:

- Approval of the Minutes, June 21, 2021
- Approval of the Minutes, June 28, 2021 – Special Meeting
- Approval of Nominating Committee Minutes, July 7, 2021
- Approval of the Minutes, July 12, 2021 – Special Meeting
- Bills/Warrants/Vouchers
- Resolution No. 0116 Surplus Property
- Award of Bid: MAC Conference Center Tenant Improvement Project

The motion carried, 10-0.

IV. CANDIDATE FY2022 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

MOTION: Erin Aboudara moved to approve the Candidate FY2022 Goals and Objectives. Jim Griggs seconded the motion. The motion carried, 10-0.

V. COVID-19 UPDATE

Dr. Jamie Park shared a graph that shows the increase in King County COVID-19 cases and restated the increased need for masking indoors. Valley currently has 32 patients hospitalized for COVID-19, most of whom are unvaccinated. Cases in younger people are increasing. Katina Maier stated that Valley will implement a mandatory vaccine policy that is aligned with the state's mandate but will allow for medical and religious exemptions.

VI. NORTH BENSON URGENT CARE UPDATE

Jeannine Grinnell stated that NBUC is closed due to two incidents that occurred after hours and damaged the property making the clinic inoperable until repairs are made. Renton PD is actively investigating the incidents.

VII. BOARD EDUCATION

Behavioral Health

Dr. Ron Cohen, Director of Behavioral Health Services and Chief of Psychiatry, has been with Valley since 1988. Nancy Eveleth, Clinic Manager of Psychiatry and Counseling Clinic, has been with Valley since 2001. They presented the history of psychiatry services at Valley, provided an overview of personnel and services, and outlined the intake process and call volumes. Dr. Cohen presented the psychiatry department's COVID response and quick pivot to telepsychiatry in March 2020. In addition to other services, therapists were present in hospital units providing support for staff in need of emotional support. Ms. Eveleth shared the psychiatry department's vision including the hiring of more psychotherapists, hiring a geriatric psychiatrist, adding satellite clinics, and the continued successful launch of pediatric psychiatry. (*Reference the full presentation in OnBoard.*)

Lisa Brandenburg left the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

VIII. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Jim Griggs reported on the August 12th Board of Commissioners meeting stating that Resolution 1051 was passed which states the Commissioners' recommendation of hiring Jeannine Grinnell as the next CEO of Valley Medical Center.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Please see the Committee Reports in OnBoard.

X. INFORMATION REPORTS

UW Medicine Update

This topic was not covered as Lisa Brandenburg left the meeting early.

CEO Organizational Update

Jeannine Grinnell highlighted the following topics from the August organizational update.

Headlines

In conjunction with the rest of UW Medicine (and other hospitals in the region as well), we will be postponing elective surgeries and procedures that require an inpatient bed, starting next week, as significant hospital capacity challenges are occurring at both local and national levels. Higher volumes of critically ill COVID -19 patients, as well as many other non-COVID patients requiring

inpatient beds, have created substantial staffing and supply resources demands required to care for them. Since July 20, our COVID-19 volumes have increased from 7 patients to 36 patients as of last Friday. Governor Inslee issued an executive order that requires healthcare workers in Washington state to be fully vaccinated, and show proof to their employer by Oct. 18, 2021, as a condition of employment. To be consistent with this mandate and to continue to keep our employees and patients safe, employees need to be vaccinated with one dose of J&J or two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or be subject to non-disciplinary dismissal (termination of employment) for failure to meet job requirements.

Quality

VMC's ambulatory care pathway committee just updated our Lung Cancer Screening Pathway, to the new US Preventive Task Force recommendations of starting screening at age 50 (vs old recommendation of age 55), in individuals who are active smokers, or who have quit in the last 15 years and have at least a 20-pack year history. Our Lung Cancer Screening Program continues to diagnose lung cancer at an earlier stage and provide for improved outcomes in Lung Cancer patients. Among cancers, Lung Cancer is the cancer with the highest rate of death.

Hospitalists

New assistant medical director, Travis D'Souza, MD, to fill previously vacant role. Travis will focus on documentation optimization in the hospitalist group. He has begun working with ED and primary care colleagues to address standardization of discharge summaries. Working with UW Transfer center to streamline process for accepting direct admits from UW/HMC.

Growth

VMC received the Certificate of Occupancy from the Department of Health for Phase 3 of the second-floor diagnostic imaging and procedural areas that include the new Inpatient MRI, Procedural CT, Nuclear medicine and ultrasound modalities. The Ribbon cutting took place August 9th at 4pm on the 2nd floor site.

Hospital Operations

Emergency department daily visits are averaging 230/day and for the month of July and are 14% above budgeted volume targets. The last two weeks of the month have seen an increase in patients with upper respiratory symptoms and an overall increase in COVID-19 inpatient admissions related to the unvaccinated population. Patients presenting from all age groups with high severity of illness. Because of the increased COVID-19 cases all plans to disband the COVID-19 general medicine unit are on hold until our COVID-19 inpatient census goes back down. All pre-procedure testing will continue as well as continuous masking of all employees despite vaccination status. Overall patient hospital census averaging 92% occupancy rate which is lower than the average throughout our state/region. We have accepted transfers from outside of our area and system through the WMCC to assist with patient placement in overstressed hospitals. In July we accepted 19 transfers from UW Transfer Center, 13 from Harborview, 2 from Enumclaw, 1 from Omak, 1 from Cascade Valley Hospital and one from Whidbey Health. Surgery and procedural volume for July was 3-7% lower than expected for multi-faceted reasons including OR add on cases trending down and provider vacations higher than anticipated.

Awards

On behalf of the Washington State Medical Association, the work of the UW-Valley Medical Professional Satisfaction and Wellness Committee has been selected to receive the WSMA's Wellness Award for 2021. The Wellness Award was established to honor an organization that has

worked to put the joy back in medicine for Washington physicians by supporting a culture of wellness, efficiency of practice, or personal resilience. Dr. Ron Cohen submitted the UW-Valley committee as a nominee for this award. Of all the nominees received for this award, the WSMA Executive Committee found the committee's accomplishments to be the most far-reaching and deserving of recognition in creating a culture of wellness. We invite you to attend the [2021 WSMA Annual Meeting](#) on Saturday, Sept. 25 to receive the award.

Community Outreach

Valley participated in the 3rd annual BeTheHope Walk on Saturday, July 17 in Maple Valley, primarily benefitting our Cancer Center. Organized by the local non-profit Valley Girls & Guys, nearly 600 walkers participated, and Valley was presented with a check for \$150,000 specifically designated to support the capital project build out and provide dedicated funding for a new research coordinator. On July 14 we provided our second COVID-19 vaccination clinic in partnership with the Kent Multiservice Center, Renton Regional Fire Authority and Health Commons. Flyers were provided in 11 different languages, and we reached homeless youth and adults, Afghani and Iranian community members. On July 23 Valley launched a partnership with local community leaders from Renton to declare "Hate Has No Home Here." Ms. Grinnell had the honor of participating with neighborhood residents, local businesses and community organizations, all of whom endeavor to be free of hateful behavior, providing safe places for conversation, work, learning and living. Valley is proud to be involved.

Financial Operations

The month of June's financials was a positive net margin of just under \$2.0M, compared to a budgeted loss of (\$1.7M). Volumes were mixed, FTEs were below budget resulting in less than anticipated salary expense, and payer mix had more Medicaid and less commercial. FY21 year-end audit work is underway with KPMG, our financial statement auditors. The target is to have the audit issued by September 30, 2021.

Chair of the Board

Donna Russell did not provide an update.

MOTION: Shamsu Issak put forward an advisory motion for the Board of Trustees to recommend the hiring of Jeannine Grinnell as the next CEO of Valley Medical Center. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Brandenburg and Todd Starkey were not present.

XI. EYES AND EARS OF THE COMMUNITY

None to report.

XII. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Board Retreat

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases, the retreat will be rescheduled later this year.

Board Education

The board education calendar is available in OnBoard.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session was canceled.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Duston
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.