



The Board of Directors of University Hospital

Public Meeting
January 29, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom
University Hospital
Newark, New Jersey

Present: Tanya L. Freeman, Esq., Chair; Cecile A. Feldman, DMD, MBA; Keith H. Green, BS; Heather Howard, JD; Robert L. Johnson, MD, FAAP; David T. Molowa, PhD; Mary O'Dowd, MPH; James M. Orsini, MD; Robert J. Rubino, MD; Brian L. Strom, MD, MPH

Absent: Eric S. Pennington, Esq.

MINUTES

I. Opening Statement and Roll Call

Chairwoman Freeman welcomed all in attendance, called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Tammy Robinson to read University Hospital's statement of compliance with the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act and the New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act and call the roll. With a quorum of members present, the meeting convened at 10:00 a.m.

II. Report of the President and Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Elnahal reported that the hospital emerged stronger from a very difficult time with Covid-19. He underscored the opening of the hospital's Covid-19 vaccination clinic with two vaccines approved for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration, and increased knowledge and experience treating Covid-19. He stated that the hospital continues its leadership role by educating the community around the efficacy of the vaccine and encouraging vaccine adoption. He noted that case rates in the State continue to be relatively high, however, the hospital's ability to effectively treat Covid-19 patients has improved patient outcomes.

Dr. Elnahal further reported that the hospital has stabilized its finances as a result of responsible reduction of expenses and successful efforts to increase volume. He emphasized that by working closely with the bargaining units, the hospital has maintained staff without having to furlough employees. Dr. Elnahal also stated that strides have been made in quality and patient safety indicators which will be reflected in report card scores in the spring. In addition,

the budgetary needs and ongoing capital needs of the hospital are being presented to the Treasury and Governor's office.

III. Public Comment

Chairwoman Freeman opened the meeting to public comment and Ms. Mary Maples, Corporate Secretary, instructed public members participating via Zoom to indicate their request to make a comment by utilizing the chat bubble or raise hand features.

Ms. Cherise Dawson, Co-Chair for the NAACP Health Committee, expressed her organization's support for the hospital, and stated that having a fuller understanding of the hospital's specific budgetary needs would allow her group to be better advocates for the hospital when they meet with relevant stakeholders.

Ms. LaVita Johnson, Co-Chair for the NAACP Health Committee, concurred with Ms. Dawson's statement of support, and offered to assist with obtaining other needed resources.

Dr. Zahra Basseda, Resident and Representative of CIR, commented about the lack of patient transporters within the hospital delaying patient care, and asked about plans to address this issue.

Dr. Basseda also stated that the pandemic has worsened socio-economic issues such as homelessness, food insecurity and lack of comfort items for many patients who visit the Emergency Department. She stated that while residents try to assist, resources are limited, and these issues further hinder effective patient care. She inquired about strategies to address this issue as well.

Hearing no further public comment, the Chair closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

IV. Review and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2020

Chairwoman Freeman accepted a motion, duly seconded to approve the minutes. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the members.

V. Review of Quarter Ended December 31, 2020 Financial Statements

Mr. Gary Huck, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the balance sheet and reported a small decrease in cash due to reduction of accounts payables and other liabilities. He noted that the accounts receivables remained stable. With respect to the statement of revenue and expenses, Mr. Huck stated that discharges exceeded budget, however, surgeries, Emergency Department (ED) and clinic visits decreased. He reported that expenses remain on budget, with the "Supplies and Other" line having exceeded the budget due to recent flood remediation related expenses.

In response to an inquiry from Ms. Howard, Mr. Huck stated that the hospital continues to receive reimbursement at the Medicare rate for Covid-19 testing and treatment of uninsured patients. He stated that the reimbursement is built into the net patient service revenue for self-pay and charity care patients, for which the hospital has received significant reimbursement.

Mr. Huck further reported the Average Length of Stay (ALOS) and overall Case Mix Index (CMI). He noted that improved documentation has helped to increase the CMI and ultimately increase revenue. He reported that the department continues to work on the ALOS and the Geometric Length of Stay, both of which currently remain on budget. Mr. Huck next reported that the quarterly Average Daily Census on the inpatient side improved to pre-Covid levels. He reported an increase in clinic visit volume for the first and second quarters of Fiscal Year 2021, many of which were conducted via Telehealth. The Emergency Department volume also increased slightly and resulted in a number of admissions. Lastly, Mr. Huck reported the year-to-date benchmark statistics with decreases in the ED as well as in surgeries, due in part to the recent flood.

VI. Compliance Training

Ms. Danette Slevinski, Chief Compliance Officer presented the 2021 Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) Certification and Training. She stated that this training would satisfy a new requirement from the State Comptroller and the hospital policy related to the DRA. Ms. Slevinski briefly reported that the hospital is required to attest its compliance with the DRA and related Federal and State laws on an annual basis. She provided an overview of the DRA and noted specifically the requirements to establish policies and procedures about federal and State false claims, statutes and penalties, and whistleblower protections. The requirement also includes employee education and providing this information in the employee handbook. Ms. Slevinski noted that the DRA and policy would be provided to the Board members.

VII. Proposed Actions – Regular Items

Ms. Maples presented the action items and corresponding resolutions for approval. She called upon Ms. Eve Borzon, Chief Operating Officer, to present Resolution 2021-0129-122 to amend the contract with Oliver Sprinkler Company, Inc for the sprinkler design and installation project. The contract amendment would increase the funding amount to cover installation in two additional units. Ms. Maples next called upon Mr. Tomas Gregorio, Chief Innovation and Technology Officer, to present the recommendation to approve a contract with Ellucian Company, LP for maintenance and support services over a four-year term. The contract would provide services for the Banner System applications utilized by the Finance and Human Resources departments.

Ms. Maples next presented Resolution 2021-0129-123 to approve credential and privilege recommendations from the Safety and Quality and Medical Executive Committees.

Lastly, Ms. Maples presented Resolution 2021-0129-124 ratifying actions of the Executive Committee to approve: (i) the amended Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant, (ii) the VOCA Trauma Recovery Grant and (iii) the Safety and Quality Committee and Medical Executive Committee recommendations of November 9 and December 7, 2020 pertaining to provider credentials and privileges.

Dr. Chris Pernell provided a summary of the VOCA program and how the hospital utilizes these grant funds.

During a brief discussion, Ms. O'Dowd inquired whether there was a sense that the hospital would develop a strategic plan around addressing existing and new social issues that have arisen as a result of Covid-19, especially for children and adolescents. Dr. Pernell noted that several programs are already in place such as the Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program, the VOCA programs, Trauma Survivorship, Healthy Women-Healthy Families, and Familiar Face. She stated that going forward, the department is looking to create a resiliency center that implements an umbrella model serving the needs of broader populations, particularly with respect to interconnected social needs.

Chairwoman Freeman accepted a motion, duly seconded, to approve the Resolutions. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the members.

VIII. Executive Session

Chairwoman Freeman accepted a motion, duly seconded, to adjourn to an Executive Session for a discussion of potential litigation and related regulatory compliance matters. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the members.

The Board of Directors reconvened the public session portion of the meeting.

IX. Informational Reference Materials

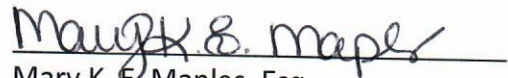
Chairwoman Freeman noted that the minutes of the Finance and Audit, Safety and Quality, and Executive Committees were included for informational purposes.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, upon motion, duly seconded, the members voted to adjourn the public meeting of the Board of Directors of University Hospital at 11:35 AM. The next Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

CERTIFICATION

I, MARY K. E. MAPLES, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary of University Hospital, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the Minutes of the Public Session of the University Hospital Board of Directors meeting conducted on January 29, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary K. E. Maples", is written over a horizontal line.

Mary K. E. Maples, Esq.

Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary