



Klickitat Valley
—HEALTH—



Joint Board of Commissioners Meeting of
Public Hospital District(s) No. 1 and No. 2 of Klickitat County
May 22, 2023

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District(s) No. 1 (KVH) and No. 2 (Skyline) of Klickitat County. The meeting was held on Monday, May 22, 2023 at 12:00 noon in the Klickitat Valley Health Conference Rooms A/B for the purpose of collaboration and general discussion. Present from KVH were Board Commissioners Crystal Scott, Board President; Larry Hoctor, Board Vice-President; Ron Ihrig, Board Secretary; Mark Sigfrinius, Board Member and Connie Pond, Board Member. Also present from KVH were Leslie Hiebert, CEO; Erin Wooley, CNO; Jonathan Hatfield, COO; Jonathan Lewis, Director of Support Services; Lori Groves, CFO; Charis Weis, Director of HR and Community Outreach; Linda Compton, Out Patient Clinic Director and Barbara Bostick, Executive Administrative Assistant (Recorder). Present from Skyline were Board Commissioners Juliet Pouillon, Board Member; Les Dewey, Board Chair; Paul Pennington, Board Secretary and Ricky Knowles Board Vice-Chair. Also present from Skyline was Robb Kimmes, CEO. Crystal Scott, President of Klickitat Valley Health Board of Commissioners was the presiding officer.

Call to Order and Conflict of Interest Disclosure

President Scott called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. President Scott asked if any commissioner present had a conflict of any item on the agenda. All Commissioners present noted that they had no conflict. Commissioner Ihrig made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Pond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting Business

Status of KVH – Leslie Hiebert, CEO

Leslie Hiebert noted that KVH is establishing a new normal, now that we are post-covid, no longer wearing masks and are updating the visitor policy.

- In a good position, financially stable.
- We are starting a 10 million dollar CUP (Central Utility Plant) project. We received 6.5 million for the project in grant funds and 3.5 million from the Local Loan program. It will allow us to upgrade many of our systems: heating, cooling and water and will be designed to work with a new wing.
- Our recent bond effort to build the new wing did not pass. The need still exists so we are looking into other ways to finance the project. We could receive tax funds from the Goldendale Pump Storage project that will be within our hospital tax district, it is currently in the development stage and is expected to begin construction in 2025 and be completed in 2028. It should provide the hospital district with approximately 1.2 million in tax funds, which would service the loan debt for the new wing project. In the meantime we are looking into the USDA loan process as well as additional grant opportunities as they come up.

- As a county we have been struggling with SUD and behavioral health services, as well as transportation for those services. We have started telehealth psych and mental health counseling and we do currently have a HRSA grant for our SUD program. It is a three year grant that ends in August, we are hoping to get an extension so that we can use the funds that are still remaining from the grant. SUD programs are a huge need as overdose is the leading cause of those under the age of 50 in the United States.
- We have been involved with the Opioid Treatment Network and have recently put a Narcan vending machine in our lobby and 100's of them are going out into the community. Our staff is going out into the community to provide training. Leslie recommends that they should be a part of everyone's first aid kit. They are simple to administer and are effective.
- Currently working with the County on engaging KCEMS in regards to Behavioral Health transfers.
- We have an MD and a PA coming in September to begin working in the Family Medicine Clinic. Still struggling with staffing full time providers in the ED.
- Leslie has submitted her notice of resignation to the Board and will be leaving October 6th for a for profit entity that the collaborative created to prioritize the greatest needs of Rural health care. She is excited to be able to continue to support rural health.

Leslie asked Robb to share about the CEO search that Skyline is currently doing. Robb noted that he announced he was going to retire in late January, but is staying on until a new CEO is hired to ensure a smooth transition. He noted that Skyline is not using an outside search firm and that it has been difficult. He noted that they have found some very qualified people and have done some virtual interviews, but they haven't seemed to be a good fit. He noted that they have a couple of candidates to interview in the next couple of weeks that do not have CEO experience, but have a lot of operational experience. He added that HR did the initial screening interviews and then he and Commissioner Dewey are doing the second interview to determine who to bring onsite. Commissioner Hoctor inquired if he feels that some of the candidates are wanting to use Skyline as a stepping stone. Robb replied that they are trying to weed those out. He noted that if he could give any advice to the KVH Board about the process to feel free to reach out to himself or the Skyline Board. Leslie asked Robb if his end date is indefinite. Robb replied that he wants to make sure the Board hires a good fit. He isn't moving and is staying in Lyle. He hopes to be finished by late summer or fall, but will stay longer if necessary.

Status of Skyline – Robb Kimmes, CEO

- Skyline is considering possibly changing places with the ambulance garage and out-patient physical therapy. They would need to remodel the ambulance garage for PT and then the ambulance would need to build a garage.
- Finished the ER renovations two years ago this summer and have seen the ER grow.
- Hired a new ER Medical Director, Dr. Alia Breon. She is one of three new emergency medicine board certified physicians working in the ER. One of her goals is to get all of the ER docs that live in White Salmon to work at Skyline. Currently credentialing two more emergency medicine board certified physicians to work in the ER.
- Have hired a Pediatrician that had been working at MCMC, Dr. Jennifer Morrison. They have also hired a new general surgeon, Dr. Mittelstaedt, a year ago, he is doing well and growing the program. He is working with Dr. MacGillivray. She has privileges at Skyline now and can assist him with difficult procedures.
- Starting a breast health surgical program. The Skyline foundation is raising funds for stereotactic breast biopsy equipment.
- Down a PA in the clinic and recruiting for a PA or Nurse Practitioner and continue to search for a licensed behavioral health provider.

Robb inquired how the KVH Podiatry program is going. Leslie replied that the program is doing well. Dr. Iyer is also doing wound care and is so busy that we now have an RN to assist with wound care. Robb noted that a Podiatrist from Portland has reached out to him and he will be meeting with him.

Robb noted that he is currently on the SWATC Board that covers Klickitat, Clark and Skamania counties. He was going to ask Leslie to take over his spot when he retires, but with Leslie leaving also he wondered if there is anyone at KVH that could be recommended to take his place. Commissioner Hoctor asked if the person needs to be a hospital CEO. Robb replied that it doesn't have to be a CEO, but should be someone hospital oriented.

Commissioner Sigfrinius inquired if Skyline has a retail pharmacy. Robb replied that Skyline only has an inpatient pharmacy and that it would be highly political for them to open a retail pharmacy as there are other retail pharmacy options in and around White Salmon.

Commissioner Dewey inquired what the advantages are for KVH to have a retail pharmacy. Leslie replied that there used to be two retail pharmacies in Goldendale, one of them burned down over 20 years ago leaving just the one local retail pharmacy. Forty percent of prescriptions were going to The Dalles because the local pharmacy was not contracted with all insurance companies and patients would have to go to The Dalles to get their medicine filled if they had insurance that the local pharmacy wasn't contracted with. The local pharmacy also had somewhat limited hours and doesn't have the same access to a large group purchasing organization like hospitals do. She added that we went into it to provide improved hours, contract with as many insurance companies as we can so that we can help as many people as possible, and also to be able to pass along discounts through the 340B program for our patients, Hospice and staff. She noted that KVH opened its retail pharmacy in March of 2020 at the start of covid and it has been so successful that we expect to fill 40,000 prescriptions this year.

Commissioner Dewey asked what the initial push back from the community was. Leslie replied that it was because some felt that we would harm the local pharmacy by taking their business. We are now working collaboratively with the Goldendale Pharmacy and it is going well. Commissioner Pennington asked how the percentage of prescriptions has changed. Leslie noted that it has pulled a great deal of prescriptions back to the community. She added that the new owner is contracted with more insurances now.

Commissioner Pennington asked about staffing in the pharmacy at KVH. Leslie responded that before opening the retail pharmacy, we had a full-time pharmacy tech and 8 hours of onsite time a week with a Pharmacist to review prescriptions, etc. The retail pharmacy is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and until 2 p.m. on Saturday and have at least one pharmacist onsite during those times. Commissioner Pennington asked if the retail pharmacy was a net positive or a net loss. Leslie responded that it has been a net positive. She added that the people using the pharmacy see the benefit of it and the fear of harming the local pharmacy did not come to pass.

Commissioner Knowles inquired about the Dental program at KVH. Leslie reported that the Dental program is doing well. We are currently looking for a new dentist as the current dentist is not renewing his contract. She added that we have also started an Optometry clinic and will eventually need to hire an Optometrist to take over for Dr. Ogden who is hoping to retire.

Commissioner Pond noted that the Optometrist can see all ages, but the dental clinic is for adult Medicaid patients. Robb asked if we have retail eye wear available to patients. Leslie replied that we do. She also

noted a program that Dr. Ogden works with that allows him to get glasses that have been repaired by prison inmates at a low cost. Leslie commented that KVH had not intended to start up any new programs and to focus instead on the programs that were already in place. Commissioner Scott added that when Dr. Ogden came to us he said if he couldn't find a replacement for himself and KVH didn't take it over, he would have to close the practice. Commissioner Pouillon asked if KVH intends to keep the Optometry clinic after Dr. Ogden retires. Leslie responded yes. She noted that Mason General in Shelton have a similar practice. She added that she and Dr. Ogden visited their clinic to see how they were doing it. She noted that we want to have the bugs worked out before Dr. Ogden leaves and she is hoping that clinical rotations will start soon. Leslie asked if there is an Optometrist in White Salmon. Commissioner Blake replied that there is one in White Salmon and one in Stevenson. Leslie noted that many Optometrists don't want to be in a sole provider practice.

EMS

Leslie noted that she appreciates the support of the Board in regards to EMS concerns. She noted that she and Robb have both been on the Board as a representative of the hospitals. She noted that from her perspective as a financial professional she has concerns. She reported that she has recommended to the EMS Board that they engage someone to provide financial oversight or engage a company to provide that service. She noted that work is still being done in regards to transfers. She added that the County Commissioners are now involved and they understand that they have the ultimate oversight and responsibility of the EMS District.

Robb noted that he and Commissioner Pouillon have participated in their meetings and it is very frustrating. He also noted that at the Skyline Medical Staff meeting last week the providers reported that the resistance from EMS to do transfers has improved. Robb inquired if KVH has seen improvement in that as well. Leslie replied that she hadn't gotten any notice about pushback lately. Commissioner Pouillon asked what the pushback is regarding financial concerns. Leslie noted that the person doing it does not have healthcare experience and has not worked for a public entity. She added that she has been clear with the EMS Board that she is concerned about this issue. Commissioner Pouillon asked if they get audited. Leslie replied that they do get audited, but there is a lag and what they have been audited on was work that had been done by the previous person.

Robb reported that he and Leslie are proposing to increase the rent to the EMS District for the ambulance garages. He noted that per the agreement they have to give a 120 day notice to terminate. The notice letter indicates that the intent is to continue to rent the ambulances garages out to the EMS District at a higher rate when a new contract is agreed upon. He noted that the current rate is \$500 per month, which essentially covers the cost of utilities, and will be increased to \$2000 per month. Leslie added that KVH is going to also include metered expenses in their monthly rental fee. Leslie noted that the EMS District has purchased property in Goldendale and their plan is to build, but that will take time.

Robb noted that Leslie's position on the EMS Board will be filled by the KVH and Skyline Boards jointly nominating a replacement for her position, it then goes to the County Commissioners and they approve the appointment on to the Board. Commissioner Pond asked if it has to be someone with a financial background to replace her on the Board. Leslie replied that it didn't have to be as the financial statements should be accurate, but it should be someone with understanding of the hospital side i.e. how inter-facility transfers work. Commissioner Knowles asked if it was a voting or non-voting position. Leslie replied that it is a voting position. She noted that there is a Board member nominated by the hospitals, a Board member selected to represent each County Commissioner and a representative from the incorporated cities. There are also Ex-officio members Jeff King, Klickitat County Emergency Management Director, Dr. Smith,

Klickitat County EMS Medical Program Director, and a representative from Klickitat County Fire Districts who are not voting members of the Board. Robb noted that Dr. Alia Breon, Skyline's ER Director, would be good on the EMS Board. Leslie added that the EMS District is a Public entity, but it would be helpful knowledge for an oncoming Board member to have. Commissioner Hctor noted that if you are on the Board you have fiduciary responsibility. Commissioner Knowles asked if the current board is staying on it. Leslie answered that Heiko has left the Board and someone has applied for that opening. Commissioner Dewey asked if Leslie's position is open now. Leslie replied that she will be giving them her notice to vacate her Board position on Wednesday. Commissioner Pennington noted that it is important that they have a close relationship with the hospitals.

Pediatrician Collaboration

Leslie Hiebert noted that she heard that Skyline has a Pediatrician. She noted that Linda Compton, who worked at MCMC previously is now our Clinic Director. Leslie added that we have a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner that would like to have someone to collaborate with. Robb replied that Jennifer Morrison MD is their Pediatrician and she works two and a half days a week. He noted that she can feel free to reach out to Dr. Morrison. Leslie asked what Skyline does for call. Robb replied that they use the ER.

Additional Discussion

Robb noted that Skyline's Surgeon, Dr. Mittelstaedt has his application in for privileges at KVH. Leslie noted that she would follow up on that. Leslie noted that KVH has been looking for a casual surgery tech and asked if Skyline has any casuals. Robb replied that they don't have any casuals. They have a surgery tech that works full-time and has been there for 20+ years, as well as a part-time tech.

Leslie reported that KVH had a survey by DOH last month and it went well. The plan of correction has been completed. Robb noted that historically Skyline is surveyed six to eight weeks after KVH.

Robb asked how Orthopedics is going. Leslie noted that it is going well. She noted that Diagnostic imaging is working hard to keep up. She added when Dr. Chen does surgery, he does them at KVH. Dr. Pennington asked how many cases he is doing. Leslie replied that he is doing a couple of cases a week. He can do knee scopes, no hips or joint replacements as our OR is not adequate for that level of surgery. Lori Groves added that he also does shoulder repair. Robb noted that Skyline has no ortho. Currently trying to get outside orthopedics. He noted that Rebound is planning a clinic in Hood River and will refer their patients to their clinics in Vancouver. Leslie inquired about Hood River orthopedics? Robb replied that they just haven't been able to break through, it isn't a decision that Jeannie can make and she doesn't push. He added that Providence has been territorial with their providers.

Charis Weis asked if Skyline has any other sub-specialties. Robb replied that they have cataract specialists that come from the Casey Eye Institute and prior to covid they had more. He noted that the cataract specialists come about two days a month. He added that Skyline is always looking for outreach opportunities. He noted that it is tough, when you get someone for a while then they leave. He noted that previously they had cardiology and ENT specialists that would come to Skyline to see patients.

Leslie asked if Robb had heard from One Community Health. She noted that they have had mobile clinic pop-ups. Robb replied that they are licensed to come to Washington, but they are targeting farm workers. He added that Northshore is working with One Community Health to provide dental. Dr. Pennington that is done in part through a grant. He added that Northshore is still somewhat difficult for Skyline, but it is improving and he is looking forward to it improving more. They are sending up ancillary services, it is a

major opportunity to work on.

Robb asked if Dr. Witherrite is still working at KVH. Leslie noted that he is a causal for KVH. He picks up a shift every so often. She noted that Dr. Smith is our ED Director at KVH now. Robb reported that Dr. Witherrite is doing scopes at Skyline and noted that North Shore is not referring scopes to the Skyline surgeon. Dr. Pennington noted that Dr. Faison fills some shifts.

Charis inquired if Northshore does diagnostic imaging. Robb replied that they don't they send that to Skyline. He added that most of Northshore's labs go to the Providence reference lab.

Leslie noted that KVH has added calcium scoring to our CT and that we have been getting referrals from throughout the gorge to do them as the next closest location that provides that service is in Portland.

Robb inquired who KVH is using as a Radiologist. Leslie noted that Dr. Unhanand has retired and there is no one else on site. KVH is using all Virtual Radiology. She noted that KVH did talk to the group that Skyline uses, but they did not have the bandwidth to add KVH on. Robb advised that they may be more available in the coming months and to check back with them in a few months.

Commissioner Pennington asked how KVH was doing with travelers. Leslie replied that KVH is doing better. There is an H1B Visa traveler coming from the Philippines to work in the Lab and there are just a couple of travelers working in Nursing at night and a couple of PT travelers.

Commissioner Blake inquired how KVH houses travelers. Leslie replied that we have 12 apartments on campus, as well as 5 local rentals and a duplex that is owned by the hospital. Commissioner Pond inquired how housing is for Skyline. Robb noted that there is a lack of housing and the high cost of housing deters prospective hires. Leslie noted that KVH is currently in union negotiations and at a recent bargaining session the Union provided data, but the data was inaccurate and noted that the median cost of housing was the same throughout Klickitat County. She added that Jonathan Lewis was able to provide them accurate data that shows the median cost of housing in the east end of the county is less than the west end of the county.

Charis Weis, HR Director, inquired what Union is at Skyline. Robb replied that they only have WSNA for the nurses. The rest of the hospital is not under a bargaining agreement. He noted that the WSNA is pretty easy to work with except during negotiations. Leslie noted that KVH is in a wall to wall bargaining agreement with SEIU. She added that Charis found that since the Janus law went into effect, 50% of the bargaining unit are not paying members. They are represented, but they cannot vote. Robb noted that AFSME Union decertified itself when only 15-20% of their members were paying dues. He noted that 50-60% of the nurses in the WSNA are actually paying dues. Commissioner Pond asked if a union member doesn't pay dues to the Union, do they have to pay it into something else? Charis replied that they no longer have to do that because of the Janus law.

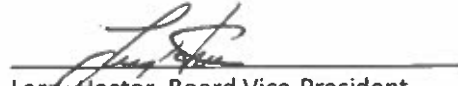
Next Meeting Date

Following discussion, it was determined that the Boards would like to have a follow up Joint Board meeting in approximately six months, to be held at Skyline Hospital in White Salmon.

Having no further business to come before the Boards, Commissioner Pond made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:52 p.m. Commissioner Ihrig seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



Crystal Scott, Board President
Public Hospital District No. 1
Of Klickitat County
Klickitat Valley Health



Larry Hoctor, Board Vice-President
for Ron Ihrig, Board Secretary
Public Hospital District No. 1 of
Klickitat County
Klickitat Valley Health

Les Dewey, Board Chair
Public Hospital District No. 2
Of Klickitat County
Skyline Health

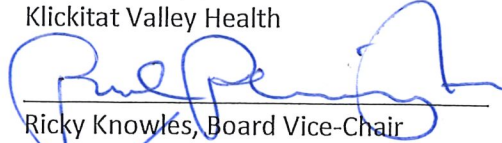
Ricky Knowles, Board Vice-Chair
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