

WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 3, 2020

6:00 P.M.

VIA WEBEX

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Orlando Adamson, M.D., William Frishman, M.D., Renee Garrick, M.D., Herman Geist, Susan Gevertz, John Heimerdinger, Mitchell Hochberg, Patrick McCoy, Tracey Mitchell, Alfredo Quintero, Zubeen Shroff, Mark Tulis, Richard Wishnie

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: John Flannery, Michael Israel, Martin Rogowsky, Michael Rosenblut

**STAFF PRESENT: Julie Switzer, EVP, General Counsel
Gary Brudnicki, Senior Executive Vice President
Kara Bennorth, EVP, Chief Administrative Officer
Anthony Costello, SVP, Professional Support Services
Michael Doyle, M.D., Executive Director and CMO, HealthAlliance
Mark Fersko, EVP, Financial Planning
Paula Fessler, Chief Nursing Executive
David Ingber, SVP, Network Financial Operations
Mary Leahy, M.D., CEO, Bon Secours Charity Health System
Jordy Rabinowitz, SVP, Human Resources
Josh Ratner, SVP, Strategic Planning**

PHYSICIANS PRESENT: Dr. Gewitz

CALL TO ORDER

The June 3, 2020, meeting of the Westchester County Health Care Corporation ("WCHCC") Board of Directors was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Webex due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A quorum was present.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Orlando Adamson, M.D.	Mitchell Hochberg
William Frishman, M.D	Patrick McCoy
Renee Garrick, M.D	Tracey Mitchell
Herman Geist	Alfredo Quintero
Susan Gevertz	Zubeen Shroff
John Heimerdinger	Mark Tulis
	Richard Wishnie

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

John Flannery
Michael Israel
Martin Rogowsky
Michael Rosenblut

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategic planning.

MR. HOCHBERG ASKED FOR A MOTION TO MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. MR. SHROFF MOTIONED, SECONDED BY MR. HEIMERDINGER. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

MR. HOCHBERG ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 6, 2020, MEETING OF THE BOARD. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. WISHNIE, SECONDED BY MR. TULIS, TO APPROVE THE MAY 6, 2020, WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL STAFF

Dr. Frishman provided the report of the President of the Medical Staff. He presented a credentialing packet (dated June 2, 2020, and attached to these minutes) containing information on Credentialing Appointments, Reappointments, Additional Privileges, and Updates to the Neurology Delineation of Privileges Form.

A discussion ensued.

Motion to Approve Recommendations for Appointments, Reappointments, Additional Privileges, and Updates to the Neurology Delineation of Privileges Form.

MR. HOCHBERG ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS, REAPPOINTMENTS, ADDITIONAL PRIVILEGES, AND UPDATES TO THE NEUROLOGY DELINEATION OF PRIVILEGES FORM. MR. WISHNIE MOTIONED, SECONDED BY MS. GEVERTZ. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Ms. Bennorth advised the Board that in light of the recent nationwide events, WMC posted a re-affirmation of its values to its website. In addition, WMC has posted resource information for its workforce members who may be feeling stressed or anxious at this unsettling time.

Ms. Bennorth informed the Board that WMC is looking to expand the services of the Care Giver Center based on operations over the past three months, and focus on new cognitive support services across all campuses, including patients, families and the workforce. She stated there will be a particular focus on trauma, trauma informed care, and recovery.

Ms. Bennorth advised the Board that during the pandemic, because of issues related to the quarantine and ongoing mental health issues in the community, we have seen a continued need to focus on our Lethality Assessment Program. She reminded the Board that this WMC program focuses on reducing traumatic injury and death, in partnership with the Office for Women and twenty-one Westchester county police departments.

Ms. Bennorth advised the Board that the REACH councils, which are activated geographically across the region, are great conduits for communication during the pandemic. She stated that the network is now looking to create Community Response Teams, which are more region-wide groups of individuals to improve lines of communication directed to diverse community groups and provide a connection to our services.

Ms. Bennorth informed the Board that WMC is looking to transform its events to virtual events; for instance, the Kids Walk, the new 10K, and the Trauma Run will be virtual.

Ms. Bennorth advised that the network is looking to reschedule its galas for the fall, as well as create a parallel plan for a network-wide virtual event if needed.

Ms. Bennorth informed the Board that the Meal Train program is winding down and to date, it has provided over 50,000 meals for our workforce members across the campuses, as well as provided nearly \$1 million in support of local restaurants and delis. Ms. Bennorth advised that this was a major source for the development team, which has been actively involved over the past three months.

Ms. Bennorth advised that Trauma season is upon us and the network has actively begun its outreach and its TSA work on all things injury prevention.

Ms. Bennorth updated the Board on the following marketing activities over the past three months:

- Issued 1200 social posts over 19 social channels;
- Issued 14 press releases;
- Issued 26 official press statements;
- Conducted 30 media interviews;
- Produced 28 videos;
- Took 6,366 photographs; and
- Printed 372,000 pieces of material for patients, test participants and visitors.

Ms. Bennorth informed the Board that WMC is looking at a way of chronicling its COVID-19 response and experiences over the last three months and, perhaps, in addition, what might transpire over the next several months; similar to how WMC recently chronicled its 100 Year Anniversary.

Mr. Costello presented a slide show to the Board on the ongoing construction projects. He showed images of the Cath labs in the main tower, and stated that three of the six labs have been renovated and are fully operational.

Mr. Costello showed images of the Ambulatory Care Pavilion's ("ACP") 5th floor patient room expansion into the main tower project. He stated the project is complete and awaiting DOH approval for patient occupancy. Mr. Costello advised that the project was completed on the 4th floor, and is now occupied by patients. He stated that the project will begin shortly on the 6th and 7th floors.

Mr. Costello advised the Board that WMC took advantage of its low census on 4 South in the main tower and completely demolished and abated the existing unit, which consisted of 22 patient rooms. He stated that the refurbished unit should be completed within 10 weeks.

Dr. Doyle informed the Board of the following clinical updates for HA:

- Participated in a Mayo Clinic Convalescent Plasma study related to COVID-19;
- Cardiology Grand Rounds continue throughout the COVID pandemic;
- Preparing for an upcoming OASAS survey; and
- Resumed Elective Ambulatory/Outpatient Surgeries and Procedures on May 7th.

Dr. Doyle advised the Board that Dr. Gollapudi, a GI physician, will be joining WMCHHealth Physicians at its Grand Street location, and Dr. Kantrowitz, an interventional cardiologist, will be joining WMCHHealth Heart & Vascular in Kingston.

Dr. Doyle informed the Board that WMCHHealth provided \$1 million in grants for the Hudson Valley, with \$400,000 going to programs in Ulster County focused on behavioral health and substance abuse. In addition, he advised that Margaretville Memorial Hospital is the leading member of a consortium under the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program implementation grant.

Mr. Costello provided a clinical update on MidHudson Regional Hospital ("MHRH") to the Board as follows:

- The combined HA Behavioral Health Unit at MHRH added 15 additional beds on 4 Spellman;
- Elective surgery volume continues to increase;
- 5 additional Detox beds were added on 4 Spellman;
- Received the Stryker Endoscopy equipment to meet the new volume of Premier Medical Group;
- Preparing for DNV Stroke survey;
- Hired new Anesthesiologists from CareMount Medical; and
- MHRH is actively recruiting Hospitalists.

Dr. Leahy informed the Board that Charity celebrated Nurses' Week across all three campuses with food, flowers, gifts and raffles.

Dr. Leahy informed the Board that elective surgeries resumed at Charity last week.

Dr. Leahy informed the Board that the installation of the nuclear camera at St. Anthony's Community Hospital has been completed and is awaiting inspection by the DOH next week.

Dr. Leahy updated the Board on the Medical Village project. She stated that the Lab, Emergency Department and the new Bariatric unit will all be completed by late summer, if not sooner.

Dr. Leahy advised that the Chief of Surgery for Good Samaritan Hospital ("GSH") recently retired, and that Dr. Michael Schwartz has been appointed the new Chief.

Dr. Leahy informed the Board that the new Pediatric ED began seeing patients yesterday.

Dr. Leahy stated that there were 297 births at GSH for the month of May.

Dr. Gewitz advised the Board that the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital ("MFCH") will be initiating an Epilepsy Surgery program later this month, thanks in part to the addition of several pediatric neurosurgeons, as well as some of the leading pediatric neurologists in the field of Epilepsy. He stated that the neurosurgeons will be using the latest Robotic Neuro-Surgery/256 Channel EEG systems. Dr. Gewitz advised that the MFCH is one of the few centers in the northeast providing this service.

Dr. Gewitz informed the Board that the Chief of Pediatric General Surgery recruited from John Hopkins last year has started a new Surgical Oncology section.

Dr. Gewitz advised the Board that the MFCH's Pediatric Trauma Surgery Recertification program is gearing up to complete its academic components later this summer.

Dr. Gewitz stated that, over the next six months, the MFCH will focus on its new Fetal Home Program. He stated that WMC has created a Center which combines both maternal and fetal specialists. He stated that WMC just completed the recruitment of a perinatal geneticist, who will be joining the Center later this year.

Dr. Garrick informed the Board that WMC will be holding a virtual House Staff orientation. She stated that the LCME is requesting that all of the programs find a way to bring in their House Staff and ensure that all health clearances, as well as COVID testing is completed.

Dr. Garrick advised that all House Staff recruitment will be done virtually this year. She stated that Dr. Bierman will be working with Ms. Bennorth and her staff, on creating virtual tour videos.

Dr. Garrick updated the Board on a new function for Tele-health. She stated that the Tele-health system will now allow House Staff, Residents and possibly Attendings, to work through charts in the eICU system. Dr. Garrick advised that they will be able to virtually access a chart and evaluate the adequacy of documentation, accuracy of documentation and learn appropriate coding. She stated that the Quality, Medicine and eICU teams are putting together a training program for this new Tele-health function.

Dr. Garrick advised that Dr. Stephan Mayer, from Detroit, joined WMC yesterday and will be working in the neuro critical care ICU, and Dr. Mara Lugassy also started yesterday, and is the new head of Palliative Care. Dr. Garrick advised that as a result of COVID-19, a new Palliative Care Conversation Group was started. She stated that Dr. Neil Schluger has joined WMC as the new Chair/Director of Medicine, and he will be starting in the next few weeks.

Dr. Garrick informed the Board that WMC recently had its Comprehensive Stroke Certification by DNV via virtual entry. She stated that the survey went very well, and WMC will receive its Certification as a Comprehensive Stroke Center. Dr. Garrick advised that DNV will return for one day in the fall for regulatory reasons.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Tulis, Chair, Finance Committee, stated that the Committee met this afternoon prior to the Board meeting.

Mr. Tulis advised the Board that the Westchester Medical Center previously entered into a Master Trust Indenture ("MTI") with U.S. Bank. He stated that in the past, Westchester County provided a County Guarantee on WMC's outstanding bonds. Mr. Tulis advised that currently there is no County Guarantee, therefore a Resolution was presented for approval to amend the MTI to remove all references to Westchester County and the County Guarantee. He stated that the Committee voted to recommend approval of the Resolution to the Board.

MR. HOCHBERG ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AMENDING THE MTI TO REMOVE ALL REFERENCES TO WESTCHESTER COUNTY AND THE COUNTY GUARANTEE. MR. TULIS MOTIONED, SECONDED BY MR. SHROFF. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

QUALITY COMMITTEE

Ms. Gevertz, Chair, Quality Committee, stated that the Committee met on May 8, 2020.

Ms. Gevertz advised the Board that Ms. Cuddy reviewed the report of the Quality and Safety Committee meetings of February 13th and March 12, 2020. She highlighted the reports of the following Departments:

February 13, 2020 - Radiology, Food & Nutrition, Behavioral Health and Respiratory. Ms. Cuddy also reviewed the QA/PI reports on the Environment of Care and HIV.

March 12, 2020 – Food & Nutrition, Infection Prevention, Nursing Quality Council, Surgery, and Transplant. Ms. Cuddy also reviewed the QA/PI reports on Emergency Medicine and the OR Committee.

Ms. Gevertz advised the Board that the Committee received a presentation on Emergency Medicine by Dr. Miller, Dr. Papish, Ms. Lawton and Mr. Landers. She stated that they highlighted the following:

- Volume and admission data;
- Census data per day and time;
- Leadership initiatives;
- ED Staffing – a staffing and acuity study resulted in a staffing model and hiring to meet census and acuity;
- Accomplishments; and
- COVID-19 related activities, including encouraging patients to come to the hospital, marketing and messaging, safety activities, including the successful and efficient use of PPE, telephone registration, and tent triage.

Ms. Gevertz informed the Board that the Committee received a presentation on Infection Prevention by Dr. Chen. She stated that he presented the annual infection control data, including the following:

- CLASBI – Infections are trending lower than expected, main interventions were discussed;
- CAUTI – Year after year improvement for the past 3 years, areas of focus were discussed and the trend is positive;
- Ventilator Related Infections – Infection rate has stayed well below the national average;

- Antibiotic Resistant Organisms – There has been clear improvement over the past 3 years in the C diff infection rate data; but further improvement is needed and the activities to achieve that improvement were discussed, including activities related to the EMR and Environmental Services collaborative efforts;
- Hand Hygiene – There was a one-time drop in compliance at MHRH, which was discussed, the campaign to improve hand hygiene will continue and the COVID-19 pandemic has increased attention to hand hygiene; and
- Surgical Site Infections – The infection rate for colon surgeries is below expected for the past 3 years, and the infection rate for hysterectomies remains stable.

Dr. Chen advised that additional areas of focus for infection control include the Environment of Care, Construction and Communicable diseases.

Ms. Gevertz informed the Board that the Committee also received a presentation on Patient Experience by Ms. Bennorth. She stated that Ms. Bennorth described the substantial and quick “retooling” that the Patient Experience Department underwent in response to COVID-19, including changes to visitation, implementing new best practices, and communication activities concentrating on supporting caregivers. Ms. Bennorth stated that support for the frontline staff includes the “Meal Train”, Spiritual Care, a 24/7 hotline staffed by Behavioral Health personnel and “Code Rocky” to celebrate discharged patients.

Ms. Gevertz stated that Ms. McFarlane provided the regulatory report for the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

MR. HOCHBERG ASKED FOR A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE JUNE 3, 2020, MEETING OF THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS. DR. FRISHMAN MOTIONED, SECONDED BY MS. MITCHELL. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,


AnnMarie Fernandez, WCHCC Assistant Secretary