

Orcas Island Health Care District
Board of Commissioners - REGULAR Meeting Minutes
REMOTE BOARD MEETING
April 20, 2021
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present (via Zoom):

Art Lange, President
Patricia Miller, Secretary
Pegi Groundwater
Richard Fralick

Staff (via Zoom):

Anne Presson, Superintendent

Commissioners Absent:

Diane Boteler

I. Call to Order

President Lange called the 8th meeting of 2021 to order at 5:01 pm. He noted that there was a quorum with four Commissioners present. He welcomed members of the community and the members of the Island Hospital leadership team to the meeting.

When asked if anyone had modifications to the Agenda, none were indicated.

II. Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment at this time.

III. Consent Agenda

The items contained in the Consent Agenda included: the April 6, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and an AP Voucher Report dated 4/12 in the amount of \$10,844.05.

MOVED by Commissioner Groundwater, seconded by Commissioner Fralick to approve the Consent Agenda. VOTE 4:0:0. MOTION CARRIED.

IV. Island Primary Care – Orcas: Updates

Leaders from Island Hospital (IH) were present to provide an update on the Island Primary Care-Orcas (IPC-O's) Clinic operations. Charles Hall, IH CEO, reported that the clinic ribbon cutting on April 5 was "great"; it was attended by OIFR Chief Scott Williams and representatives of Island Air and Airlift Northwest, as well as IH and IPC-O leaders and staff and OIHCD commissioners.

Hall gave special recognition to Dr. David Shinstrom, citing his "support, leadership and care throughout the years for the transition, the vision, and much of the culture" of the new clinic. Patty Codd, IH Director of Primary Care Clinics, then gave statistics for the first 11 days of operation: 439 patient visits, 292 provider visits, 62 nurse visit, 85 lab visits (20% of them courtesy labs), and 12 same-day appointments (97% fill rate). The IH Call Center received an average of 168 calls per day from Orcas residents, which would have overwhelmed IPC-O staff. Hall noted that routing those calls to the Call Center allows clinic personnel to care for patients instead. IH has tripled the number of Call Center staff and will add more. Hall also noted that the Islands Sounder published a nice front-page article on the ribbon cutting and clinic services.

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IPC-O Medical Director Dr. Frank James reported that clinic operations are going remarkably well and that the clinic is “a happy place.” He credited the planning done by Clinic Manager Aimee Johnson and Practice Administrator Patty Codd, as well as their problem solving with the help of Dr. Jason Hogge. He thanked the teams from IH, Orcas Family Health Center, and UW Medicine for integrating seamlessly. Hall expressed gratitude to Dr. James for his coaching and mentorship as well.

IH COO, Elise Cutter, reported that IH is waiting for final signatures from the Department of Defense to get VA Choice insurance coverage on Orcas; that should come in the near future, and IH will work to back-date the contract to April 1. IH is not contracted with the Coordinated Care Healthy Option (HO) plan; when patients with this plan call for an appointment, they will be assisted to change to a different managed Medicaid plan if desired.

Hall expressed gratitude to the IH providers currently working on island, Dr. Hogge, Dr. Jon Peterson, and PA-C Susan Jordan. Dr. Michael Gravatt is expected the first week in May and is contracted to be on Orcas for six months. Specialist visits planned for May and June will provide women’s services, pediatrics, and behavioral health care. Hall feels the local team is “knocking it out of the ballpark” in providing care. A job listing for a rural primary care provider has been posted nationwide, and initial discussions with a candidate are under way. IH will work with the OIHCD commissioners to ensure the fit is correct.

Regarding COVID vaccines, Hall noted that demand locally and statewide still exceeds supply. For the week of April 19, Washington state providers requested 405,460 doses from the federal government but received 370,340 doses. Dr. James reported on the National Guard’s mass vaccination effort in San Juan County scheduled for the week of April 26, which will provide 3000 doses of Moderna vaccine countywide, 1200 on Orcas on April 27. An earlier shipment also supplied thousands of Johnson & Johnson doses, and so far we can keep them until it’s decided how to safely proceed. Of island residents 65 and up, 87% have been fully vaccinated; if all appointments are filled, we should have community immunity by the end of April. We are the leader among Washington communities and one of the leaders in the country. Vaccine hesitancy remains a concern; James looks forward to partnership in figuring out how to distribute all the vaccine on hand.

Hall reported that IH’s latest Heartbeats newsletter issue is now out; it includes a two-page spread on the Orcas clinic and a feature on the new IH Health and Wellness Center for the region. The Center will focus on wellness, preventative care, and chronic care management. A fall opening is planned.

Fralick asked what constituted community immunity; James suggested 70% of the population being fully vaccinated. He noted most cases popping up recently on San Juan Island are now in people 30 and under, mostly sports related, and urged everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible. He observed that the IH team and Ray’s Pharmacy are also doing a good job of vaccinations.

Commissioner Patty Miller, who does scheduling for pharmacy vaccinations at Ray’s, noted she was hearing more resistance from callers and suggested that all the vaccine providers meet to discuss the best way to address concerns. James stressed a study of health care workers who had gotten COVID, noting that even in mild cases, one out of ten still has chronic problems months after recovering. He hopes re-approval of the Johnson & Johnson vaccination will come soon, noting that protocols are now in place for treating clots should they occur.

V. Committee and Work Group Reports

a. Building Group –

Groundwater reported that the RFP on painting and other items is out, and a couple of contractors have been in touch. Fralick met with one for a tour and will meet with another this week. He noted that he’s added a few local contractors to bid list and encouraged them to sign up on the MRSC

Rosters to be eligible. He also asked for recommendations for others. Contractors not on the list would need to register with MRSC by the bid deadline date, but the process is not difficult. Bids will close on Friday, May 28th, and he hopes for several responses. He would also like recommendations for a handy person, possibly to enter into a contract for on-call services. Miller asked if the prevailing wage process is required; Groundwater responded that if the activity is covered by prevailing wage requirements, it is. However, owner/workers are exempt.

On the possibility of an RFP for remodeling the clinic, the committee is waiting for input from Patty Codd and no schedule has been discussed. Fralick has talked with an electrician and recommends that a three-phase generator replace the current 10-kW single-phase unit. The building was wired for three-phase to accommodate the new x-ray machine. The maximum that we would need would be a 100-amp transfer switch, which would require a 32-kW water-cooled propane generator costing around \$12,000. If a 20-kW unit turns out to be sufficient, the cost would drop to about \$6000. The current concrete pad is adequate, but the contractor thinks the feed to the transfer switch is not large enough and we will have to run conduit, which should be straightforward. He is putting together specs for the generator.

VI. Old Business

None was presented.

VII. New Business

None was presented.

VIII. Operations Report

On the financial report dated through 3-31-21, actuals are now showing through March but no changes have been made to the forecast since the April 6 meeting. The forecast includes the proceeds from the Brown trust; however, recent correspondence suggests the payment may be closer to \$240,000 than \$200,000 in the budget. Those funds will be released shortly and are targeted for the capital reserve fund. Actuals for March include \$52,000 in property tax revenue; nothing is unusual in expenses. Ending cash through the first quarter is favorable to the budgeted number by about \$171,000 because of 1) higher revenue, 2) lower expenses, \$20,000 less than expected, and 3) beginning cash higher than expected by about \$100,000.

A decision is needed by July 1 on renewing the WAFed line of credit beyond the current termination date of 11/1/21. The LOC can be continued through 11/1/24 at an annual cost of \$2500, the fee for nonuse. If there's any chance the funds could be needed over the next three years the Board will want to consider keeping it. The estimated cost to reinstate the LOC is \$15,000.

Presson also reported that Kevan Rayne, Web Manager is working on a site map for the new website; she will review it with the Communication Committee. The initial design will be shared at the May 4 Regular Board meeting, and the final design on May 18; the launch is scheduled for May 21. She would like commissioner pictures and bios for the commissioners' page by next week.

Robin Garcia, Presson's main contact at the County, is leaving, which may temporarily slow down some things (e.g., Payroll, AP vouchers, financial reporting).

Presson plans to take some time off, so she will begin sending out her schedule weekly.

In regard to revisiting the District support position, Presson shared that her counterpart on San Juan Island changed the title and description of his support position to attract more applicants. She'd like to work with the

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Staffing Committee to come up with a new scope of job responsibilities. Miller thinks it may be time to revisit the roles of the commissioners and the superintendent, noting the results could affect the support position description. Miller, Presson, and President Lange will have an initial discussion, identifying the information the board needs for a full discussion, either at a regular meeting or perhaps at a special meeting with a facilitator.

IX. Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment at this time.

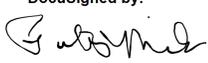
X. Upcoming Meetings

President Lange reported that the next Regular meeting of the OIHCD Board is scheduled for May 4. Other meetings were listed on the Agenda.

XI. Meeting adjournment

MOVED by Commissioner Groundwater, seconded by Commissioner Fralick to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 pm. VOTE 4:0:0. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes approved this ____ day of _____, 2021.

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Attest: Patricia Miller, OIHCD Board Secretary

5/28/2021

Date signed