

**Orcas Island Health Care District**  
**Board of Commissioners - REGULAR Meeting Minutes**  
**REMOTE BOARD MEETING**

August 17, 2021

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Commissioners Present (via Zoom):**

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

**Staff (via Zoom):**

Anne Presson, Superintendent

**Commissioners Absent:**

None.

**I. Call to Order**

President Lange called the 15th meeting of 2021 to order at 5:01 pm. He noted that there was a quorum with four Commissioners present; Commissioner Boteler joined later. He welcomed members of the community and representatives from Island Hospital to the meeting.

When he asked if anyone had modifications to the Agenda, Superintendent Presson responded that the Operations Report was postponed to the next meeting due to time constraints.

**II. Public Comment**

There was no request for Public Comment at this time.

**III. Consent Agenda**

The items contained in the Consent Agenda included MINUTES of the July 6 and August 3, 2021, Regular Board Meetings, and two AP Voucher Reports dated July 26<sup>th</sup> in the amounts of \$388,010.37 and \$7,407.74. Commissioners Groundwater and Miller requested both sets of Minutes be removed and brought back to the next Board meeting. They will provide feedback to Presson.

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

**IV. Island Hospital Update**

Charles Hall, CEO, and Patty Codd, Director of Primary Care Operations were present to represent the Island Primary Care – Orcas Clinic. They shared a power point (attached) with information on the Clinic's activity since opening April 5th, as well as a brief update on the provider recruitment. Dr. Jason Hogge, who was part of the initial IH team of doctors providing care at the IPC-O Clinic, was recently named IH Chief Medical Officer. In addition, Dr. Jon Peterson, who has also provided support in the Clinic since opening, has verbally made the commitment to be a permanent provider in the Clinic on Thursdays and Friday. He has been here since the Clinic opened and really enjoys his patients on Orcas.

IH provided an overview of two additional providers who will be coming on board. One is a female MD and the other is a female Physician Assistant. Both providers come with extensive experience in urgent care, women's

health, and family medicine. In addition, IH continues to look to expand the visiting Specialist program. Currently, Dr. Kathleen Garde continues her monthly visits to the Clinic to provide OB-Gyn services. IH will soon be adding Sleep Wellness and Speech Pathology. They look forward to working closely with the Orcas Island School District to see these providers can provide support. IH will continue to assess community needs to increase on island access to specialists, especially in those areas where IH providers are already seeing a large number of Orcas patients who currently have to travel off island for services.

Lange shared that there is a need for pediatric behavioral health support, and he hopes IH will soon be able to expand into this area.

Data specific to visits was reported as follows:

**Number of patients seen April 5 – August 16 = 3,261**

**Visit Type:**

○ Provider and Nurse visits	3,261
○ Same Day Urgent visits	428
○ Labs	652 (28% were Courtesy Labs)
○ X-Rays	450
○ After hours Provider visits	11
○ Back to school events	52

Information specific to COVID-19 services was reported as follows:

- Morning appointments are available at the Clinic, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- After hour appointments are available at the clinic on Tuesdays from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Testing takes place outside at the front of the clinic, allowing patients to remain in their vehicle and drive in and out in one direction.
- Testing is by appointment only and will be performed for patients who have COVID-19 like symptoms or who have been exposed to someone who has had a positive COVID-19 test result. For now, travel testing cannot be accommodated.

Hall provided a dire report on the volume of COVID activity in the region. Hospitals in the area are full and they are seeing most of the patients are unvaccinated. He offered to provide an educational workshop to encourage people to get vaccinated, which could include a Q&A with IH providers.

Groundwater asked if Hall was surprised by anything in the data. Hall responded that the number of same day, urgent cases. He expected the severity of the walk ins to be less. They have adjusted to keep one provider dedicated to urgent visits on a daily basis.

Miller asked if the volume of patients per day was as expected, and Hall responded that they Clinic appears to be averaging 40/42 patients per day and will likely get to 50/55 as providers and staff are fully trained. He feels the staffing model will support that volume and will monitor going forward. Hall was pleased with the EMS partnership, and the providers are coming in to see patients who need care after-hours.

#### **V. Building Committee**

Fralick reported that the latest project involving exterior paint, replacement of two windows and automating two doors is complete. He continues to wait for the new compressor to show up so work can be done to see about getting the former UW freezer working. Presson has been trying to get that wrapped up with UW since they owned the warranty contract with the manufacturer.

Fralick is working with Orcas Electric and hopes to get the lighting project underway shortly. Presson also reported that the landscaping company will be increasing their hourly rate from \$35 to \$45 effective next month. They have not raised their rate in several years, in spite of the fact that they have raised prices for other clients. Their current hourly rate is \$50 yet they have agreed to give the District the rate from 2020.

Finally, Fralick indicated it was time to schedule a neighborhood meeting to talk about the situation with Deye Lane and the work that needs to be performed. While preliminary work was done to get through the summer months, there will be issues when winter comes.

#### **VI. After-Hours Work Group**

Lange provided an overview of the discussion from the last meeting of this group. He is pleased that the after-hours process is working and the relationship between IH and OIFR is strong. Communication has improved from the past, and EMS now has access to the Orcas on-call provider. It was decided that the leadership group would move to meeting quarterly, and the monthly meetings would continue between Clinic staff and the EMS team.

#### **VII. Old Business**

Lange summarized the items discussed at the August 3rd meeting, and what was moved forward in terms of moving to a more conventional Board/Staff relationship and assessing the need to move the Superintendent to a Full-time position. There was consensus to have the already established group of Lange, Groundwater and Presson tackle both areas and bring a recommendation back to the Board.

Their work will include an analysis of different staffing models and associated costs. In the Executive Session, the Commissioners will discuss the overall parameters for a new compensation arrangement. Miller asked that information be sent well in advance of the Board meeting so Commissioners can be well prepared.

#### **VIII. New Business**

There was no new business brought to the Board's attention.

#### **IX. Public Comment**

There was no request for Public Comment at this time.

#### **X. Executive Session**

Per RCW 42.30.110 (g) the Board indicated they would move into Executive Session for an initial 30 minutes for the purpose of reviewing the performance of a public employee. This will include a discussion around possible parameters for negotiating a new compensation agreement with the Superintendent in the future.

Lange returned to Open Session at 6:30 pm and indicated the Board needed an additional 30 minutes in Executive Session. At 7 pm the Full Board returned to Open Session. No further business was conducted or action taken.

**XI. Meeting adjournment**

**MOVED by Commissioner Fralick, seconded by Commissioner Groundwater to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm. VOTE 5:0:0. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Minutes approved this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.**

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**Attest: Patricia Miller, OIHCD Board Secretary**

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**Date signed**