

**San Juan County Public Hospital District #2
Dba Lopez Island Hospital District (LIHD)**

**Board of Commissioners – Strategic Planning Board Meeting
September 8, 2021
REMOTE MEETING DUE TO COVID-19
Zoom Video/Audio
3:00 – 5:00 pm
Minutes**

Commissioners Present

Albert Berger, Board Secretary
Christa Campbell
Iris Graville, Board President
James Orcutt
Steven Greenstein

Staff

Superintendent Anne Presson

Consultant

Jody Carona, HFPD

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm by the Chair, President Graville.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

III. Community Survey & Focus Groups

The District's Consultant, Jody Carona, revisited the updated Community Survey. Discussion continued with final feedback from the Commissioners as to the questions and content. The goal is to open the survey the middle of the month and close by early October so the Board can review a preliminary report at the October meeting. At that time the Board can also decide on the number and scope of Focus Groups. The goal would be to hold those and be able to report initial results at the November Board meeting.

Berger asked for a high-level overview of the goal of the Focus Groups versus the Community Survey. Carona explained the former allow for a deeper dive for more qualitative data and a deeper dive to understand certain areas. The format will be 10-12 people having a discussion for 60-90 minutes. Participants can share their experiences and perceptions, offering a richer understanding of responses as compared to the Survey. Questions will be asked that will promote discussion, and the facilitator will listen and capture key points and themes.

The Board was asked to think about whether they, the Superintendent, or any members of the Clinic should be part of the panel hosting the Focus Groups. There was a general sense that neither the Commissioners or Superintendent should participate, and the Commissioners will confirm that's the preference at the next Regular Board meeting.

IV. Best Practices

Carona shared a very brief overview of ways other rural areas have created a sustainable model for Physical Therapy and Pharmacy.

For Pharmacy

- Loan Forgiveness
- Increase rural training and residency slots
- Support integration of pharmacist within the larger care delivery system as data proves errors decrease when part of interdisciplinary team
- Remote "tele" back-up

For PT this also included:

- Telehealth
- Focus on retention– workload, pay, time off, quality of life
- Recruit those interested in a broad scope practice and playing larger role in medical management.

V. Work Plan - Focus on Sustainability

Carona reviewed the work plan timelines and deliverables. She continues to feel that the planning process is on track. At the August meeting the Board was open to looking at ways to be able to enhance Revenue, and those avenues will continue to be explored as the process continues. This includes advocacy on the Rural Health Clinic reimbursement fix that would retain the cost-based reimbursement that the Lopez Clinic had with Island Hospital, the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) model, and also pursuing the information request from UW. There was feedback from subject matter expert, Peggy Means, that the FQHC was something pursued in the past and is worth pursuing again. The enhanced reimbursement for Medicare and Medicaid was significant, and the people at the State were very helpful and supportive in prior discussions.

Carona reviewed what was established as deliverables at the start of the project to confirm the Board still felt these were the right activities. Carona also agreed to bring back drafts of the Mission, Vision and Values in October, as those had been discussed with the Board early on and she and Presson were to edit and bring back updates.

VI. Finance Committee

Berger presented an overview of the LIHD FY'22 budget draft and summary assumptions (attached). An overarching theme is that the District is facing a lot of uncertainty in the coming year, due to staff turnover and continued demands of COVID.

The method upon which Revenue is being treated will be less conservative than in past years, largely due to a history of collections by the County Treasurer and increased confidence in the budget process. The biggest unknown on the Expense side is associated with Dr. Wilson's replacement. There is a \$75,000 placeholder associated with the recruitment process, recognizing there could be a period of time where a temporary provider is needed. If that were the case, UW expressed concerns around finding housing, which could add up and become expensive. Finally, due to this uncertainty the Committee recommends continuing to put money into the Reserve Fund. As a reminder, those funds are to protect the District from longer-term uncertainty, and not used to fill operational gaps in a particular year. For that reason, a more formal assessment of Ending Cash is warranted to ensure the District can fund expenses that occur in the 5-month period between receipt of Property Tax Revenue. A more detailed discussion on Reserves will continue as more of the outstanding questions are able to be answered.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

Graville realized she had not started the meeting with the traditional acknowledgment that LIHD is located on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples.

IX. Upcoming Meetings

A list of upcoming meetings of interest was included on the Agenda.

X. Adjourn

Noting no further business, Graville called the meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm.