

San Juan County Public Hospital District #3
Dbas: Orcas Island Health Care District
Board of Commissioners - SPECIAL Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 24, 2018
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Lopez Island Fire District - Firehall

Commissioners Present:

Diane Boteler
Richard Fralick
Pegi Groundwater
Art Lange
Patricia Miller

Staff:

Superintendent Anne Presson

Guests:

Debra Gussin (remote), UWNC
Darren Layman, UWNC
Dr. Pete McGough, UWNC
Dr. Mike Alperin, UWNC

Commissioners Absent:

None

I. Call to Order

President Fralick called the Special meeting to order at 10:45 am.

II. Acute and After-Hours Proposal

Based on a report from the After-Hours Work Group, the Board was faced with the fact that UW wasn't willing to accept the key elements of the initial proposal for after-hours care. As this is a key element in the ongoing contract negotiations, it was important to determine if the two sides could compromise and develop an approach that would be mutually acceptable.

The Board revisited the parameters of the after-hours approach to identify which elements were critical to have in any model. The Board submitted a modified after-hours proposal to UWNC with the intent that this would be an initial short-term solution. The assumption being the two sides would continue to work together to capture data over some predetermined period to identify the magnitude of the need and whether UWNC would be agreeable to adopting a more comprehensive approach. The proposal was submitted to UWNC and the items summarized in that document were the foundation for the discussion of this Special Meeting. A summary of the proposal, discussion and next steps is attached to these minutes.

The discussion with UWNC leadership centered around the need for a more comprehensive approach to after-hours care due to the remoteness of islanders. The Board expressed their need to understand the costs and benefits of various scenarios which would increase access to care. It will be important to have this information for upcoming Town Hall meetings scheduled for September 8th and 20th. The Board wants to be able to clearly communicate the details for different approaches to after-hours care to gauge the reaction of the community.

The benefits and limitations of shifting hours versus extending Clinic hours was discussed. Concerns arose as to the difficulty in justifying the cost of additional staff in an extended hours model as the volume would likely be low outside of the busy summer months. It was noted that data from 2 years ago provided by Island Hospital had shown after-hours calls usually came in 1-2 hours after closing. This had created an earlier hypothesis that staying open later in the evenings could pick up much of the acute care need. The benefits and limitations associated with staggering hours, where additional staff wasn't required, were debated. The biggest downside being times when only one provider would be in the Clinic. There were also questions as to provider's willingness to move to a shifted schedule, which UWNC will discuss with the existing staff.

There was also discussion around the District's request to ask providers, on a voluntary basis with compensation, to see acute care patients after hours, if deemed medically necessary. UW's stance is that there's an increased risk on providers when seeing patients with no prior history, or "undifferentiated" patients. Various options were discussed. The role of the Triage Nurse was also explored and, due to their function, UWNC has been reluctant to change the current protocol whereby the Triage Nurse serves as the first point of contact. Finally, the Fire Chiefs from Lopez and Orcas Islands were in attendance and part of the discussion included ways to better collaborate with EMS and whether they could serve to "differentiate" a patient.


After a productive discussion, the Board asked UWNC what they would be willing to do on a trial basis and how quickly they could implement a proposal. Next steps included looking at the up-front triage, talking with providers on the proposed model, and looking at the Triage Nurse data to better understand the volume and what has been taking place since UWNC took over Clinic operations.

Finally, Commissioner Boteler raised a concern that UW blocked Board access to a member of the clinical staff for a discussion to try to understand their perspective on care delivery. She raised concerns that UW did not want clinical staff to talk with the Board directly. The UW acknowledged they asked the staff member not to meet with Board members directly without going through their hierarchy and with an administrator present. A very brief discussion ensued that this topic would be raised in a regular Board meeting as UW would like protocols in place for any discussions between the Board and clinical staff to occur.

III. Meeting adjournment

MOVED by Commissioner Groundwater, seconded by Commissioner Boteler to adjourn at 12:00 pm. VOTE 5:0:0. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes approved this 4th day of Sept, 2018.



Attest: Anne L. Presson, OIHCD Superintendent