

Morrill County Community Hospital  
Board of Trustees Retreat  
November 19, 2018

Minutes

President Frank Lussetto called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., on November 19, 2018, in the Board Room of the Morrill County Community Hospital, under the Open Meetings Act. In addition to Frank Lussetto, in attendance were all Board members: Ken Sestak, Travis Miller, Kevin Hall, and Thomas Oliver. Frank explained that the purpose of the meeting was for Board Members to share long term concerns and visions for the Hospital on an informal basis, including trends in healthcare.

Travis Miller opened the Retreat with a refresher of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a review of the rules for executive sessions.

Board Members then discussed trends that concerned them. This included the following:

- Ability to attract high quality professionals in a low population area, perhaps focusing on quality of life in this area
- Balancing growth so as to anticipate needs and trends without overbuilding
- Monitoring regulations for Critical Access Hospitals and perhaps diversifying to protect against adverse changes
- Addressing nonpayment by patients particularly with the growing number of high deductible policies, and possible steps to reduce accounts receivable with this trend
- Keeping abreast of technological advances particularly with telemedicine opportunities and competition
- Balancing provision of necessary services to the community with financial stability and positive growth

Some ideas that came out of the discussion of these trends that we may wish to discuss in more detail as we go forward:

- Development of “memberships” in MCCH that will serve as credit against deductibles
- Development of our own telemedicine, perhaps for the Hospitalist
- Seek professional advertising services to emphasize “Front Range Care, right here at home”
- Perhaps ramp up Medicare patient load with Uber style transportation, particularly for elderly
- Pursue additional training and education for Board members to help to be more effective in our service
- Incorporate community volunteers into Home Health Services to address needs for minimal cost while gaining community favor
- Review and evaluate services offered using a matrix of value to the community and profitability

The Board agreed that the Hospital is doing well under the administration of Robin Stuart and we should encourage her to continue in a path of growth, providing necessary support. The Board agreed that the idea of being a regional hospital is a worthy dream because MCCH fills a unique niche of providing old-fashioned care with modern medicine against the trend of corporate medicine. Yet the Board also agreed that we needed to continue monitoring trends and make adjustments to minimize disruption to the services we provide and the financial growth we are enjoying. To this end, Frank suggested that formation of some committees may help the Board be more productive and efficient. He suggested the following:

- Ken head up a finance committee with one of the duties being to review financials prior to Board meetings
- Kevin work with Robin on growth and building opportunities
- Travis and Thom be available as the Board members to address appeals by employees

Finally, as an agenda item to be added for the next meeting, the Board expressed concern with signage, particularly for those unfamiliar with Bridgeport.

At 9:30 p.m., the Board voted to adjourn upon a motion by Travis, seconded by Thom.

Thomas Oliver, Secretary of the Board of Trustees