

The Three Rivers Hospital Board of Commissioners called a regular meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Tuesday, April 29, 2025. The meeting was held in the McKinley Building Conference Room at 507 Hospital Way, Brewster WA 98812 and virtually via the Microsoft Teams platform. The presiding officer was Mike Pruett, Board Chair.

A quorum was present, including:

Mike Pruett, Board Chair
Cherri Thomas, Vice-Chair
Leslie McNamara, Secretary
Tracy Shrable, Member (Teams)
David Garcia, Member

Others present:

Onsite

J. Scott Graham, Chief Executive Officer
Jamie Boyer, Chief Operating Officer
Anita Fisk, HR Director
Jennifer Munson, Chief Financial Officer
Tina Smith, Chief Nursing Officer
Dr. Ty Witt, Chief Medical Officer
Shauna Field, Administrative Assistant
German Meza, Quality Director
Dan Webster, Foundation President

Via Teams

Jeremy Vandelac, Ancillary Services Director
Mike Oberg, Informatics RN
Michele Graham, Quality Director
Rosie Poole, HIM and CS Manager
Zac Allison, Radiology Supervisor
Sandra Zamudio, Accounting Tech
Rob Wylie, Maintenance Manager
Jennifer Best, PR & Marketing

Vision, Mission & Values

All took turns reading the vision, mission, and values statements.

Agenda

The date of the June Board meeting and Resolution 2025-04: M&O Levy were added to the new business. A motion was made by L. McNamara to accept the amended agenda as official; seconded by C. Thomas. Motion carried.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

A motion was made by C. Thomas to approve the March 27, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; seconded by D. Garcia. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Discussion on the Board Chair and Vice Chair positions being up for re-election this year; M. Pruett and C. Thomas will be re-filing. L. McNamara commented on the employee spotlight, RN Zach Riggle, and congratulated him on being with us for 11 years.

Consent Items

M. Pruett noted the Medical Staff applications, payroll, bad debt, charity care, and vouchers listed on the agenda. L. McNamara recused herself from the 4/3/2025 vouchers due to an invoice for personal reimbursement.

Payroll Total:	Gross: <u>\$ 708,520.71</u>	Net: <u>\$ 499,995.75</u>
<u>3/16/25 to 3/29/25</u>	Gross: <u>\$ 354,805.75</u>	Net: <u>\$ 248,483.14</u>
<u>3/30/25 to 4/12/25</u>	Gross: <u>\$ 353,714.96</u>	Net: <u>\$ 251,512.61</u>
Vouchers Total:		<u>\$ 1,816,529.57</u>
<u>3/27/2025</u>	<u>103471-103528</u>	<u>\$ 341,242.12</u>
<u>4/3/2025*</u>	<u>103529-103556</u>	<u>\$ 424,826.55</u>
<u>4/8/2025</u>	<u>103557-103557</u>	<u>\$ 539.53</u>
<u>4/10/2025</u>	<u>103558-103637</u>	<u>\$ 266,365.29</u>
<u>4/17/2025</u>	<u>103638-103671</u>	<u>\$ 440,033.15</u>
<u>4/24/2025</u>	<u>103673-103741</u>	<u>\$ 343,522.93</u>
Bad Debt		<u>\$ 99,735.11</u>
Financial Assistance		<u>\$ 76,723.11</u>

A motion was made by C. Thomas to accept the consent items as presented; seconded by D. Garcia. Motion carried.

Foundation Report

Dan Webster presented the Foundation Report. They are reviewing a request from the clinic for blood pressure cuffs. They have received 3 applications for their scholarship with the deadline tomorrow.

Physician's Report

Dr. Witt presented the Physician's Report. The next MedStaff meeting is scheduled for June 18th with peer review on the agenda. With the upcoming provider retirements of Dr. Huffman and Dr. Kremer, they are exploring succession planning. S. Graham will be speaking at the American Legion on May 7th.

Administration Report

S. Graham presented the Administration Report. L. McNamara thanked everyone who took part in the two-day Virginia Mason workshop. She also commented on how happy she was to see the night shift ER RN position filled with the help of the increased incentive. The group discussed the telemedicine program with the Mansfield school and the potential of expanding to other school districts. L. McNamara asked about the new registration processes and if the new QR code can be tracked to see who is using it. The electronic pre-visit forms have been implemented. She also thanked all the volunteers helping with our parade participation. The Methow Arts Alliance will be installing new art on the 14th and an open house will be held shortly after. C. Thomas asked if the new forms are available through the patient portal; they are available through Patient Connect but not on the portal. We are trying to go paperless wherever we can.

The group discussed the uncertainty regarding Medicare and Medicaid cuts on a federal level. WSHA is tracking the issue, but they can't predict if and where cuts might happen. C. Thomas asked what our percentage of Medicaid is; 40%, but 78% when including Medicare. SNAP funds are likely to get approval, but it is still uncertain. We are holding off on paying our portion of the program until we know for sure. There are concerns that if no one pays into it, the SNAP program will collapse. 21 hospitals have closed since the beginning of the year. We continue to advocate with our legislators regarding how vulnerable rural hospitals are. We have had two months of low volumes, which is concerning.

L. McNamara asked about adding behavioral health services and the Okanogan County Commissioners interest in setting up more programs; reimbursement for behavioral health services is not good and resources are limited. We would not be able to establish that kind of program without enough reimbursement to remain sustainable. We partner with OBHC to offer a telehealth room for behavioral health visits onsite and this is gaining traction. C. Thomas asked if other hospitals are seeing a downturn in volumes; yes. With the economy in question, our summer tourism may be impacted which will also affect our volumes.

We are working with Allevant on improving our swing bed program, but we are competing with all other regional facilities for referrals. The nursing staff has given good feedback on the training modules but many of the suggestions are things we are already doing.

Improvements to the facility will draw more people to us and we continue to work with Dave Franklund on the renovation design. We have two options; a one-story design or a two-story design. The two-story design is preferable as it would give us more space. Dave is trying to keep the proposal costs to 35M or below, which would be half of the cost of the original bond we ran. We are planning to run the resolution in the November election. The group discussed concerns about running the proposal this year, with the economic uncertainty, as well as potential voter turnout and meeting the required 60% super majority. Suggest scheduling a special board meeting to discuss it further.

Our quality and safety improvement program with Virginia Mason, Bridge to Excellence, is going well. We are getting good feedback from the staff; they are engaged and making positive improvements to eliminate waste and streamline processes. The group discussed ways to keep the program going into the future. Karen Gifford, our Virginia Mason representative, would like to present to the board at a future meeting.

Finance Report

J. Munson presented the March Finance Report. There were 39 inpatient days, 16 surgeries, 103 FTEs, with a total patient revenue of 1.9M, net revenue of 1.2M, and 1.7M in expenses. She has accrued 45k for the HCA directed payments for SNAP, but it will not be paid until the state and federal government decide if they are going to fund the program. We had a 514k operating loss with a 237k total net loss. Cash flow projections if there is no improvement show that by August we will need to start using reserve funds. Year to date we have had an operating loss of 558k, but a small overall profit of 270k. M. Pruett asked about the downturn of surgeries; Dr. White was only onsite once, which impacted our volumes. J. Munson is applying again for the Distressed Hospital grant this year. We are seeing more people take advantage of the tax incentive. Improvements are being made in the registration and revenue cycle processes as a result of our work with Virginia Mason.

A motion was made by C. Thomas to accept the Finance report as presented; seconded by D. Garcia. Motion carried.

Break

A break was held between 12:40 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Quality Report

G. Meza presented the Quality Report. April's Quality Council meeting was cancelled due to the onsite visit from Virginia Mason. M. Pruett asked about the patient satisfaction survey returns; there was a slight downturn. There were no inpatient surveys returned in February which pulled our score down from 83% to 79%. The clinic average is down 1% for the quarter and the ER went down by .28%. We've been seeing more returns for the ER. L. McNamara congratulated the staff on a successful CMS and DOH survey. We received our final letter on April 18th and the survey is officially done.

The MOAB de-escalation training for all staff is live and due for completion by the end of June. They will be gathering feedback from the staff on the training. Improvements continue with RLDatix event reporting; accounts have been created for every staff member, and they are developing more training.

A motion was made by L. McNamara to accept the Quality Report; seconded by T. Shrable. Motion carried.

Old Business

Capital Improvements Update – Focus is on the air conditioning for the Lab, Pharmacy, and CT to prepare for the upcoming hot weather. C. Thomas asked about our server room; it is very well conditioned. The new phone system is in the process of being implemented. Additional units are required to interface with our fax machines. Scott gave kudos to the IT Team for finding a budget neutral solution to modernize our phone system. Repairing the parking lot and the Hillcrest building siding are also upcoming projects.

New Business

IT Interlocal Agreement with Lake Chelan – We were asked to participate in Vitality Scorecard Indexing for the AHA. To submit our reports to AHA, data scrubbing is required, which is an additional cost. Lake Chelan is willing to let us use their data scrubber at no cost. A motion was made by L. McNamara to approve the interlocal agreement; seconded by C. Thomas. Motion carried.

Resolution 2025-03: Surplus Equipment – A motion was made by C. Thomas to approve the surplus equipment items; seconded by T. Shrable. Motion carried.

June Board Meeting Date – The annual Rural Health Leadership Conference in Chelan conflicts with the June meeting date. A motion was made by T. Shrable to move the June meeting to Thursday, June 26; seconded by D. Garcia. Motion carried. May’s Finance Committee meeting will be moved to the 23rd due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Resolution 2025-04: M&O Levy – A motion was made by L. McNamara to approve the resolution adding the annual M&O levy for ER operations to the August election ballot; seconded by C. Thomas. Motion carried. Further discussion is needed regarding when to run the new renovation bond proposal.

Strategic Plans and Discussion

None.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

M. Pruett noted the upcoming schedule of meetings and events. Hospital Week is the week of May 11-17. L. McNamara will volunteer to serve food at the staff BBQ and breakfast.

Executive Session – RCW 42.30.111(g)

The time of the executive session was adjusted to 15 minutes. An executive session to evaluate the performance of a public employee was held between 1:28 p.m. – 1:42 p.m. No action was taken.

Adjournment

A motion was made by L. McNamara to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 p.m.; seconded by D. Garcia. Motion carried.

Mike Pruett, Board Chair

Cherri Thomas, Board Vice Chair

Leslie McNamara, Board Secretary

Tracy Shrable, Board Member

David Garcia, Board Member