

Nassau Health Care Corporation Board of Directors
June 6, 2018.
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm.

Board Members in attendance:

George Tsunis, Esq. (Chair)
Linda Reed
Giuseppe Caruso, MC
Steve Cohn, Esq.
Michal M. DeLuca, MPA
Victor A. Gallo, MD
Russell Caprioli, DPM
Dr. Bobby K. Kalotee
Frank Saracino, PhD
Paul A. Pipia, MD (Interim President/CEO)

Executive Staff in attendance:

Don Ashkenase, Chief Operating Officer
Robert S. Heatley, Business Development and Ambulatory Services
John Maher, Chief Financial Officer
Maureen Roarty, Human Resources Director
Megan Ryan, General Counsel
Farooq Ajmal, Chief Information Officer
Kevin Mannle, Facilities
Maureen Shannon, RN, Quality Management.

Call to Order

Report by Chairman

Mr. Tsunis opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. He noted that The Joint Commission is here and has concluded for the day and 'so far, so good'. Mr. Tsunis requested a motion to approve the minutes of the last Board meeting, a motion was made, seconded and the minutes were approved.

Report by Interim President and CEO

Dr. Pipia stated that OR#4 is back on line, and we are now back to nine operating rooms. All doors and other equipment have been replaced on all units.

Dr. Pipia then presented information regarding the filing of a Certificate of Need (“CON”) application for Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (“PCI”). [See Attachment A, proposed motion and Business Plan.]

Dr. Pipia advised that two department chairs have announced their intended retirement: Dr. Kadakia (Neurology) and Dr. Rory Sadoff (Dental Medicine & Oral Surgery).

Dr. Pipia noted that the reverse osmosis dialysis machine at A Holly Patterson is past its end of life and must be replaced. It will cost approximately \$400,000 to replace; there is money available from the ‘essential hospitals’ grant’. If the machine becomes inoperable it will make it impossible to perform dialysis for approximately 150 to 200 patients, who will then need to seek dialysis elsewhere. He clarified that he is making a request for approval for this purchase. There are only 2 companies that make this machine; accordingly a competitive bid would be the best way to proceed. Mr. Tsunis stated that the matter is not yet ready to be approved, although apparently worthy of approval, and stated that the matter is tabled until the next meeting, when the request can be made with appropriate backup.

Dr. Pipia stated that NHCC is launching new service lines. With regard to diabetes; Dr. Pipia said that he has met with patient navigators from DSRIP. There are many co-morbidities with diabetes and review of discharges showed many with diabetes. Other new service lines are low back pain and joint replacement.

Dr. Caruso asked if the proposed cardiology program would be worth it. Dr. Pipia stated that it would because ambulances will not take anyone who MIGHT have a heart attack to NHCC because NHCC does not do angioplasty. Dr. Capriolli asked about what happens to indigent patients who are taken to Northwell or St. Francis; Dr. Pipia stated that if they are citizens they will qualify Medicaid. Dr. Pipia stated that in addition to increased profit from the cardiac service, it will bring in other cases. Mr. Tsunis also discussed that there would be increased revenue by ‘upping the case mix’, through more orthopedic and diabetes cases. The issue of the importance of time for cardiac and stroke cases, given the central geographic location of NUMC was raised – where NUMC is losing patients in its own zip code – makes having a PCI lab important. Dr. Capriolli added that there are many procedures and surgeries that can require a transfer out for cardiac issues. Mr. Tsunis added that there are seven operating rooms doing twenty surgeries a day, but that getting twelve operating rooms doing sixty surgeries a day would give a better case mix. Dr. Pipia stated that ortho would do more surgeries but they need more OR space; he suggested giving ortho two more days in the OR. Dr. Pipia noted that the turnover time in the OR is down, but is still too high.

Mr. Ashkenase noted that there is still an exquisite presentation for later in the meeting, but that the need to grow the hospital’s business is very important and requires reaching out to other

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entities. He noted that he will be meeting with Emblem Healthcare next week. In addition he will be meeting with Fidelis, United Healthcare and HealthFirst as strategic partners.

Corporate Action

Mr. Tsunis read the resolution concerning PC(Attachment A); a motion was made to approve the resolution, seconded and the resolution was approved.

MPAC

Ms. Read stated that MPAC did not have a quorum at the last scheduled meeting. She stated that because of the lack of quorum, Dr. Pipia will need to sign certain documents.

Legal and Audit Committee

Mr. Tsunis moved for the approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Legal and Audit Committee which immediately preceded the Board meeting, the motion was seconded and approved.

Legal Report

No report.

Comment

Dr. Kalotee made a statement regarding his pride in the hospital and Dr. Pipia in connection with an admission to the hospital. He gave thanks for the leadership and gave great compliments to the care he received and the care he saw being provided to other patients.

Mr. DeLuca made a statement in connection with a situation with New York State Troopers, Troop L, where the Major of that Troop was at NUMC. He said that Dr. Boutin took great care. He (Mr. DeLuca) also called Dr. Pipia at 11p.m., and although Mr. DeLuca did not request it, Dr. Pipia came in to the hospital and stayed until 3a.m. and went above and beyond. The Major was very impressed.

Dr. Kalotee made a second statement, concerning a call he received from a Nassau County union family member in a situation. Dr. Kalotee said that he called Dr. Pipia at 9p.m. and in three minutes, everything was taken care of.

The open session of the meeting was concluded at 8:06pm.

Approved: 

George Tsunis, Esq.
Chair, NHCC Board of Directors