

# FINAL: APPROVED

## PLAQUEMINES MEDICAL CENTER REGULAR BOARD MEETING November 16, 2023

### Item I. & II. Call to Order & Roll Call:

**Call To Order And Roll Call** - A Regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Plaquemines Medical Center (Plaquemines Parish Hospital Service District Number One d/b/a Plaquemines Medical Center) was called to order by Chairman Dale Adams at 6:05 pm on November 16, 2023, at Plaquemines Medical Center, 27136 Hwy 23, Port Sulphur, LA. Tyler Overton conducted the customary roll call of the Board Members and recorded and documented the minutes. The results were as follows:

Rechelle Ragas:	<u>Present (6:09 PM)</u>	Stanley Gaudet:	<u>Present</u>
Dorothy Lundin:	<u>Present</u>	Norma LaFrance:	<u>Present</u>
Brigette Belair:	<u>Present</u>	Jane Tesvich:	<u>Present</u>
Mena Marinovich:	<u>Present</u>	Bonnie Thomas:	<u>Absent</u>
Dale Adams:	<u>Present</u>		

A quorum was declared present.

Also in attendance were: Leslie Prest, Plaquemines Medical Center; Tyler Overton, Plaquemines Medical Center; Monica Martin, Plaquemines Medical Center; LaTonya Hymes-Sam, Plaquemines Medical Center; Dr. Michael Kotler, Plaquemines Medical Center; Dr. Mohammed Naeem (6:15 pm), Plaquemines Medical Center; Jennifer Harris, Plaquemines Primary Care; Lon Vu, Elite Pelican Clinics and RemoteMD; Kenneth Gowland (via Zoom), Metro Studios; Matthew Zuvich, USI One Advantage.

### Item III. Pledge of Allegiance: (Marinovich)

### Item IV. Review and Approval of Current Agenda as Amended: (Adams)

Reorder: Executive Session will follow Item VII.

**Motioned by Ms. Marinovich, seconded by Ms. Lundin, to approve the current agenda as amended.**

Public Comments:  
None

**Motion passed: 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

### Item V. Approval of October 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. (Adams)

**Motioned by Ms. Marinovich, seconded by Ms. Belair, to approve the October 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

Public Comments:  
None

**Motion passed: 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

**Item VI. Financials:** (Leslie Prest)

**A. & B. Review and Approval of October Financial Reports**

Ms. Prest provided a copy of the October 2023 financial reports to the board via email before the meeting for their review and approval. Ms. Prest read through the October 2023 financial reports during the meeting. Ms. Prest reviewed the Profit & Loss Budget vs. the Actual year-to-date comparison, the October 2023 Income Graph, the Expense Graph, Billing Statistics, and the October 2023 Payer Mix.

**Motioned by Ms. Marinovich, seconded by Ms. LaFrance, to approve the October 2023 Financial Report.**

Public Comments:  
None

**Motion passed: 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

**Item VII. Medical Director/ Assistant Medical Director/Clinical Coordinator:**  
(Dr. Michael Kotler/Dr. Mohammed Naeem/Monica Martin)

Dr. Michael Kotler updated the board on whom he has been in touch to achieve the Rural Emergency Hospital initiative for Plaquemines Medical Center (PMC). He shared that he and Ms. Prest met with Dr. Vincent Culotta to tour the facility and share what PMC offers.

Ms. Prest shared the success of the recent Plaquemines Association and Business Industry (PABI) Board meeting held at PMC.

Dr. Kotler noted the challenge of aligning medical care with high patient acuity and acknowledged recruitment challenges. Dr. Kotler emphasized the facility's capacity for high-level care, citing a recent positive incident involving a trauma at the nearby plant. The conversation stressed the importance of meeting community needs while maintaining care standards amid the facility's increasing recognition. Ms. Prest added that a representative from Senator Bill Cassidy's office would also visit PMC at the end of the month to tour the facility. The board had no questions or comments at this time.

Ms. Martin provided a recent update, mentioning 24 transfers, with 6 or 7 being trauma cases, emphasizing the increase in high acuity patients. She discussed upcoming interviews for medical staff, including lab hires for Belle Chasse's opening. COVID-19, Flu, and strep statistics were shared, emphasizing preventive measures. The successful haunted house event attracted 300 children, showcasing the facility. Ms. Martin

highlighted involvement in food distribution for 200+ families, a breast cancer walk, and a Halloween party. Upcoming events like the Orange Festival and a Santa workshop were noted. The board raised no questions or comments.

Public Comments:

None

#### **Item VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

##### **A. Strategic Planning, LA.R.S.46:1073**

**Motioned by Ms. Marinovich, seconded by Mr. Gaudet, to go into Executive Session.**

Public Comments:

None

**Motion passed: 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

Convened at: 6:28 pm

Re-Convened Regular Meeting at: 6:50 pm

**Motioned by Mr. Gaudet, seconded by Ms. Belair, to reconvene the regular meeting following the Executive Session.**

Public Comments:

None

**Motion passed: 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

#### **Item IX. New Business**

##### **A. USI Insurance**

**Motioned by Mr. Gaudet, seconded by Ms. Tesvich to elect USI Insurance as our agent of choice for Plaquemines Medical Center.**

Public Comments:

None

**Motion passed: 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**



## **X. Old Business**

### **A. Belle Chasse Change Order #9 & #15**

Mr. Gowland discussed Change Order #9, a critical issue with the masonry parapet of the existing building. The brick veneer, once anchored to the metal frame, became unstable when the shortwave radio tower was removed. To address this, a cost-effective solution was implemented, involving selective demolition, rebuilding unsupported masonry, and adding anchorage and flashing components. This fix secured the gable end wall, maintaining the building's appearance while ensuring safety.

Mr. Gowland continued to discuss Change Order #15, discussing several aspects of the change order and simplifying complex details. The first part involved removing items, like drywall under trusses, to facilitate new ductwork and address concerns about potential deflection. Credits were issued for curbing removal, considering site drainage issues, and concrete quality. An added component related to the floor elevation required adjustments for ADA compliance, leading to the addition of a ramp, step-up, and handrail. These changes also allowed for the removal of unnecessary bollards. Mr. Gowland welcomed questions for further clarification.

The board thoroughly discussed multiple change orders, carefully exploring the available options. They chose to defer any additional definitive decisions on the remaining discussed items. These will be revisited and finalized during the upcoming board meeting.

**Motioned by Mr. Gaudet, seconded by Ms. Belair to proceed with Belle Chasse Change Orders #9 & #15.**

Public Comments:  
None

**Motion passed: 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

### **B. Update Elite Staffing Contract**

Ms. Prest updated the board on personnel changes for Respirator Fit Tests (RFTs) and Pulmonary Function Tests (PFTs) under the Venture Global contract that Dr. Kotler's staff assisted with due to a staffing shortage. Ms. Prest requested the board to vote to amend Elite's contract in order to align with the services provided.

**Motioned by Ms. Belair, seconded by Mr. Gaudet to proceed with the Update Elite Staffing Contract.**

Public Comments:  
None



**Motion passed: 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

**C. Update on Belle Chasse Facility**

Mr. Prest highlighted a six-month delay in obtaining the generator for the Belle Chase facility. Ms. Prest shifted to furniture, including chairs, desks, tables, and benches. The current furniture quote is through MMCAP, a governmental contract by McKesson. The board discussed furnishing the new Belle Chasse facility and decided to proceed with McKesson.

**Motioned by Ms. Marinovich, seconded by Ms. Belair to utilize McKesson for the furnishing of the Belle Chasse Facility.**

Public Comments:  
None

**Motion passed: 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

**D. Landscaping Quotes**

Ms. Prest updated the board on the landscaping bid, received and discussed options with contractors John Hoskins and Randy Loup. The proposed project addresses removing overgrowth, fixing sprinklers, and introducing new greenery. The need for demolition to remove dead plants and trees was also mentioned. The board decided to explore further discussions or revisions to align the landscaping plan within budget expectations.

Public Comments:  
None

**E. Cybersecurity**

Ms. Prest provided an update on the ongoing cybersecurity discussions. She mentioned Mr. Cantalano's presentation of CyberHoot last month, expressing considerations about the potential duplication of existing services. In response to the board's request for a direct comparison, Ms. Prest is actively working on obtaining a quote. Further details and coordination with the board will follow. Ms. Prest also highlighted that Plaquemines Medical Center does have cyber insurance for added security measures. The board had no further questions or comments at this time.

Public Comments:  
None

## **F. Ethics & Sexual Harassment Training**

Mr. Overton reminded the board of the annual trainings the board needs to complete before the new year. He asked the board to contact him with any questions or comments.

Public Comments:

None

## **G. Primary Care Update (Jennifer Harris)**

Ms. Harris presented updates on upcoming healthcare initiatives, including scheduling the women's mobile mammogram unit on January 31st. Approximately half of the mammogram slots have been booked. Additionally, Ms. Harris announced that Plaquemines Primary Care will be present on East Bank for two days each month starting on the second Tuesday of December. The board expressed satisfaction with the positive community response to these initiatives.

Public Comments:

None

## **Item XI. Adjournment: (Adams)**

**Motioned by Ms. Marinovich, seconded by Ms. Belair, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm.**

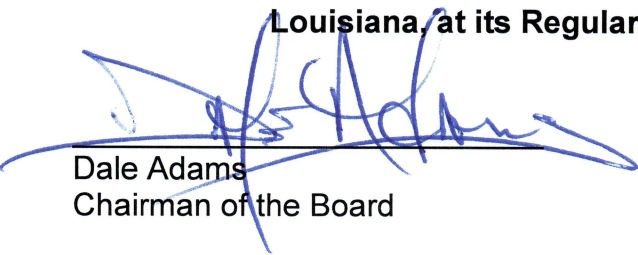
Public Comments:

None


**Motion passed: 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

## **Attestation**

**The above and foregoing is an accurate summary of the actions taken by the members of the Board of Commissioners of Plaquemines Parish Hospital Service District Number One d/b/a Plaquemines Medical Center, State of Louisiana, at its Regular Meeting on November 16, 2023.**



Dale Adams  
Chairman of the Board



Mena Marinovich  
Secretary/Treasurer