

# FINAL: APPROVED

## PLAQUEMINES MEDICAL CENTER REGULAR BOARD MEETING January 18, 2024

### 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 6:01 pm on January 17, 2024, at Plaquemines Medical Center, 27136 Hwy 23, Port Sulphur, LA. Leslie Prest conducted the customary roll call of The Board Members and recorded and Tyler Overton documented the minutes. The results were as follows:

Rechelle Ragas:	<u>Absent</u>	Stanley Gaudet:	<u>Present</u>
Dot Lundin:	<u>Present</u>	Norma Lafrance:	<u>Absent</u>
Brigette Belair:	<u>Present</u>	Jane Tesvich:	<u>Present</u>
Mena Marinovich:	<u>Present</u>	Bonnie Thomas:	<u>Present</u>
Dale Adams:	<u>Present</u>		

A quorum was declared present.

Also in attendance were: Leslie Prest, Plaquemines Medical Center; Colleen Fisher, Plaquemines Medical Center; Tyler Overton, Plaquemines Medical Center (via Zoom); Monica Martin, Plaquemines Medical Center; Dr. William Kotler, Plaquemines Medical Center; LaTonya Sam-Hymes, Plaquemines Medical Center; Trechel Ronquille, Plaquemines Medical Center; Jennifer Harris, Plaquemines Primary Care. Dr. Cartagena, Plaquemines Primary Care; Lon Vu, Elite Pelican Clinics and Remote MD.

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

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

#### A. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

**Motion passed: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

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

Public Comments: None

**Motion passed: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

Convened at:	<u>6:04 PM</u>
Re-Convened Regular Meeting at:	<u>6:25 PM</u>

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

Public Comments: None

**Motion passed: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

**Item V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024: (Dale Adams)**

**A. Chairman: Dale Adams**

**Motioned by Ms. Belair, seconded by Ms. Tesvich, to reelect Dale Adams as Chairman of the Board.**

Public Comments: None

**Motion passed: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

**B. Vice Chairman: Bonnie Thomas**

Public Comments: None

**Motioned by Ms. Belair, seconded by Ms. Tesvich, to reelect Bonnie Thomas as Vice Chairman of the Board.**

Public Comments: None

**Motion passed: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

**C. Treasurer: Mena Marinovich**

Public Comments: None

**Motioned by Ms. Belair, seconded by Ms. Tesvich, to reelect Mena Marinovich as Treasurer of the Board.**

Public Comments:  
None

**Motion passed: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

**Item VI. Approval of December 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. (Adams)**

**Motioned by Ms. Marinovich, seconded by Mr. Gaudet, to approve the December 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

Public Comments:  
None

**Motion passed: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

**Item VII. Financials: (Fisher)**

**A. & B. December 2023 Financial Report and Approval**

Ms. Fisher provided the December 2023 financial reports to the board for review and approval, which had been distributed via email before the meeting. During the meeting, Ms. Prest reviewed key aspects of the financial reports, including the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual comparison, income and expense graphs, billing statistics, and the payer mix for December 2023.

Ms. Prest also addressed any adjustments made by the CPA and highlighted notable trends observed, such as changes in visit counts. Questions raised by Mr. Adams regarding collections were addressed with a brief breakdown of collection percentages by PMC. No further questions or comments were asked by the board at this time.

**Motioned by Ms. Marinovich, seconded by Mr. Gaudet, to approve the December 2023 Financial Report**

Public Comments:  
None

**Motion passed: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

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

Dr. William Kotler opened the discussion, addressing recent developments and operations at the facility. He highlighted the increasing number of new patients and expressed satisfaction with the facility's patient care standards, noting positive feedback from the community. Dr. Kotler also discussed the recent onboarding of Dr. Stalcup in Emergency Medicine and his initial positive impressions of the facility's operations.

Following Dr. Kotler's remarks, Ms. Martin provided additional insights, affirming the facility's commitment to continuous improvement. She discussed ongoing efforts in hiring and training, particularly in preparation for the opening of the Belle Chasse facility. Ms. Martin emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards of patient care and expressed optimism for the facility's future growth and success. There were no questions or comments from the board at this time.

Public Comments:  
None

## **Item IX. New Business: (Adams)**

### **A. Grand Opening Belle Chasse Facility**

Ms. Prest elaborated on plans for the grand opening of the Belle Chasse Facility, focusing on key logistics and timelines. Ms. Prest provided an update on the final inspection schedule, indicating that the building will be turned over to PMC on February 9th. Plans were made to have equipment delivered to prepare for a soft opening.

The discussion then turned to the plan of the grand opening. It was suggested to have a soft opening initially before the grand opening. The board proposed inviting local and state politicians, as well as doctors and other stakeholders to attend the event. Suggestions were made for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in preparation for the opening of the Belle Chasse facility.

Further details regarding the grand opening, including the official date and format, will be discussed in subsequent meetings.

## **Item X. Old Business: (Adams)**

### **A. Elite Staffing Contract for Port Sulphur and Belle Chasse (Leslie Prest)**

The board discussed an increase in pay for emergency medicine physicians, taking into account factors like certification status and medical background. The board recognized the importance of balancing fair compensation with financial considerations, particularly with the impending rural emergency hospital. Additionally, there was mention of potential collaboration with LSU's emergency department to address staffing needs.

**Motioned by Mr. Gaudet, seconded by Ms. Marinovich, to approve the change in Elite Staffing Contract for Port Sulphur. PMC will compensate Elite Staffing \$250.00/hour for board-certified emergency medicine physicians and \$225.00/hour for physicians board certified in other areas with Emergency medicine experience and board eligible emergency medicine physicians.**

Public Comments:  
None

**Motion passed: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, 1 Present not voting.**

### **B. Update on Belle Chasse Facility (Leslie Prest)**

Ms. Prest began by presenting several important topics. Initially, she addressed potential adjustments to holiday operating hours at the Belle Chase facility, considering options like shortened hours or regular hours with holiday signage. A decision was deferred for further assessment. Additionally, Ms. Prest discussed proposed pay rate adjustments for certain medical professionals, particularly nurse practitioners.

The possibility of leasing adjacent land was also explored, with details on monthly costs and additional expenses. Negotiation options were considered due to uncertainty regarding obtaining a permanent easement.

Ms. Prest reviewed landscaping plans for the Belle Chase facility, seeking further bids for approval. Updates on parking lot repairs were provided, with approval for repairs in certain areas and decisions deferred in other areas.

Ms. Prest discussed various items such as the relocation of the mechanical room, acquisition of a hearing booth, and selection of artwork for interior decoration. Updates and approvals were provided as necessary throughout the meeting.

Public Comments:  
None

### **C. Rural Emergency Hospital Update (Leslie Prest)**

Ms. Prest presented an update on the rural emergency hospital, discussing a proposed amendment to be sent to Senators Cassidy, Scalise, and Kennedy. The amendment aimed to refine eligibility criteria for federal designation. Ms. Prest highlighted the need to emphasize the unique circumstances of rural facilities owned by public/governmental entities to secure federal support.

The discussion further explored efforts to retrieve historical records confirming the hospital's previous licensure, with Ms. Prest detailing her extensive efforts to locate relevant documentation. Despite challenges, the board explored various avenues for obtaining the necessary information, including contacting former staff and insurance companies.

Additionally, Ms. Prest shared news of the facility's selection for a pilot program aimed at assisting rural communities, expressing optimism about the potential benefits of this federal initiative. The board expressed support for these endeavors, recognizing the importance of securing federal assistance to bolster rural emergency services.

### **D. Primary Care Update: (Jennifer Harris)**

Ms. Harris and Dr. Cartagena discussed various updates, including the cancer testing initiative and the upcoming mobile mammogram unit visit. A lab offers comprehensive genetic testing for cancer-related genes through a survey and saliva sample. The test is usually covered by insurance, but if not, it costs \$250 out of pocket. Results typically take less than a month. The mobile mammogram unit will be available on January the 31st, with appointments filling up quickly. The board had no questions or comments at this time.

Public Comments:

None

**E. Update on Cyber Security (Leslie Prest)**

Ms. Prest is still awaiting information from the other companies regarding cybersecurity services. Plaquemines Medical Center's third-party information technology department, CMIT, communicated with a representative and requested necessary redactions to compare the quotes accurately. However, Ms. Prest has not yet received an updated quote. She will continue to keep everyone updated on any progress regarding this matter. The board had no comments on this matter.

Public Comments:  
None

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

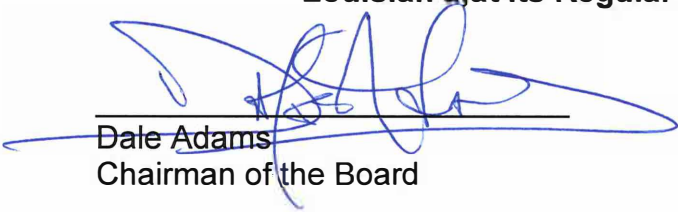
**Motioned by Ms. Marinovich, seconded by Ms. Belair, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM.**

Public Comments:  
None

**Motion passed: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 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 January 18, 2024.**

  
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Dale Adams  
Chairman of the Board

  
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Mena Marinovich  
Secretary/Treasurer