



**Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
Linkletter Hall  
June 3, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Board President Jim Leskinovitch and opened with the pledge of allegiance at 6:00 pm. Present were Commissioners John Beitzel, Jim Cammack, Arlene Engel, Jean Hordyk, and John Nutter; Chief Executive Officer Eric Lewis; Chief Medical Officer R. Scott Kennedy, MD; Assistant Administrators Rhonda Curry, Lorraine Wall, Julie Rukstad; Administrative Director Donna Davison; Chief of Staff Mark Fischer, MD; Legal Counsel Craig Miller, public members and Executive Assistant Gay Lynn Iseri.

**PRESENTATION FROM PARK VIEW VILLA TO CARDIAC SERVICES**

Executive Director of Park View Villa John C. LeClerc and Dee Bellamonte, Manager of the Senior Center presented Judy Tordini, Director of Cardiac Services \$750 raised by the Valentine Dance to benefit Cardiac Services.

**RESIGNATION OF COMMISSIONER GARY R. SMITH**

Jim Leskinovitch, Board President requested approval of Commissioner Gary R. Smith's resignation announcing the tenure of his job out of the country had been extended.

***MOTION:*** To accept the resignation of Commissioner Gary R. Smith. ***Motion carried.***

**DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT DISCUSSION**

Jim Leskinovitch, Board President introduced Mark Fischer, MD, chief of staff who spoke about the Washington State Death with Dignity Act. He noted the medical staff at OMC has had many discussions about the Act, with many different opinions. He announced the Medical Executive Committee unanimously appreciated and thanked the diligence and best efforts of the elected board members in their very difficult decision not to participate in the Act. No physician can be forced to participate or denied participation and also noted the OMC pharmacy is unable to participate as they are not a community retail enterprise. In addition, any OMC resolution should not interfere with the physician / patient relationship in optimal patient care and outcomes. Also, medical record keeping is an essential ingredient of health care documentation and continuity of the overall care of any patient with vital elements of this care in one place for the crucial continuity of care particularly at the end of life. Lastly, participation in the final act of the delivery and self-administration of the medication to end a patient's life should not be allowed in Olympic Memorial Hospital or any OMC clinics, but with continued, reasoned decisions which are safe, ethical, legal and most importantly patient centered.

***Public Comment:***

- Rob Craven, MD, spoke against participation in the Death with Dignity Act
- Peter Flatley, ordained minister, spoke against participation
- Janet Flatley, retired CPA, asked the board not to reverse decision about participation
- Ann Marie Henninger, asked the board to maintain its position
- Eve Farrell passed
- Don Hall spoke in favor of participation in the Act
- Kathy Gonzalez spoke against bringing assisted suicide to the hospital
- Will Stevenson spoke against participation and about pressure on patients as the cost of healthcare gets more expensive
- Alan Thomas spoke about the right of an individual to make his own decisions
- Vickie Rudin thanked the board for responding to public comment
- Charles Strickland asked how a public medical facility can deny this right to patients and stated the current policy of the OMC is in violation of the establishment clause of the first amendment by the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment
- Penney Van Vleet, League of Women Voters, requested a public forum for discussion
- Jess Grable thanked the board for listening and stated hospitals are havens for recovery
- Anna Gregory passed
- Yvonne Doughty stated the process of death is a wonderful thing that brings families together, and if you cut the process too short, the opportunity may be lost
- Reverend Tom Nathe, stated values come from someplace and God is understanding; do not participate in this Act
- Joan Sawyer, RN for 49 years, stated everything should be done to help the patient die at home if that is his request, the hospital is not interfering with this law, nor is it taking away this option
- Candace Cade. Didn't understand the problem; and noted the vote results

***Board Discussion:***

Commissioner Cammack stated he would not want to follow system set up in Oregon as a pharmacist and felt this didn't belong in Olympic Memorial Hospital despite the law was passed. He suggested we help our local volunteer hospice develop a hospice house to allow the physician to counsel patient, but not in the hospital.

Commissioner Engel spoke of her years of exposure to death in the retirement community setting and during her almost 90 years. She said hospice is a wonderful opportunity, and the choice of dying belongs to each of us individually and that ending someone's life doesn't belong within the hospital's wall.

Commissioner Beitzel noted 61% percent of voters in Clallam County supported this law, who are also his constituents. Therefore, he felt OMC should offer as many options as possible, not

forced on anyone, but available, but very few patients will probably opt to participate. People want to protect the hospital from the idea of death, as there are deaths that occur naturally in the hospital. He spoke in favor of the resolution allowing participating in the Act, but not on hospital properties.

Commissioner Hordyk acknowledged she is an elected official, but also could not compromise her beliefs because the Death with Dignity Act was voted into law. Service to the board remains important, but personally could not support the Act and would continue to vote against participation.

Commissioner Nutter spoke about issue as a whole with 61 percent of voters in favor of the Act. He spoke of the importance of the patient / physician relationship, but questioned whether OMC was the appropriate venue for the final act as staff responded against this happening at the hospital. He also noted the very small percentage of Oregon patients who opted to have the final act occur in a hospital.

Commissioner Leskinovitch stated he voted for I-1000 for patient choice. He proposed the physician / patient relationship should not be compromised, but the final act should not occur in the hospital or on any OMC premises. This is between the patient and the doctor, not the hospital's decision.

Commissioner Leskinovitch requested a motion after conferring with legal counsel Craig Miller.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cammack moved to consider the new Resolution 428, amending Resolution 425 to allow participation in the Washington State Dignity Act, but not to allow the final act to occur on OMC premises.

**Discussion:** Mr. Miller recommended amendment to the resolution 428 to prevent it from going out of effect. He read Resolution 428. Commissioner Beitzel asked if it allowed for the creation of the medical record to participate in the Act. Commissioner Hordyk inquired if insurance pays for this medication and it was determined to be insurance specific. The death certificate will state the illness as cause of death. Commissioner Beitzel commented that most public hospitals have chosen to participate in the Act, but not to allow final act occurring in hospital. Commissioner Hordyk voted against the motion, all others voted for the motion. **Motion carried.**

After a 5 minute break, the meeting resumed.

#### **DIABETES EDUCATION UPDATE**

Graciela Harris, Director Nutrition Services, presented an update on the entire Nutrition Services department. She updated the board on the room service program that has reduced food waste and improved patient satisfaction. She shared new amenities including a new large print menu for patients. She spoke about Clinical nutrition and the success of the diabetes education program since July 2007 which expanded to Sequim in 2009. See attached slides.

#### **RADIOLOGIST GROUP UPDATE**

Chief Medical Officer Scott Kennedy, MD, spoke positively about the results of an RFP submitted to five radiology groups to provide radiology services at OMC. The proposals are currently being reviewed and interviews are occurring to look at service levels, culture fit, systems blending with Meditech for processing, program costs, and ability to bill. Hopefully a final contract will be signed by the end of July.

#### **PHYSICIAN CONTRACTS**

Scott Kennedy, MD, Chief Medical Officer presented two physician contract amendments and two new physician contracts for approval.

The amendment to the contract for Dr. Rebecca Corley, Coastal Medical, converts to a more standardized WRVU system as an independent contractor.

**MOTION:** To approve the amendments to the professional services agreement for Rebecca Corley, MD, Pulmonologist, effective June 1, 2009 as presented.  
**Motion carried.**

The amendment to the contract for James Mowry, MD, orthopedic surgeon eliminates the old profit sharing clause as he continues to take one week of call out of four weeks, and includes additional compensation to cover CMEs, and incentive compensation above baseline.

**MOTION:** To approve the amendments to the physician employment agreement for James Mowry, MD, Orthopedic Surgeon, effective June 1, 2009 as presented.

**Discussion:** This is an amendment to the existing contract. **Motion carried.**

The new contract for Dr. Hampton Sessions, MD, Radiologist from Kissimmee, Florida was presented. Seattle Radiology was planning on hiring Dr. Sessions who brings a broad range of skills. His daily rate would be \$1,800 per day and begin work July 13, 2009.

**MOTION:** To approve the one-year professional services agreement with Hampton Sessions, MD, Radiologist, effective July 1, 2009 as presented.

**Discussion:** We are looking at current radiologists to help bridge the gap between the time we contract with a new group, and Dr. Sessions is aware of the plan to contract with a new group to provide radiology services at OMC. **Motion carried.**

New contract with Dr. Werner Meier, anesthesiologist replaced the old with new dates and to remove compensation to fly from Portland as he has not flown here since he's been on contract.

**MOTION:** To approve the one-year professional services agreement for Werner Meier, MD, Anesthesiologist as presented. **Motion carried.**

**HOSPITAL FINANCING OPTION**

Chief Financial Officer Julie Rukstad presented additional information about the debt structure and a letter from the financial advisor going over particulars regarding a \$3 million debt structured at a 2.9% limited term general obligation. The debt will be used for digital mammography, other equipment and the beginning of the EMR. A resolution for approval of this debt issuance will be brought to the next board meeting for approval. Legal Counsel Brad Berg from Foster Pepper has been advising on this issue. It was noted the Board Budget and Audit Committee has reviewed and recommended the approval of this debt issuance.

**SURPLUS PROPERTY**

**MOTION:** To approve the Surplus Property as presented. **Motion carried.**

At 8:13, the meeting was moved to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters by authority of RCW 42.30.110(g) for no more than an hour.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

**ATTEST:**

_____	_____ President
Secretary	_____ Commissioner
_____ Commissioner	_____ Commissioner
_____ Commissioner	_____ Commissioner