



**Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
Linkletter Hall  
March 4, 2009**

At 6:00 pm, the meeting was opened by Board President Jim Leskinovitch with the pledge of allegiance. Present were Commissioners John Beitzel, Jim Cammack (via telephone), Arlene Engel, Jean Hordyk, and Gary R. Smith (via telephone), Chief Executive Officer Eric Lewis, Chief Medical Officer R. Scott Kennedy, MD, Assistant Administrators Lorraine Wall, Richard Newman and Julie Rukstad, Administrative Director Donna Davison; Chief of Staff Mark Fischer, MD; Legal Counsel Craig Miller, public members and Executive Assistant Gay Lynn Iseri. Commissioner Cindy Witham was excused. Commissioner Jim Leskinovitch welcomed the public to the meeting.

**WASHINGTON STATE DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT**

Administrative Director Donna Davison presented a summary of the Washington State Death with Dignity Act approved by the voters in November 2008 including background, safeguards, implications, necessary steps for implementation, and options for OMC to consider regarding the Act. (See attached slides).

Sandra Tatro, MD Chair of the Ethics Committee presented the six points cited by the Ethics Advisory Committee to recommend participation:

1. Sixty-two (61%) percent of Clallam County voters voted in favor of Initiate 1000, the Death with Dignity Act.
2. OMC is the public hospital facility for this local community.
3. OMC recognizes that the community needs and wants more education and information on palliative care, comfort measures, and pain management, and by becoming a participating health care provider, OMC will further its ability to counsel and provide appropriate information to the public about end of life care.
4. OMC should recognize that only willing health care providers and other OMC employees should participate in the implementation of the Death with Dignity Act, and no one should be obligated to do so.
5. OMC should implement policies, procedures, and education for OMC health care providers and its employees in order that the requirements and guidelines listed in the Death with Dignity Act are strictly followed.
6. OMC should develop and provide information and education for patients and families that need information relating to end of life care and that wish to consider or utilize the process encompassed by the Death with Dignity Act.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Board President Jim Leskinovitch then asked for public comment as follows:

- Don Hall, Sequim, spoke in favor of participation in the Act.
- Janet Flatley, Carolsborg, spoke against participation
- Pam Blakeman, Port Angeles, 30-year employee of OMC, spoke against participation
- Anna Barrigan, Port Angeles, retired pharmacist, spoke against participation
- Robert Craven, MD, spoke against participation
- Gail Wheatley, Port Angeles, passed
- Paul Cunningham, MD, Port Angeles, spoke in favor of participation
- Milton Patrie, Port Angeles, spoke about his parents and urged participation in the Act
- Joan D. Cates, Port Angeles, retired LTC provider, spoke against the Act
- John W. McArthur, Sequim, retired pastor, spoke against the Act
- John Briley, Port Angeles, spoke against participation
- Christy Wright, Port Angeles, ED Nurse, spoke against having the hospital as the venue
- Mark Fischer, MD, Port Angeles, voted in favor of the Act, spoke against participation at OMC
- Glen Douglas, Port Angeles, Pastor, spoke against participation
- Ted Sires, Port Angeles/Sequim, spoke against participation
- Randy Simmons, Port Angeles, spoke against participation
- Bill Kintner, MD, spoke in favor of participation; consider the outpatient setting

Commissioners Leskinovitch presented four options for the Board to consider: allowing participation in the Washington State Death with Dignity Act, not allowing participation, allowing only partial participation (self administration of medication not allowed on OMC property), or tabling the decisions until a future date.

He asked the board members for a motion:

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hordyk moved to approve Resolution 425 - NOT allowing participation in the Washington State Death with Dignity Act at Olympic Medical Center as presented. Commissioner Engel seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** None. Commissioners Beitzel and Smith voted against the motion NOT to participate. The tie was broken by Commissioner Leskinovitch who voted in favor of Resolution 425 - NOT allowing participation in the Death with Dignity Act at Olympic Medical Center.  
**Motion carried.**

Commissioner Smith left the meeting via telephone.

#### **2008 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Chris Rivard, Partner from Moss Adams LLP presented the Independent Auditor's Report to the Board for 2008. He spoke about the Balance Sheet, Days Cash on Hand, Operations, and Rate of Growth. The current financial environment, physician shortages, measurements for hospitals, the Stimulus Bill and Budget including the Obama Plan, and Medicare profit margins were also discussed. (See attached slides).

#### **4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2008 FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Chief Financial Officer Julie Rukstad presented 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008 statistics compared to 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2007, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008 district operating results, and total A/R days compared to unbilled days that came in at 49 days, district operating margin per quarter, district total margin, district days cash on hand, district salaries and benefits per net revenue, January 2009 Statistics which were all negative except rehabilitation and lab, and January and February 2009 operating results. (See attached).

#### **PENINSULA EMERGENCY SERVICES, INC. AGREEMENT**

Chief Medical Officer Scott Kennedy, MD, summarized the three year contract renewal proposal including two one-year automatic extensions with Peninsula Emergency Services, Inc. to provide emergency care in the hospital. It includes a Medical Director position, OMC provides the billing, the formula is per encounter and changing from \$75 per to \$90. The Board Budget and Audit Committee will review the contract next week. The total increase per year would be approximately \$400,000.

#### **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT AGREEMENT**

Assistant Administrator Richard Newman informed the board of the two-year bargaining unit agreement through January 31, 2011 for the Centralized Billing Office physician billing reps (with a 3% increase each of the two years) and a billing support clerk (with a 2.5% increase of the two years). He noted the agreement doesn't include steps, there is no change in benefits and includes an incentive to keep A/R days down.

**MOTION:** To approve the two-year collective bargaining unit agreement for the Centralized Billing Office as presented. **Motion carried.**

**BOARD MEMBER EXCUSED ABSENCE REQUEST**

Jim Leskinovitch, Board President asked for the following motion for Commissioner Gary R. Smith who is temporarily working out of the country:

**MOTION:** To accept Commissioner Gary R. Smith's request for three months of excused absences effective immediately. *Motion carried.*

He then announced Commissioner Cindy Witham had submitted her resignation from the Board effective immediately.

**MOTION:** To accept Commissioner Witham's resignation from the Board of Olympic Medical Center immediately. *Motion carried.*

After a five minute break at 8:15 pm, the meeting was moved to executive session by authority of RCW 42.30.110(1)(f) to discuss personnel matters and potential litigation under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(B) for 15 minutes, with no action to follow.

The meeting was moved back to open session and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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

**ATTEST:**

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