

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
AMES CITY COUNCIL AND HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

AMES, IOWA

OCTOBER 27, 2017

The Ames City Council and Hospital Board of Trustees met in joint session at 12:08 p.m. on the 27th day of October, 2017, in Mary Greeley Medical Center (MGMC) Atrium Rooms A & B. Attending were Mayor Ann Campbell and Council Members Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen, Gloria Betcher, Amber Corrieri, Tim Gartin, Chris Nelson, Peter Orazem. Steve Schainker, City Manager; Bob Kindred, Assistant City Manager; Mark Lambert, Interim City Attorney; Susan Gwiasda, Public Information Officer; and Diane Voss, City Clerk, represented the City of Ames Administration.

Representing the Mary Greeley Medical Center Board of Trustees were Chairperson Sarah Buck and Trustees Brad Heemstra; Mary Kitchell; and Ken McCuskey. Administrative staff from MGMC present were Brian Dieter, President and CEO; Vice-Presidents Gary Botine, Karen Kiel Rosser, and Amber Deardorff, and Micci Gillespie, Executive Assistant. Trustee Pamela J White was absent.

Welcome and Introductions. Chairperson Sarah Buck welcomed the City Council, Hospital Board of Trustees, and administrative staff members from both entities.

Behavioral Health Update. Christy Krause, Director of Behavioral Health Services at MGMC, explained the hospital's three strategies: (1) Expansion of adult beds, (2) Recruitment, and (3) Crisis stabilization and transition of care. Ms. Krause stated that Shannon Lindley, PNP, began employment at MGMC on July 1 and completed orientation in August. The Trustees and Council Members were also briefed on the progress of physician recruitment. According to Ms. Krause, there have been discussions among the region, Story County, and Mary Greeley Medical Center pertaining to a Crisis Center. There is currently a proposal under consideration to locate an eight-bed crisis stabilization and transitional care Center in Ames. It is hoped that the Center could open in Summer 2018. Julie Saxton, City of Ames Mental Health Advocate, was introduced by Police Commander Geoff Huff. Ms. Saxton described her job as a liaison between the client, the mental health care provider, and the Ames Police Department. She advised that one of the challenges is getting a signed release from the client to share information with the health care provider. Commander Huff shared that the mental health advocacy program of the Ames Police Department has been very successful.

Financial Assistance Program Review. President and Chief Executive Officer Brian Dieter stated that the Financial Assistance Program is a key component of the Community Benefit Report and allows MGMC to meet the needs of the community. It is the policy of MGMC to provide services to patients without regard for either a patient's ability to pay for those services or for the patient's insurance coverage, if any. The hospital's Program provides a mechanism to assist patients who do not meet the guidelines for other County, State, or Federal public assistance programs or have the needs beyond those provided by available public assistance programs. According to Mr. Dieter, all services provided at MGMC, other than cosmetic or other elective procedures that are not medically necessary or are not normally covered by Medicare, are eligible for the Financial Assistance Program. Mr. Dieter presented an overview of the Program, which included the amount of assistance a patient could receive based on his or her income; catastrophic medical assistance, and patients without insurance. Income qualifications were shown. An historic review of financial assistance provided by MGMC from Fiscal Year 2008 to the present was given. It was also noted how patients are made aware of the Financial Assistance Program.

Trustee and Council Comments: Trustee Chairperson Buck asked if there were any topics that the City Council would like to discuss at next year's Joint Meeting. Council Member Gartin offered that he would be interested in how the opioid epidemic was affecting Ames.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Diane R. Voss, City Clerk

Ann H. Campbell, Mayor