



## **Gadsden County, Florida**

### **Gadsden Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors Special Meeting (August 30, 2016)**

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#### **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**August 30, 2016 at 05:00 PM**

**Edward J. Butler Governmental Complex**

Craig McMillan, Chair - P  
Herb Sheheane, Vice-Chair - P  
Jimmy Suber, Secretary-Treasurer  
Dr. Hantz C. Hercule, M.D., Ph. D - P  
Scott Whitehead  
Sam Palmer - P  
Sen. Fred Dudley - P  
Arriane Graham - P  
Arrie Battle  
Mike Glazer, Hospital Attorney  
Arthur Lawson, Assistant County Administrator  
Steve Gorner, CRMC  
Beryl Wood, Deputy Clerk

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **Approval of Minutes - GHI Board Minutes (February 15, 2016)**

Chair McMillan called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from the February 15, 2016 were pulled from the agenda. They had already been approved at the March 17, 2016 meeting.

### **Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3 minute limit)**

There was no citizen's request to be heard.

### **General Business**

2. **Proposal For A Diabetes Specialty Clinic in Gadsden County - Dr. Celeste Hart (Craig McMillan, Chairman)**

Chair McMillan discussed the request for space for a Diabetes Specialty Clinic in the Gadsden Memorial Hospital Building in the area previously referred to as the Urgent Care Center of the Gadsden Memorial Hospital Building. He said Dr. Celeste Hart of NFRTC which is a full service Endocrinology Clinic. Currently, NFRTC provides services to a number of residents of Gadsden County, but believes that many more who need their services are unable to commute to their

Tallahassee Clinic or do not presently have health insurance coverage. Their plan is to help eliminate those barriers by locating a diabetes specialty clinic in Quincy, Florida on a limited basis.

Attorney Glazer said this Board does not have to take special action. He gave history on Dr. Hart. She wants a half day clinic. In her proposal it is silent on who would pay for the space (Old Urgent Care Space). He said it would need serious cleaning. It has been vacant for the last 6 years. He said she would provide electronic medical record software and laptop computers, but would need Wi-fi connections. In order to assist patients she would need to obtain internet, wifi. She will need a social worker to help patients get resources.

Attorney Glazer said he and Mr. Lawson will submit to the BOCC on next Tuesday. He said there is a series of questions. Is there a fiscal impact on the County? He suggested they come up with a recommendation on whether the county should explore. The other piece is the other space; CRMC has the right of 1<sup>st</sup> approval. CRMC has been made aware. Steve Gerner said they have not talked to her about this but would like to discuss with her. They do have the refurbished space that currently the doctors use. He said in order to provide these services, the clinic will need a physical facility that has a suite of two clinical examination rooms, a patient waiting area, a check –in area, a patient triage area, a classroom and restrooms. Initially, clinic sessions will be offered monthly on a Saturday. Each session will consist of patient check –in, triage, a clinic visit with the physician followed by a class session where a topic of interest regarding diabetes management will be presented.

Mr. Dudley asked what does the County say. If she wanted to deal with the existing office space she would only have to deal with CRMC.

Attorney Glazer said that is correct. He said in the GHI lease amendment, CRMC has the right to sublease that space without the County or GHI's approval. He said the only real condition is that the person be a Medicaid Provider the County would be acceptable to this happening and if there will be a fiscal impact to the County. They also would like to know should rent be charged and if so, how much.

Mr. Dudley asked was the space being used full-time.

Mr. Gerner said it was not and Dr. Hart would like Saturday mornings and we have no lease on Saturday mornings, so that would not be an issue. He said that Wi-Fi is available.

Mrs. Graham spoke of the importance of this type of service for the County and it is needed.

Mr. Dudley said he would like to encourage the County and CRMC to work together to make this happen.

Mr. Sheheane asked would she be prohibited. She would need to be privileged to work with CRMC since she is affiliated with TMH.

Mr. Gerner said that she would and they are attempting to address that concern.

Mr. Dudley spoke on stating if they do allow Dr. Hart and she has a patient that has to be admitted to the hospital and she doesn't have the authority, then would all her patients admitted have to go to TMH.

Attorney Glazer said if there was a patient in her office that had an event, Dr. Hart would call 911 and the patient would go to the closest appropriate place. This most likely would be the patient would be wheeled down the hall. Regardless, to where she has admitting privileges, if it is non – emergency, elective, that would be a different story.

Dr. Hercules said he had a discussion with her. She wants to come to the rural county. He said anyone that wants to come in and assist us with one of the major disparities is a plus.

Mr. Goner said Dr. Hart said her outpatient is very busy. She seemed open to alignment with CRMC.

Chair McMillan said we are encouraging the conversation to continue. The issue will be some level of privilege.

Attorney Glazer, said unless the County is going to subsidize and basically give her what she wants or nothing. The County could probably do it for less than \$87.00.

Mrs. Graham said she agreed with Mr. McMillan and discussed fiscal responsibility on everybody's part. She said with a ½ day out of one month is it even worth it, with the volume of patients that she will draw out of that. She said she was not sure the time allotted would impact our County.

Attorney Glazer said her proposal at the moment is to come a ½ day per month. He said this is the first real proposal that we have had in 6 years. He said everyone that they talk to are a little nervous about it. They all want to try it out and see how it goes before permanent commitment. He said she might find that there is much more of a demand. He said most doctors are afraid to commit too much. He said this is all she has asked for at the moment.

Dr. Hercules asked was this a service with CRMC where they can commit.

Mr. Goner said it lies in the physician committing. He said with the quality of doctor as Dr. Hart committing is quite a statement. He said in his previous conversation with Dr. Hart she used the terminology to start, to see what happens. He said not many doctors are willing to give up their Saturdays to see patients, as Dr. Hart is suggesting she would like to do, to take a chance not knowing their volume of patients.

Mr. Dudley said at this time he would be hard pressed to recommend to the County that they know to take whatever financial responsibilities there might be to lease her some of the other space. He said his first preference would be to encourage our tenant to try and work something out and if that fails, I think we could always come back to Plan B.

Dr. Hercules expressed it would be helpful for her to come to Quincy.

Mr. Sheheane said he would recommend that she work with CRMC and have her work with the space provided.

**UPON MOTION BY MR. DUDLEY AND SECOND BY MRS. GRAHAM, THE GADSDEN COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTED 6 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO TRY AND ENCOURAGE THE HOSPITAL TO NEGOTIATE WITH HER (DR. HART) TO USE THE EXISTING OUTPATIENT PHYSICIAN SPACE AS FIRST COURSE OF ACTION. IF THAT DOESN'T MATERIALIZE, THEN I WOULD ASK THAT THEY REFER BACK TO THE GCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Chair McMillan said this would be a first step if Dr. Hart could come to an agreement with CRMC.

Dr. Hercules had questions regarding the half -cent sales tax/indigent funds. He said the funding was no longer available for the citizens.

Chair McMillan explained the half-cent sales tax is supposed to go to the Health Council instead of the Health Department for Indigent Care.

Mr. Gorner said he was talking to Dr. Hart about the timeshare space and he explained that the rates were real reasonable but, she would need them to be really reasonable, because she is aware this will not be a money making mechanism for her. She understands context very well.

Chair McMillan thanked them all for taking time out of their busy schedules for the Special Meeting.

#### **Discussion Items by Board Members**

There was no additional discussion by the Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE CHAIR  
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:38 P.M.**

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**CRAIG MCMILLAN, CHAIR  
GADSDEN HOSPITAL, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**ATTEST:**

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**BERYL H. WOOD, DEPUTY CLERK  
For NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK**