

**MINUTES OF UINTAH HEALTH CARE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT PUBLIC MEETING at the BRAIN EXERCISE CENTER SE CONFERENCE ROOM, 330 S AGGIE BLVD, VERNAL, UTAH on November 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.**

**Board Members Present** – Terri Rimer, Richard Jolley, Robin O’Driscoll and Robert Hall

**Visitors Attending** – Jamie Walker, Alicen Hatch, Doug Rasmussen, Shaun Johnson and Cindy Ruppe

**Welcome and Prayer** – Robin welcomed everyone to the Uintah Health Care Special Service District November 16, 2023 board meeting and Richard Jolley offered the prayer.

**Date, Time and Location of the Next Board Meeting** - ~~Thursday December 21, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.~~

The board determined that **Monday, December 18, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.** would work better for everyone.

**Approval of the September 21, 2023 Minutes** – Robin O’Driscoll

*Richard Jolley motioned to approve the September 21, 2023 minutes*

*Robert Hall seconded the motion*

*Terri Rimer - Aye, Richard Jolley - Aye, Robin O’Driscoll – Aye and Robert Hall - Aye*

**Approval of the September & October 2023 Check Registers** – Robin O’Driscoll

Robert Hall asked what we pay Utah Legal Services for? Alicen said the state requires the golden age center have legal services for seniors who qualify.

*Robert Hall motioned to approve the September 2023 check registers*

*Terri Rimer seconded the motion*

*Terri Rimer - Aye, Richard Jolley - Aye, Robin O’Driscoll – Aye and Robert Hall - Aye*

Richard Jolley stated that we pay Kirk Woodward \$2,000 every month. Alice said he is our Medical Director at the care center.

*Richard Jolley motioned to approve the October 2023 check registers*

*Terri Rimer seconded the motion*

*Terri Rimer - Aye, Richard Jolley - Aye, Robin O’Driscoll – Aye and Robert Hall - Aye*

**Approval of the August & September Financial Reports** – Doug Rasmussen

Doug said thank you board, I appreciate being here and brought Shaun Johnson with me this time. The care center’s financial information as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, the first page shows the assets and the equipment. The cash position is down about \$68,000 but if you take a look at the receivables side it’s up about \$192,000 so collection is a little bit slower and affects the overall cash position. Total assets \$1,483,572 current year compared to \$549,568 previous year. The liabilities, accounts payables has gone down about \$170,000 and that is one of the biggest differences between last year and this year. Overall, the current year income \$519,970 this year compared to last year of a little over \$48,000. The total net revenue for the current year is \$878,619 \$504,409 the previous year. The big differences are mineral lease revenue increase of about \$90,000 in August and \$150,000 received from the interest of our county tax fund and the UPL revenue is a little bit more and so that’s made up the bulk of that difference. Year to date \$5,106,287 in net revenue compared to \$4,077,083 in the previous year. Total expenses \$516,310 which produced a net income of \$362,309 and the prior year \$589,702 in expenses produced a net loss of \$85,293. Overall, year to date information \$4,586,317 with a net income of \$519,970 and total expenses the previous year \$4,028,826 with a \$48,257 net income. The golden age center current assets \$91,444 compared \$95,913 last year. The checking has come up a little bit but receivables have decreased from what they were the previous year. The total assets \$249,328 compared to \$203,673 has changed a little bit, mainly because of the net pension liability. The accounts payable are pretty similar they have increased a little bit \$3,600 from the previous year. The current year income about a \$38,000 loss year to date compared \$114,000 loss in the previous year. Some positive changes that have happened with the golden age center. Net revenue \$118,104 compared to \$106,313 from the previous year. In total \$810,940 compared to \$696,280 so revenues have increased year to date

activity and also in the current month. Total expenses in the current month \$110,337 which produced a net income for the month of \$7,767 and the prior year \$125,703 in expenses which produced a little over \$19,000 loss. The year-to-date activity \$849,462 in expenses which shows the \$38,522 loss year to date and the prior year \$810,695 in expenses and \$114,415 loss. The district net revenue \$167,753 compared to \$119,000 and the total expenses \$305,23 compared to \$205,024. The care center is pulling out a little bit more, \$240,000 compared to \$150,000 and the golden age center is pulling out about \$10,00 more than what they have in the past. Year to date activity overall the mineral lease money is more than what it has been \$1,300,000 compared to \$739,337 but the expenses have been \$1,400,000 compared to \$897,827. There has definitely been a decrease in overall cash position.

***Richard Jolley motioned to approve the August 2023 financial reports***

***Robert Hall seconded the motion***

***Terri Rimer - Aye, Richard Jolley - Aye, Robin O'Driscoll - Aye and Robert Hall - Aye***

Doug said September acidity for the care center total cash position has improved, \$237,000 compared to \$104,000. Very evident in the receivables that went down \$163,000 so money has been collected from the previous month. Total assets \$9,103,000 compared to \$8,342,000 in the previous year. The total assets have definitely increased/improved from the previous year. The total current liabilities \$2,300,000 compared to \$1,981,000. The accounts payable \$115,621 compared to \$212,593 so the liabilities have decreased and been paid by about \$97,000 in the month of September compared to last year. The current year net income \$445,726 year to date compared to \$204,180 from the previous year. The net revenue \$460,226 this year compared to \$660,000 the previous year, the difference here from last year is roughly the \$200,000 county cash contribution that came in in September of last year as opposed to August as it happened this year. Year to date activity \$5,566,000 compared to \$4,737,000 the previous year. The total expenses \$534,470 this year which produced a net loss of a little over \$74,000 and \$504,175 in the previous year which had about \$156,000 net income. Year to date activity expenses \$5,120,000 with about a \$445,000 net income and \$4,533,000 previous year to date which produced a \$204,000 net income. The golden age center checking account is about \$20,000 less than the previous year. The receivables are about the same, overall total assets \$246,990 compared to \$218,633 in the previous year. One of the biggest differences is the net pension asset recorded this year that was not there last year. The accounts payable are lower than what they have been the previous year which shows the utilization of that cash. They're down about \$38,000 and have decreased from the previous year. Overall, the current year income \$3,123 loss compared to a \$84,000 loss from the previous year. The net revenue \$139,509 in the current month compared to \$109,555 in the previous year month. The total year to date \$950,448 compared to \$805,835 in the previous year. The total expenses \$104,110 for the current month which produced a net income of \$35,399, the prior year we had almost \$79,000 in expenses which produced a \$30,577 net income. Overall expenses \$953,571 which shows a \$3,123 loss and \$889,673 which produced the \$84,000 loss. Overall, the position of the golden age center has improved at almost a break even which is good. The total cash position of the district has improved, we're at \$146,750 compared to \$176,171 which is about \$20,000 than the previous year. The total income \$167,617 and \$118,333 the prior year month. \$20,000 in mineral lease money was distributed to the care center and \$95,000 to the golden age center. The overall amounts that have been coming out of the account are not as much as the previous year so it's produced a \$52,594 net income compared to a \$61,000 the previous year. Year to date activity net revenue \$1,509,908 compared to about \$858,000 the previous year. Total expenses \$1,545,000 compared to \$1,077,000 the previous year, about a \$35,000 net loss compared to about \$220,000 the previous year.

***Richard Jolley motioned to approve the September 2023 financial reports***

***Robert Hall seconded the motion***

***Terri Rimer - Aye, Richard Jolley - Aye, Robin O'Driscoll - Aye and Robert Hall - Aye***

#### **2024 Tentative Budget Approval – Robin O'Driscoll**

Robin said you have a tentative budget in front of you and we to approve the tentative budget in November but then we don't actually adopt one until December so we have time to make changes. Robin said do you want to go through this Alicen or do you want me to go through this. Alicen said I don't have anything new to highlight except for maybe a discussion on the medical director budget, page 5, column H, line 221. After much discussion the board agreed to increase the medical director budget 10% from \$24,000 to \$26,400. Robin said are we going to go to the commissioners and ask for more mineral lease money. Alicen said I will see if John can meet with Robin and me before the December board meeting.

**Robert Hall motioned to tentatively adopt the 2024 tentative budget with the change discussed for the medical director expense**

**Richard Jolley seconded the motion**

**Terri Rimer - Aye, Richard Jolley - Aye, Robin O'Driscoll – Aye and Robert Hall – Aye**

### **2023 Expenditure Increase – Alicen Hatch**

Alicen said that because of inflation and the wage adjustments to retain and recruit employees I am estimating that we will need to increase the overall 2023 expenditures by \$400,000 to make sure that we stay within our approved budget. Also, the revenue budget for the district needs to be corrected on the income statement. The mineral lease revenue was approved at \$1,419,996 and after it was approved the county commissioners agreed to increase the mineral lease distribution to the health district to \$2,000,000 which is not reflected on the income statement.

**Robert Hall motioned to make the revenue changes needed and increase expenditures by \$400,000 for the 2023 health district budget**

**Terri Rimer seconded the motion**

**Terri Rimer - Aye, Richard Jolley - Aye, Robin O'Driscoll – Aye and Robert Hall – Aye**

### **Director Report – Alicen Hatch**

Alicen said I am proposing that we increase our private room rate at the care center by 25% from \$200 per day to \$250 per day. We received a substantial increase to our Medicaid daily rate on July 1<sup>st</sup> which was \$191.14 in June and increased to \$238.42 in July which is \$47.28 per day. The industry itself keeps the private rate above the Medicaid rate. Robert said because we're technically, without the UPL, losing money on each Medicaid patient and we don't want to lose that much on private pay. Alicen said I also looked at a 17% increase which would be \$240 per day. Currently we have six residents who are private pay. I will send a letter to each of the private pay residents to notify and invite them to the public hearing in December. The cash flow is still very challenging. Medicaid and the UPL payments are not consistent and I would really like to have a conversation about taking money from the care center tax fund to have available since the Medicaid money isn't flowing regularly. I don't want to go through another year like this one hoping and praying that enough money comes in for the next payroll. Doug said I have always been an advocate, and I don't think the county commissioners have ever bought off on what Alicen is saying, but I don't know if they understand the pressures sometimes where you don't have the resources especially when an upper payment comes around and you've got payroll to take care of and the resources are not there. They have funds over there to put those somewhere else just for emergency purposes. I don't understand why they wouldn't provide that. Robert said I think they will, I think this group will. Alicen said that the Medicaid payments have been frozen again while they fix the PRISM billing system. We are hoping to get interim payments but so far, we have received about \$5,000 in the last two weeks out of the \$200,000 that is outstanding. It is really stressful and I will keep you updated. Utah Retirement rates are going to decrease 1% starting in July of 2024. However, the tier 2 employees may be required to pay .70% into their retirement contribution. This could change during the 2024 legislative session and fall back on the employer. I received an email from the State Auditors office stating they have observed five requirements of general noncompliance. Robert said that the fire district also received that email notice. Alicen said I will make sure we become compliant with the requirements. Also, I checked into the Public Surplus website which the county is using and set up an account for the health district. We just have to upload a picture and description of the item(s) and minimum bid. Once the item sells, they send us a check. The way they make their money is by charging the buyer 10.5% of the purchase price so the district doesn't have to pay to use their services. It seems like a fairly simple process. Robert asked about bidding on the snow plow. Alicen said we already sold the snow plow for \$500.00. The truck is a 1996 Chevrolet and needed a new motor as well as new wiring. The snow plow on the truck was broke and needed to be welded or replaced. A mechanic valued the truck at less than \$500.00 as is. Our housekeeping supervisor retired at the end of October after 25 years of service. I was able to hire in house for this position and am excited to work with her in a leadership role. Our life safety surveyor revisited the care center today for the third time to clear our fire alarm egress deficiency. We thought that Firetrol had fixed the problem but didn't realize the egress doors that drop (unlock) on alarm were reenergizing (locking) when the alarm was silenced. Because of the serious nature of this deficiency, we could receive an IJ (immediate jeopardy) tag. That would mean that admissions would stop and payment from Medicare and Medicaid would stop until we are back in compliance. Also, we would be assessed a large civil money penalty. Robert said what does Firetrol say? Alicen said that Garey from Firetrol said they did

know that the alarm system should not reenergize when silenced. They did the alarm testing when they were out to fix the original egress tag but did not test or even make us aware of the doors locking again when the alarm is silenced. I will keep you updated on the progress. Hopefully I will know more tomorrow. I attended the UBTECH/USU OAC meeting last month on Zoom and overall enrollment in CNA, LPN and RN programs has dropped significantly.

### **Director of Nursing Report**

Jamie said we are really struggling to get CNAs right now; we're doing okay on night shift but we could really use some day shift CNAs. We've just kind of had a dry spell with applications, there for a while we were getting them consistently. People have gone back to school and off to college, summers are always better for us than fall and so we are feeling that. Most of our PRN staff are high school students so that makes us short during the day. Nursing we're doing okay; I did have one of the new nurses we hired is going a different route but we're doing okay. Richard said how is morale? Jamie said well they weren't happy about the masks but I think we're doing okay.

### **Golden Age Center Report – Cindy Ruppe**

Cindy said I had a lady come in and talk to me and she is heading into her last semester at BYU-Idaho she is seeking an intern experience in the health field. She was wondering about hooking up with us and implementing the health and wellness program, needs assessments, she has to do a minimum of 7 weeks and 200 hours. The position could be paid or unpaid and she's agreeable to either situation. She said if this is something you could provide for me, I would be happy to discuss to the details. Robert asked what kind of supervision would she need? Cindy said kind of what I've been envisioning, I've been talking to TriCounty Health and they are wanting to do some diabetes prevention classes, health and wellness type of stuff to try and get the seniors involved. She said that she was more than willing to do this as an unpaid internship. Robert said if they don't require a licensed person to oversee them then it's really easy to plug them in and have them sign a confidentiality agreement or whatever. Cindy said if that's something you guys are open to that I can get with Alicen because I would be happy to have her come. Our numbers for the month of September to October we delivered about 500 more meals on wheels and our congregate meals went up about 130. We were getting people calling saying my doctor said to get on the free meals at the golden age center. So, I sent out a letter to our meals on wheels clients and explained that we were changing delivery routes and so they were getting new drivers and I explained all of that and I said just so you're aware it is a recommended donation, it's not free. Everyone was like what, you want us to donate to these meals, and immediately we saw an increase in the money we collect for the congregate meals and the home delivered meals as well. So how long it will last, I don't know but we have seen an increase. Last Thursday we did our Veterans Day dinner and Alicen and I talked about it and she said I think we need to let the meal for the veterans be on us. So, we served 72 people and a good percentage of those were veterans. We had a program, first graders from Terra Academy came over and sang and we had a couple of other people come and sing, they loved it, it was great. Today we had our Thanksgiving meal and we served 166 congregate meals and 332 meals on wheels and everybody loved it they were just really impressed with the meal and how we were able to pull that off. Now we're gearing up for sub for seniors which will happen next month and we're going to deliver on December 21<sup>st</sup>, that Thursday. Tuesday we will take down to the conference center, we are putting together a tree for trees for charity to help fund the sub for seniors. Next Monday we are receiving a visit from Nate Checketts and Tonya Hales, they are the state directors for the Department of Health and Human Services. They are coming to do a sight visit and they're going to have lunch with us. We just got our second bus back on Tuesday so all of our buses have working lifts and are in good running order. I've been approached by a couple of different people; our bus is slammed and we're having to turn people away every day. We just don't have room to put them on our bus and they have asked can we run a second bus and I said no it's just not something we can do right now. I was approached by two different people in the last couple of weeks about have you looked in to partnering with BTA because the community is tired of watching the BTA buses running around empty. Do you guys know anything about BTA? Alicen said we have worked with them before for transport for a couple of residents but we didn't partner with them. Richard said who is over it, who is in charge? Cindy said I asked that question as well and I was told that it was directly overseen by the governors office and that we would probably have our best results if we wanted to see about working them if we went through Representative Chew. Robert said I really don't know but I know that it was DOT money at first but I thought there was somebody at UBAG or something. Cindy said the information that I got they said that originally it was, I can't remember, but it's overseen by the Governor's office and that I don't know how it was funded originally but then Governor Herbert came out and mandated that the county has to pay for these buses so that

the county has some skin in the game. I'm not sure how it works. Robert said at one point there was a tax on the ballot but it got voted down. I bet we could call somebody at the county could tell us exactly who is in charge of it. I don't know about it being the governor's office. Robin said I would call UBAG too. Cindy said I had somebody offer to talk to Representative Chew. Robert said I would not go that route yet; I would make a couple of phone calls first. Cindy said I'll do some research and bring it back next time. Richard said what are giving out for sub for seniors. Cindy said they get one bag that has food in it and on that has personal care items, toothbrush, deodorant, soap, shampoo, body wash etc. There is a registry on Amazon that is call sub for seniors but any cash donations or checks has to be made out to Friends of Ashley Valley. We are getting excited to do that. Our tree that we're donating is called angels among us and we had a senior who makes little guardian angels, little beaded ones like this. She donated 60 of them to us and we weren't quite sure what to do with it so we looked into it and actually buy some on Amazon for not a lot of money. So, we put together a little thing that we're going to put these little guardian angel pins on the buyers' tables and on the back of it there's a little poem that goes with it about we want to remind you about our seniors and how important they are etc. And on the back, it says angels among us golden age center. And so, we're hoping that maybe that will help increase the price of our tree. All of the ornaments are just about made, all handmade and it's coming along.

**Public Input**

None

**Adjournment**

***Robert Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting***

***Richard Jolley seconded the motion***

***Terri Rimer - Aye, Richard Jolley - Aye, Robin O'Driscoll – Aye and Robert Hall – Aye***