ARTESIAN VALLEY
HEALTH SYSTEM

Board Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2026
4:30 p.m.
Frame Room

Board Members Present: Sheila Brown, Chair; Brad Friesen, Vice Chair; Shelly Axtell, Member; Shirley Goldsberry, Member

Board Members Absent: Angela Howard, Member

Others Present: Dawn Unruh, CEO; Stephanie Saucedo, CFO; Michele Dewell, Quality; Crystal Torres-Pereda, Marketing; Tara Grant, Corporate Compliance; Melissa Parker, Student

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m.

a. Approval of Agenda

a) The agenda was presented with no additions or changes. Shirley made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Brad seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

b. Scheduled Public Comment

a) There were no public comments.

II. Board Education

a. Meet Morgan Salmans

a) Dawn introduced our new primary care provider, Morgan Salmans, NP. Morgan began employment on August 10, 2026. Dawn explained that Morgan is gradually beginning to see patients as credentialing with certain insurance plans progress. Morgan introduced herself to the Board and answered questions. Discussion followed.

III. Rural Health Transformation Program/Evidence Based Practice Program (RHTP/EBPP)

a. Emerging Technology Grant

a) Dawn provided a brief update regarding the next steps in the process. Discussion followed.

b. Evidence-Based Practice Program

a) Michele reported that RHTP EBPP hospital updates were included in the QAPI minutes. She continues to report all required measures for the hospital. She also stated that we will have an upcoming hospital site visit on October 21, 2026. Discussion followed.

IV. Executive Session

a. Corporate Compliance

a) At 4:50 p.m., Shelly made a motion for the Board of Directors, CEO, and Corporate Compliance Officer to recess into executive session for 15 minutes pursuant to K.S.A 75-4319 for the need to discuss corporate compliance matters. Shirley seconded the motion. The board will resume open session in the frame room at 5:05 p.m. The motion passed 3-0.

b) At 5:05 p.m., the board resumed open session. Shelly made a motion for the Board of Directors, CEO, and Corporate Compliance Officer to recess back into executive session for an additional 10 minutes pursuant to K.S.A 75-4319 for the need to discuss corporate compliance matters. Shirley seconded the motion. The board will resume open session in the frame room at 5:15 p.m. The motion passed 3-0.

c) At 5:15 p.m., the board resumed open session in the frame room. No action was taken.

b. Non-Elected Personnel

a) At 5:15 p.m., Shelly made a motion for the Board of Directors and CEO to recess into executive session for 30 minutes pursuant to K.S.A 75-4319 for the need to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel. Shirley seconded the motion. The board will resume open session in the frame room at 5:45 p.m. The motion passed 3-0.

b) At 5:45 p.m., the board resumed open session. Shelly made a motion for the Board of Directors and CEO to recess back into executive session for an additional 15 minutes pursuant to K.S.A 75-4319 for the need to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel. Shirley seconded the motion. The board will resume open session in the frame room at 6:00 p.m. The motion passed 3-0.

c) At 6:00 p.m., the board resumed open session in the frame room. No action was taken.

V. Reports

a. Administration

a) Dawn provided an update regarding Dr. Neel returning to provide orthopedic services at AVHS. Discussion followed.

b) Dawn reported that Ashley Barta has begun providing Emergency Department coverage on a seven-day-on, seven-day-off schedule.

c) Dawn reviewed the Plains clinic's operating days and reported that patient volume continues to increase as anticipated. Discussion followed.

d) A question was raised regarding information contained in the Human Resources and Radiology reports. Dawn provided clarification and addressed the Board's questions.

b. Financial

a) Stephanie reviewed the financial documents included in the Board packet. Discussion followed. Additional financial matters included:

1. The board took action to close the savings account at Integrity Bank at the August Board meeting. The bank was contacted about handling the closure, and they requested the signed minutes from the August board meeting to complete the request. Stephanie will send the bank a copy of the signed minutes after the board meeting to initiate account closure.
2. The Bank of the Plains was contacted the morning following the August Board meeting to notify the bank of the decisions for the CDs maturing September 3rd & 4th. Both CDs are reinvested with interest in a 12-month (52-week) term.
3. Provider Assessment Tax – Under new regulation, CAHs are now included in paying tax based on a revenue calculation through cost reports from the previous 3 years. Stephanie reported how much we owe and when we expect to receive a second installment. We will receive a quarterly payment based on the pool's accumulated funds. KHA provides guidance to hospitals. Discussion followed.

c. Quality & Risk Management

a) September 2026 QAPI minutes were reviewed. Dawn and Michele answered the board's questions.

Brad made a motion to approve the reports as presented. Shelly seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

VI. Consent Agenda Approval

a. **August Budget Hearing Minutes**

b. **August Board Minutes** – Stephanie requested a correction to the August Board meeting minutes under New Business - Investments. She requested adding the phrase "with interest" to the statement. The correction states: reinvest the CDs with interest maturing on September 3rd and September 4th in 2026 into 12-month terms each.

c. **August Medical Staff Minutes**

d. **September QAPI Minutes**

Shirley moved to approve the consent agenda, including the August Board meeting minutes with the requested correction. Brad seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

VII. Executive Session

a) At 6:54 p.m., Shelly made a motion for the Board of Directors and CEO to recess into executive session for 10 minutes pursuant to K.S.A 75-4319 for the need to discuss credentialing. Shirley seconded the motion. The board will resume open session in the frame room at 7:04 p.m. The motion passed 3-0.

b) At 7:04 p.m., the board resumed open session in the frame room. Brad made a motion to approve the providers' privileges below as requested. Shirley seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

1. Ashley Barta, NP, AVHS Provider – Appointment
2. Morgan Salmans, NP, AVHS Provider – Appointment
3. Melissa Whitney, PA-C, AVHS Provider– Reappointment
4. Dr. Best, Inspire Radiology – Reappointment
5. Dr. Larsen, Inspire Radiology – Reappointment
6. Dr. Yunk, Inspire Radiology – Reappointment
7. Dr. Epstein, Inspire Radiology – Reappointment

VIII. New Business

a. **Risk Management Plan**

a) Michele presented updates to the organization's Risk Management Plan. She reported that the plan added Ruth Ann Swaney, NP, Morgan Salmans, NP, and Ashley Barta, NP. Shelly made a motion to approve the updated Risk Management Plan. Brad seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

IX. Old Business

a. None

X. Board Relevant Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

a. **KHA Fall District Meeting – October 7**

b. **Board Leadership Program** – There was discussion about who should attend the program.

XI. Call for Next Meeting Agenda Items

a. Board Bylaws

XII. Adjournment

a. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2026.

b. At 7:09 pm, Shelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shirley seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Crystal T. Pereda

Recorder

Sheila Brown

Board Chair

10/22/26

Date