



ARTESIAN VALLEY
H E A L T H S Y S T E M

Board Meeting Minutes

July 23rd, 2026

4:30 p.m.

Frame Room

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

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dawn Unruh, CEO; Michele Dewell, Quality; Ruth Ann Swaney, APRN

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

- a. M. Dewell requested to add Antibiotic Stewardship Leadership Statement of Support review, discussion, and approval to the agenda under new business.

b. Approval of Agenda

- i. Angela made a motion to approve the agenda with the added new business of Antibiotic Stewardship Leadership Statement of Support review, discussion, and approval. Shirley seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

b. Scheduled Public Comment

- i. None

II. Board Education

a. New provider Ruth Ann Swaney, APRN

- i. Dawn introduced Ruth Ann Swaney, APRN. Ruth Ann provided the board with her background in health care. The board members asked Ruth Ann questions regarding her new role at AVHS. Ruth Ann responded to the board's questions. There was a discussion.

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

- a. Dawn discussed the Emerging Technology Grant that AVHS applied for, worth \$141,000, to be able to purchase the ambient listening tool. There was a discussion.
- b. Dawn and Michele provided education to the board regarding the RHTP/EBPP. Handouts provided related to the Purpose of Evidence-Based Practice Program and the Kansas RHTP/EBPP Frequently Asked Questions handout. The new protocols for Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) Protocol, Heparin Protocol, Suspected Stroke Protocol, Acute Ischemic Stroke (AIS) and Subarachnoid Hemorrhage Protocol, Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) Protocol, Adult Sepsis Protocol, and Pediatric Sepsis Protocol were reviewed and discussed. All QAPI projects have been started and are continually being updated when needed for the hospital and RHCs, reviewed and discussed the excel spreadsheets that are being used for all hospital and clinic measures, reviewed and discussed all hospital and clinic measure goals, all agreements were signed and sent in, attestation forms for the hospital and RHCs were signed and sent in, onsite visit with KU Collaborative personnel has been scheduled for October 21st, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. Waiting to hear back on whether the time can be changed to 2:30 p.m. due to the Medical Staff Meeting that day. Received invoice back today for the hospital's infrastructure payment of \$100,000 that will be paid to Meade District Hospital around mid-August 2026. On-site visits for all three RHCs have not been scheduled at this time, but all three RHCs did attest to scheduling a site visit. No information has been received regarding the RHC's infrastructure payment. There was a discussion.

IV. Executive Session

- a. At 4:50 p.m., Shirley made a motion for the Board of Directors to recess into executive session for 15 minutes pursuant to K.S.A 75-4319 for the need to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, including matters relating to COLA. Brad seconded the motion. The board will resume open session in the frame room at 5:05 p.m. The motion passed 4-0.
 - i. At 5:05 p.m., the board resumed open session. Shirley made a motion for the Board of Directors 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, including matters relating to COLA. Brad seconded the motion. The board will resume open session in the frame room at 5:20 p.m. The motion passed 4-0.
 - ii. At 5:20 p.m., the board resumed open session. Shirley made a motion for the Board of Directors 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, including matters relating to COLA. Brad seconded the motion. The board will resume open session in the frame room at 5:35 p.m. The motion passed 4-0.
- iii. At 5:35 p.m., the board resumed open session in the frame room. No action was taken.

V. Reports

a. Administration

- i. Dawn announced the hiring of Ashley Barda, APRN, who has accepted the ER/Inpatient provider position and will plan to work one day in the clinic for women's health. There was a discussion.
- ii. Dawn discussed scheduling Zoom meetings for the Board meeting if board members are unable to attend in person. There was a discussion—all board members in favor of having the option of a Zoom meeting.
- iii. Dawn reported that she is going to be out of the country on vacation from July 24th, 2026 through July 31st, 2026. The Operations Team will be available. There was a discussion.
- iv. Dawn discussed the manager's reports. The Board really likes to see the manager's reports. There was a discussion.
- v. Dawn reported on the continued process with the AVHS employee scholarship for staff and is being reviewed by our attorney after changes were made to add that there is a cumulative amount of up to \$20,000 for any one program based on the needs of departments and how the year is going financially. There was a discussion.
- vi. There was discussion about the Human Resource information provided about Ruminantion.

b. Financial

- i. Dawn reviewed the financial documents included in the board packets. Will email out updated statement from page 20. There was a discussion.
- ii. There was discussion about the hospital census and swing bed admissions.
- iii. There was discussion about surgical services and reaching out to Pratt Hospital about outreach surgical services to increase service line and revenue.
- iv. There was discussion regarding the Imaging Department losing two staff members to traveling job positions and a solution for that department.
- v. There was discussion regarding the red line increasing with private pay patients with days in accounts receivable. Dawn and Stephanie will be visiting with the Business Office about this.

- vi. There was discussion about MRS pulling revenue on BCBS due to numbers being down.

c. Quality & Risk Management

- i. QAPI minutes were reviewed. There was a discussion.
- ii. Michele provided an update regarding the discussion on the scan on removal form Pyxis that was in last month's Quality minutes by Pharmacy.

A motion to approve the reports was made by Angela and seconded by Shirley. The motion carried 4-0.

VI. Consent Agenda Approval

- a. **June Board Minutes**
- b. **Special Board Meeting Minutes**
- c. **June Medical Staff Minutes**
- d. **July QAPI Minutes**
- e. **Privacy Oversight Committee Report**

Brad moved to approve the consent agenda. Shelly seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

VII. New Business

a. Antibiotic Stewardship Leadership Statement of Support

- i. The Antibiotic Stewardship Leadership Statement of Support was reviewed and discussed.
- ii. Shirley made a motion to approve the Antibiotic Stewardship Leadership Statement of Support. Brad seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

b. OB Preparedness

- i. Michele discussed OB Preparedness and that the hospital is required to provide a list of staff that are required to be trained in obstetrics—the list was reviewed. There was a discussion.
- ii. Shelly made a motion to approve the list of Staff Required to be trained in Obstetrics. Angela seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

VIII. Old Business

- a. **None**

IX. Board Relevant Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

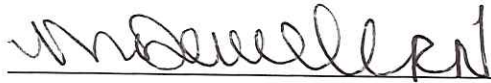
- a. **KHA Convention – September – KC**

X. Call for Next Meeting Agenda Items

- a. None

XI. Adjournment

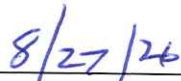
- a. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 27th, 2026.
b. At 6:15 pm., Angela made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shelly seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.



Recorder



Board Chair



Date

