

## Minutes

Point Roberts Public Hospital District

Wednesday March 8, 2023

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Stephen Falk, Commissioner (via Zoom)

### **Attending:**

Commissioners: Stephen Falk, Sara Oggel, Noel Newbolt  
Superintendent: Barbara Wayland  
Financial Advisor: Paulette Ladner  
Recording Secretary: Farrah Carsten

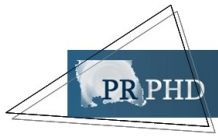
### **Introduction of Guests:**

Dr. Sean Bozorgzadeh, Alexandra Wiley, Virginia Lester, Shivé Marshall, Erin Kelly– APB, Allison Calder, Elisabeth Mason, Judy Ross, Ray Smith, Rebecca Goodwin

**Public Comment:** Judy Ross raised an issue with the clinic's new policy of not performing blood draws except in rare circumstances. Her prescription renewal requires that she have labs performed prior to having the medication refilled. She made an appointment then received a call that it was canceled because blood draws were no longer being performed at the clinic and to have her lab work completed by Quest Labs in Bellingham. It's a 5-minute procedure and residents shouldn't have to set aside a few hours of their day to travel a long distance to have this done. For Judy, she doesn't like to travel on freeways and would either have to find someone to drive her to Bellingham or stop taking her medication. Barbara did contact Judy after speaking with SuperTrack. Every second week the clinic will perform labs for people that fall under a certain status (such as not being able to travel to Bellingham), such as Judy does. The policy was not going into effect until the 14<sup>th</sup> and Judy would have been without her medication so Dr. Bozorgzadeh gave her the paperwork to complete her labs in Bellingham which is still going to be an issue for her mobility wise. Judy feels that the commissioners should be involved in this and clarify why this is happening.

Dr. Bozorgzadeh proceeded to explain that SuperTrack has never claimed to be a lab collection facility. In medicine, labs are in their own facility as is pharmacy, medical care, surgical care, etc. It's a specialized service in the same way that physical therapy, x-ray, and imaging is.

Although it may appear to be a 5-minute procedure to someone, there are many steps involved in the workflow and there are many things that need to be in place before that can be done. First and foremost, there must be someone who can draw the blood and also deal with possible consequences of someone passing out as a result of poking the vein trying to draw blood. It cannot happen with someone that is lower than the RN level such as the front receptionist or MA. SuperTrack is short staffed for someone that has the capability of resuscitating someone if they faint.



There is also a problem with transportation of labs. There has been many instances where the blood sits at the facility due to FedEx issues and there has been several days where FedEx has not picked up the labs and the doctors have had to drive to Quest Labs to drop off the blood themselves. When the blood specimen sits too long the cells rupture and it changes the levels of potassium thus resulting in having to repeat the test.

It's due to the nature of the location of Point Roberts and Dr. Bozorgzadeh isn't sure if as a physician he can drive across the international border with blood in his vehicle. The preparation of blood is that it has to be spun for 20 minutes, put into a special tube then transported to the lab. From every prospective, it is not an easy thing to do.

INR testing is still being done by the physicians in Point Roberts. They will check the patient's blood and see if any adjustments need to be made to their medications. Point of care testing will also be increased for flu and strep, all the lab tests that can be done there at the clinic.

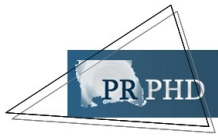
SuperTrack is very cognizant of Point Roberts geographical limitations and has maintained their original promise to the community which was for people that have valid reasons for mobility issues, the clinic would still accommodate them.

Stephen asked what the standard is for not being able to cross the border. A small group may not have a passport and would only be able to fly or take a boat across, then there are those that are homebound for medical reasons. Or in Judy's case she isn't able to drive or find transportation to cross the border.

Dr. Bozorgzadeh said the aim is to make it easy for people and if they were to come up with criteria of who fits into this category it might do injustice for people like Judy. SuperTrack will try to be lenient and make accommodations for them. For example, the pharmacy program has been a great success and patients have been very thankful for not having to drive to Blaine or Bellingham to get their medication.

One idea Dr. Bozorgzadeh has is to approach Quest Labs to send someone once or twice a week to draw blood and take the samples back to their lab, since they are financially benefitting from this since these patients are theirs as well and they do the billing for the service. Dr. Bozorgzadeh will talk with Barbara to set up a time to talk with Quest Labs to advocate for a lab draw station.

Stephen inquired as to why FedEx has become unreliable. Alex said FedEx will no longer pickup at Point Roberts and Quest Diagnostics owns the account number with them. Quest has always paid their account via accounts payable on time, all the time. However, FedEx is requiring Quest to place a credit card on file with them. Alex isn't allowed to speak with FedEx or Quest Labs about a credit card that SuperTrack doesn't own. It's not possible to rectify this with a PRPHD credit card because Quest Labs are the custodians of the package and the insurance companies pay Quest not SuperTrack.



SuperTrack is not a Quest authorized draw station and Quest has not come to examine and evaluate the clinics methods, equipment, or site. Alex ran a report for all lab draws in the past 12 months for Point Roberts. There were 112 lab draws, 2 people that get monthly INR's, 1 person that gets INR's twice a month.

Cheryl has agreed to come in on alternate Mondays (beginning March 13<sup>th</sup>) to draw blood for the patients that cannot cross the border. Dr. Mae Lary will bring those labs to Alex in Bellingham for Quest to pick up thereby eliminating FedEx entirely. The one unknown caveat is crossing the border with body fluids.

Elisabeth Mason informed everyone that Circle of Care is going to have their bus transport people to Bellingham every Thursday and that this may be a solution for some of those that are not able to drive there.

Approval of minutes from previous PRPHD Regular Meeting (February 8, 2023)  
**Motion:** To approve minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

**Financial Report:**

Paulette Ladner presented the financial report. Current month payables \$23,448.17 / Payroll is \$2,970.00

There are 2 items to note: Barbara Wayland reimbursement = \$866.30 (Lenovo Laptop = \$631.77 and \$234.53 for staff Christmas gift cards, candy gift baskets), and a payment to Parker, Smith & Feek = \$1,666.00 for the limited liability insurance

**Bills presented for approval as follows:**

Bills paid:

03/01/23 – SuperTrack Urgent Care PLLC = \$16,000  
02/28/23 – Point Roberts Bookkeeping = \$280  
02/24/23 – Point Roberts Press = \$50  
03/05/23 – Whatcom County FD #5 = \$247.30  
02/09/23 – Bellingham Business Machine = \$4,338.57  
02/27/23 – Barbara Wayland reimbursement = \$866.30  
03/08/23 – Parker, Smith & Feek = \$1,666

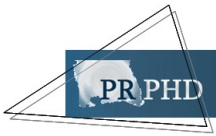
**Payroll as follows:**

Barb Wayland – Superintendent = \$1,740  
AmandaLyn Wayland – Cleaner = \$336  
Farrah Carsten – Secretary = \$552  
Stephen Falk – Commissioner = \$114  
Sara Oggel – Commissioner = \$114  
Noel Newbolt – Commissioner = \$114

**Motion:** To approve warrants and payroll for prior months' expenditures as presented. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of Prior Minutes:**

**Financial Report:**



## Clinic Medical Director Update:

Dr. Bozorgzadeh intends to talk to Quest Diagnostics. They are a big multinational company so he doesn't know how far he can get with them. However, he wants to impress upon them that since Peace Health has decided to go with Quest and they have the entire market in the northwest corner of this state, they have a responsibility to this community and will explain the geographical issues Point Roberts has and the limitations created for the residents. If Dr. Bozorgzadeh cannot convince them, he will also approach Northwest Pathology. They have a well-equipped lab but he's not sure they would be willing to make the investment by sending someone out weekly to draw blood.

The clinic has been going through changes staff wise and has interviewed a very qualified RN that is moving to Point Roberts. Dr. Bozorgzadeh is optimistic about her accepting a job at SuperTrack especially for days that an RN would need to be present when there isn't a physician on site. Olivia Hughes has been hired for front desk reception and has been training at Lakeway. SuperTrack is trying to make sure there is no service degradation during this time and are hopeful the new RN will be a good asset for the clinic.

The clinic is expanding point of care testing by having their own Covid tests, rapid strep, influenza, mono and RSV tests.

The numbers for the clinic were not available, but there has been a steady influx of new patients. Some of them are newcomers to Point Roberts and others were residents but decided to come into the clinic for the first time.

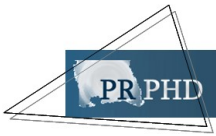
## Superintendent's Report:

**Clinic Cleaner:** Hettinga is the cleaner that has been hired. She lives in Point Roberts and her mother is a school teacher here. Grace has been doing the ride along with the Fire Department and is looking into getting her EMT certification.

**Commissioner 1 position:** This position will be on the ballot this election. Noel was appointed to this position when Richard left Point Roberts. The candidate filing position is May 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. Anybody within Point Roberts that is interested in serving on the commission can file to run for that office at that time with the County.

The replacement printer/fax has been delivered to the clinic. It was setup to store faxes directly on the computer which is saving paper.

**District computer:** The Lenovo laptop with a 2-year extended warranty was purchased and it cost less than the laptop that was purchased 3 years ago.



**Parker Smith & Feek Insurance:** Stephen & Barbara are in agreement to go ahead and get this in place for another year because it takes time to draft new policies. Stephen would like to ask Barbara to see if the Partners Group can add this limited liability insurance policy to what they're covering for us.

**Motion:** To approve the invoice for \$1,666.00 for the limited liability insurance policy. **Motion passed.**

**Other:**

SuperTrack contract renewal was not on the agenda, per Stephen he would like to have the discussion at the April meeting.

**Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 7:00 pm via ZOOM**

Meeting adjourned: 7:46 p.m.

*Minutes approved verbally at the following month's ZOOM meeting*

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Stephen Falk

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Sara Oggel

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Noel Newbolt

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Farrah Carsten