

Minutes

Point Roberts Public Hospital District

Wednesday August 9, 2023

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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:

Alexandra Wiley, Virginia Lester, Shivé Marshall, Bennett Blaustein, Circle of Care, Ray Smith, Leigh Moorhouse, Pat Grubb— APB

Public Comment: Leigh Moorhouse has been having billing issues with SuperTrack and requested to be put in touch with the right person to resolve it. In November of 2022 she had an injury and went to the clinic. The front desk receptionist was the only person working that day so Leigh was sent to the Fire Department who took care of her. A few days later she went into the clinic and was seen. They had only unwrapped and rewrapped her bandages. When she was finally billed on 5/24/23, it reflected her being seen by a doctor that she never even saw. Alex asked her to call her directly and provide documentation since she handles the billing side for both locations @ (360) 746-6531.

Ray Smith had some concerns and questions about the upcoming flu season and vaccine availability and the role of the clinic maintaining public health at the clinic in Point Roberts. Per Alex, she has reserved the Quadrivalent vaccine as well as the regular vaccine. The formulations and availability has not been yet released by the distribution sources so she can report back at the next meeting as to what will be given in the allocation that is controlled nationwide. SuperTrack's supplier said it should be at the end of the month. As soon as Alex receives confirmation, she will provide an update. Ray asked if the vaccines would be administered via appointment or a flu vaccination clinic. Alex responded that it would depend upon the cost and staff availability. Barbara mentioned all of the information will be out to the public via Point ePost and Nextdoor Point Roberts. Pat Grubb in the past has been really helpful in publicizing the availability and the dates.

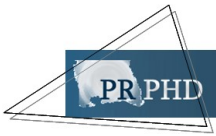
Approval of Prior Minutes:

Approval of minutes from previous PRPHD Regular Meeting (July 12, 2023)
Motion: To approve minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Financial Report:

Financial Report:

Paulette Ladner presented the financial report. Current month payables \$17,013.19 / Payroll is \$3,295.00



There is 1 item to note: Whatcom County Administrative Services for Qtr. 2-2023 payroll services = \$190.00

Bills presented for approval as follows:

Bills paid:

- 08/01/23 – SuperTrack Urgent Care PLLC = \$16,000
- 08/01/23 – Point Roberts Bookkeeping = \$570
- 07/28/23 – Point Roberts Press = \$50
- 08/01/23 – Whidbey Telecom = \$63.51
- 08/06/23 – Whatcom County FD #5 = \$112.77
- 08/01/23 – Bellingham Business Machine = \$26.91
- 07/11/23 – WA County Admin Svc = \$190

Payroll as follows:

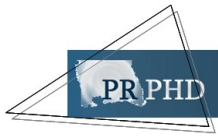
- Barb Wayland – Superintendent = \$2,001
- Farrah Carsten – Secretary = \$504
- Stephen Falk – Commissioner = \$114
- Sara Oggel – Commissioner = \$114
- Noel Newbolt – Commissioner = \$114
- Deanna Perkins – Cleaner = \$224
- Olivia Hughes – Cleaner = \$224

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

Clinic numbers for July reflected an increase of patient visits.

Clinic Medical Director Update:

Tdap is now available at the clinic for boosters. A phlebotomist is only available 1 day every 2 weeks for 3 hours so there are fewer labs. Most residents are able to get to Ferndale or Costco to get labs drawn. The hospital district can contract with Quest Labs to have a lab draw station part time, separate from SuperTrack.



Alex ordered 100 high doses of the quadrivalent flu vaccine for ages 65 and above and 100 doses of the regular dose. She is still waiting to hear if the state will continue to provide Covid vaccines to rural clinics. At this point the Covid vaccine is the same one as last year (Omicron). The disease has morphed enough that Pfizer is near their approval for the new formulation.

The billing errors and confusion that happened throughout the pandemic SuperTrack took a huge hit because the state ran out of money to bill insurance or cover vaccines and testing that were done. The paperwork process was a clutter, the Fire Department wrote it on paper and the clinic had to chart on it. If there were to be a Covid vaccine clinic again, SuperTrack will take it on without the Fire Department involved in anyway. Alex doesn't know if the County Health Department would agree to that so it's a big project for her to figure out.

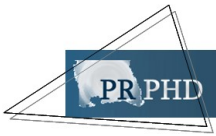
Stephen asked if people are going to have to pay for the next round of Covid vaccines themselves or go through their insurance since the Covid emergency is over. Alex is trying to figure that out with the state of Washington. At the other practice in the past 2 weeks there were 12 severe Covid cases that required administration of Paxlovid. The Seattle Times reported there's a big resurgence in Covid cases, it's not a life-threatening disease now that people have immunity but it is not gone. However, it is not regarded as a health emergency anymore.

Superintendent's Report:

Payroll issues: There's been 2 major areas of concern, both are now finally nearing resolution. A previous cleaner for the clinic wasn't paid even though she turned in timecards for March and April. A check was issued but was not delivered to Paulette and somehow disappeared. The second issue is the monthly check for SuperTrack was received late again. It's supposed to reach the P.O. Box in time for Paulette to mail it to Alex so that she has it on or before the 1st of the month. Barbara spoke with Gerald who has been in charge of county payroll (he's since changed roles). He provided her and Paulette the county schedule for the printing of approved checks of all kinds and said that Paulette could send the SuperTrack warrant check a week earlier.

Gerald put Barbara in touch with Joanie Wei who is now filling Gerald's former role. The former cleaner wrote down her street address on the forms but her street did not have a mailbox. She used a P.O. Box instead because her house was under construction. Apparently, the Post Office didn't know what to do with it and it never made its way back to the County office. The former employee filled out a new form, had it notarized so that the County can issue her a new check.

Stephen said one issue is that Paulette will need to attend the meetings in person so that they can sign what needs to be signed on a monthly basis as was done in the past pre-Covid. Paulette agreed to attend in person.



The other issue is for Paulette to be able to send the SuperTrack warrant check a week prior to the meeting but it would still need approval. Paulette can then wait until the first Wednesday of September (rather than the second Wednesday) and send it in so the County can process it and issue it in time for October 1st.

Motion: To authorize the Financial Advisor to submit the Warrant for the \$16,000.00 monthly payment to the Provider SuperTrack Urgent Care by the end of the month so that the County can issue the check well in advance of the end of the following month. **Motion approved.**

Other:

N/A

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday September 13th, 2023 @ 7:00 pm via ZOOM

Meeting adjourned: 7:42 p.m.

Minutes approved verbally at the following month's ZOOM meeting

Stephen Falk

Sara Oggel

Noel Newbolt

Farrah Carsten