

**APPROVED**

**City of Ketchikan  
PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center**

***Healthcare Advisory Committee Meeting***

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January 26, 2023

**Call to Order:**

The Healthcare Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Lacey Simpson at 9:04 a.m. This meeting was conducted virtually via WebEx Teleconference.

**Roll Call:**

Committee Members Present:

City of Ketchikan

Chair – Lacey Simpson

City Member – Mark Hilson

Council Member – Jai Mahtani

City Clerk, Kim Stanker

PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center

Vice Chair – Dori Stevens

PeaceHealth Board Member – Clay Keene

Executive Assistant – Lisa Maddocks

Committee Members Absent:

PeaceHealth Member – Scott Smith

City Manager, Delilah Walsh was present for the meeting.

**Communications:**

No communications were noted.

**Persons to be Heard:**

Chair Simpson made a call for persons to be heard.

Robert Sivertsen commented on healthcare for seniors, as well as his support for the nurse compact in Alaska. At the request of Chair Simpson, Vice Chair Stevens explained the nurse compact is an agreement to accept nursing licenses from other states, which would allow for more expeditious hiring / transition between states. She advised PeaceHealth does lose potential nurses due to the complexity of licensing in the state of Alaska.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Following review of the DRAFT minutes from the October 27, 2022, Healthcare Advisory Committee meeting, and there being no further discussion, nor objections, the committee unanimously approved the minutes from October 27, 2022, as submitted.

## **Old Business:**

No old business was identified.

## **New Business:**

### A. Welcome to new HAC Members.

Chair Simpson welcomed Clay Keene and Jai Mahtani to the HAC. Committee members introduced themselves.

### B. Status of Urgent Care Service Development and Emergency Department Remodel – October 2023 Deadline

Vice Chair Stevens provided an update on the same-day clinic services. She advised the new clinic department will be located in the Ketchikan Medical Office Building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, as part of a phased solution to provide after-hours and weekend care for nonlife-threatening conditions as an alternative to the Emergency Department. The current proposed / planned schedule will offer services Thursday through Monday with general hours from 12:00pm-8:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends. The clinic plan is to staff with a nurse practitioner, medical assistant (new hires), and a shared patient access representative to assist with registration. Vice Chair Stevens advised that an off-campus option would not allow for PeaceHealth to meet the October 2023 deadline; additionally, this new department would not likely produce a net revenue.

Delilah Walsh inquired as to whether mental health services would be available in the same-day clinic; Vice Chair Stevens advised they would not. Additionally, Ms. Walsh inquired on how services will be billed; Vice Chair Stevens advised billing is always based on level of care, but most services should be billed at Primary Care rates in this proposed plan. Chair Simpson inquired when a report on the clinic would be ready to present to the City Council. Vice Chair Stevens advised possibly by March.

Vice Chair Stevens provided an update on the Emergency Department remodel project. She advised PeaceHealth was currently waiting for the architects to finalize the contract. The architects are based out of Anchorage, but the local firm will act as a liaison. Once the contract is in place, a conceptual design and estimate can be presented. Vice Chair Stevens further advised that the project has grown, and now includes a new CT scan (supported by government funds), and lab renovations.

Chair Simpson inquired as to when construction would begin. Vice Chair Stevens advised the project will begin prior to the October 2023 deadline. Chair Simpson additionally inquired as to when the HAC could be involved in the design. Vice Chair Stevens advised once PeaceHealth receives the conceptual design from the architect, Mark Hilson will be notified.

### C. Retirement of Medical Director and Staffing Restructure

Vice Chair Stevens provided an update on the recruitment of a new medical director and the restructuring of the medical group. She advised Dr. Peter Rice has retired from his leadership position, but continues working as a part-time primary care physician. Over the last 3-4 months, providers and clinic caregivers were given the opportunity to review the current structure and provide input on a new model. Previously the clinics and hospital operated within two different leadership structures. She reviewed the new structure with HAC and explained executive leadership now plays a role over both the clinic and hospital. The Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Medical Officer are dyad partners. She stated the structure process will be periodically reviewed and adjusted as needed.

Vice Chair Stevens shared a list of physicians hired since FY21. This is a fluid list, as many physicians are relief and not considered long-term positions. **Information on physician recruitment will be added to the bi-annual report card.**

The committee discussed barriers to physician / caregiver retention; housing remains one of the largest problems for recruitment of long-term staff.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- A. Review / Update Partnership Report Card (Bi-Annual)
- B. Update on Same-Day Clinic
- C. Update on Emergency Department Renovation

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business before the Healthcare Advisory Committee, Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m. The next meeting of the Healthcare Advisory Committee will take place on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. via WebEx Teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted by: Lisa Maddocks, Executive Assistant  
PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center

***Approved: April 27, 2023***