

**MINUTES**

**JOINT MEETING WITH GADSDEN HOSPITAL, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS, INC.**

**AND GADSDEN COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL, INC.**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011 5:00PM**

**DR. JESSE FURLOW MEDICAL CENTER**

**ROLL CALL:**

Craig McMillan, Chair	Present
Herb Sheheane, Vice – Chair	Present
Jimmy Suber, Secretary – Treasurer	Present
Scott Whitehead	Present
Shelia Atkins	Absent
Dr. Charles Kent	Present
Sen. Fred Dudley	Present
Shaia Rene’ Beckwith – James	Present

**Health Council:**

Howard McKinnon, Chair	Present
Sarah Hinson , Nurse Director at GHD	Present
Maximo Martinez, Executive Director	Present
Dr. Patricia Tennell	Present
Maria Pouncey	Present
Arrie Battles	Present
Joy Anderson	Present
Bud Wethington, CRMC	Present
Jeff Lawson, North Florida Medical Center	Present
Tony Hannah	Present
Anthony Fedd	Present

**Staff:**

Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator	Present
Mike Glazer, GHI Attorney	Present
Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk	Present

**(1.) MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Chair McMillan called the joint meeting of the GHI Board of Directors and Gadsden Community Health Council to order at 5:00PM with a quorum present. He then welcomed Shaia Rene’ Beckwith –James as the newest member to the GHI Board. He thanked Mr. Jeff Lawson and the North Florida Medical Center

for allowing them to meet and for the refreshments that were served at the meeting. He also echoed on the exquisiteness on the newly built facility.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **(2.) Approval of Minutes**

**-Thursday, June 16, 2011**

**UPON MOTION BY MR. HERB SHENANE AND SECOND BY MR. SCOTT WHITEHEAD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ANNUAL MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2011, THE BOARD VOTED 7 - 0, BY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.**

***This concluded the official business of the Gadsden Hospital, Inc., meeting was then turned over to Mr. Howard McKinnon, Chair of the Gadsden Community Health Council.***

### **Introduction of Members**

Each member present from both the GHI Board and GCH Council stated their name for the record.

### **(3.) Utilization of Funds Brainstorming – Howard McKinnon -\$260,000.00 from ½ Sales Tax (Healthcare Surtax) that have not been spent.**

#### **Mr. McMillan:**

I think Howard and I, is the reason we are here. The long and short guys are there is about \$260,000 that was not spent from money that was collected on the ½ cent Sales Tax. I know that the Health Council has been trying to find some areas where they could utilize some of that money. The County asked my opinion and I don't know if ya'll ever seen or heard it, but my opinion is that I certainly want to utilize the funds that are going to benefit the County, but at the same time, I've also pointed out to the County that if we end up with somebody coming in to the facility at the hospital for the rest of the facility that we haven't revamped or done anything, I've asked the County where are they going to get the money from. They need to be mindful of that. I don't care where they spend the money from a personal standpoint. I think it's my job to point out if a physician where to come in tomorrow and wants to utilize part of that hospital that needs to be revamped, where are they going to get the money from? They said they aren't going to take it from General Revenue, so all I'm doing, not trying to judge them or push it one way or the other, just point out objectively, they do have this issue that they do need to deal with. At the last meeting I know the Council had been looking at trying to get the money to use as a Health Mobile Unit. I think they decided that's not really what they want to do, so at the last County Commission Meeting Howard and I both attended they sort of indicated the County Commission wanted us to get together and come up with some plans.

#### **Howard McKinnon:**

Yes, that was the indication they gave us. I think certainly the heart of the Health Council is there are certain areas in the community that aren't getting served, there are transportation problems. One of the ideas we've tried to look at is a way to try to address that problem. I think

that's been mentioned several times in our meetings. We came up with the idea of the Mobile Unit and that was on the recommendation of the Health Department. At that time when that came up, the Health Department generally had funds to help with that, since then we all know the economic picture has changed for the state especially the Health Department, so those funds are not available. When that became known it became impossible for us to pursue that anymore. In that time period we have found at that there is a unit that has been bought which Jefferson County has. It was bought with funds from the Federal Government that Allen Boyd got drafted and they aren't able to use it. This was another down side of a mobile unit, the cost it would take to operate it. Now they are reaching out to other Counties saying maybe we can regionalize this. That's an option. Our purpose is to see if we can come to an agreement and hash things out, the County Commission would like that and we have to know there are probably a lot of options and I guess to be fair we need to be open minded and evaluate them. I know the Health Council in our discussion we perceived this and that's what we were trying to address, the idea of a mobile unit. There are certain areas of our community that every time you go around the County and have the focus groups and meetings this is stated over and over again. While I was County Manager I heard it. "I just can't get to the doctors." That is where we have been trying to link.

**Senator Fred Dudley:**

Howard, let me just say, living in the Midway area and working in Tallahassee. I very seldom even get this far into the County, but I've recently been doing some traveling in the west part of the County all the way over to Jackson County. I'm just amazed at the outlying areas such as Greensboro and Sycamore; a lot of these places that aren't even incorporated have very concentrated poor populations that I know have a need for medical services. Those of us that can afford it tend to use the preventive side, whereas folks that can't afford tend to have. I like the idea of providing outreach Healthcare Services to different parts of the County. I would ask this question: What would the operating budget be, if we had a mobile unit. Let's assume we have one in our pocket, what would the operating costs be and how could you contrast that into a team from the health unit that could be at the General Dollar in Greensboro on a Saturday Morning for 3 hours. Over in Gretna at another location, so perhaps we can contrast the operating expense and the efficiency, where people climb aboard in 30 minutes down the road verses having to truck everything from location to location in cars, trucks whatever. I definitely see the need and I would strongly support. These folks are costing a ton of money when they show up over here and it's not there fought.

**McKinnon:**

You know we hear that from those outlying Counties. The mobile unit when we were discussing it in our meetings and we had the Interim Director of the Health Department with us, who now has been reassigned back to Alachua County, Paul Meyers who was wonderful. The model that we were looking at that we felt might be sustainable is not providing all the full service because it gets too expensive, we would have a screening. We discussed at the Health Council Meeting maybe having some kind of voucher we could give them, so when they got screened they could have a travel voucher. We are trying to work something out where maybe they can use Big Bend Transit and go to the North Florida Medical Center. That was the concept we had talked about. We got to put the numbers together; we are just in a discussion stage. It came up that we ought to try to get it together to see if we could hash something out and come up with the best plan.

**Jeff Lawson:**

One of the things that we have been talking about with North Florida Medical Center, we think we could fund the travel vouchers program so people would come to this center to be treated. A good portion of the \$260,000 could be used to pay the uninsured co-pay, if they are on a sliding fee basis and the co-pay is \$15.00 and \$15.00 into \$260,000 goes a long way. If we fund the travel vouchers ourselves, we wouldn't have to use any of that money from the Travel Voucher's Program, just for the co-pay. That's just a thought.

**(4.) Working Group Members Appointment – Howard McKinnon and Craig McMillan**

**McKinnon:**

That brings us to why we are here. We are here because the 20 of us can't sit around and discuss. We are here so hopefully GHI can appoint someone and understand that you are subject to the sunshine law and you had one member. If you have more than one then you get into the advertising and there has to be a public meeting. This is more for administrative burden, I'm not saying it can't be done, that's the option we have. The idea was that maybe out of this meeting maybe we could come up with a working group. That can discuss different ideas and options and maybe at some point bring it back to everybody again.

**McMillan:**

I think what we were looking to do today is pretty much come up with a working committee and get everybody's input on how that group should be made up. I think people who deal with that every day such as Maria and Shaia who are with the School System and deals with the problems on a daily basis certainly have better input than somebody like me. I would like to have your input to tell me, first as for GHI, I need someone who can serve on that. Fred would you do that?

**Dudley:**

Sure, I have a little bit of a confession. Let me tell you particularly in these outlying areas what I see is we need to set some type of priority in how we spend the money. To me the transportation element doesn't appear to be the most important part. I know we have youngster and the elderly that need transportation, but a lot of these folks that I have met have close families in physical proximity somebody's got a car or a truck if there is a need. What I'm saying is and I'm not the expert on medical component. I may not be an expert on any component. It seems to me the screening and getting those people who need the treatment, getting them the treatment are the two most important parts. **Screening** number 1, **Treatment** number 2. Here again I'm just giving you my part of the compassion.

**McMillan:**

I think the reason we are here today is to point a group to do that, just what you are talking about Fred. The question is what should the make-up of the group be? You will be one of them, but what other players should be part of the group, the Health Council, Capital Regional needs to be involved, I think North Florida Medical Group.

**Martinez:**

Excuse me; the names, the entity's, you just mentioned are all a part of the Health Council.

**McMillan:**

I think it's just a matter of you appointing whoever you are going to have and going from there. You can do your group as a whole, to make sure you have a quorum.

**McKinnon:**

Alright, Health Council I think it's are turn to side.

**Jeff Lawson:**

I don't think I can do it, because I'm apart of the Health Council Board. It would be a conflict for me. I would like to participate in it as a representative for North Florida.

**McKinnon:**

I have Joy, Arrie, Maria, Jeff, Sarah, Bud and Fred.

**Dudley:**

Can I suggest schools because we have a lot of Community Organizations and they are important, but our schools are seeing the kid's every day. I know they already have a great deal of responsibility to deliver a certain amount of Healthcare. I think it's important that we have a representative.

**McKinnon:**

We do have a representative. It's a School Board Representative on the Health Council.

**McMillan:**

The issue with having Shaia doing it is you just would have to advertise it, Right.

**Dudley:**

What if she sat in as a representative of the School Board?

**McKinnon:**

The end result will be that GHI will accept whatever the Working Group comes up with as well as the Health Council.

**Dudley:**

I want fight over who serves, I volunteered. I think it's great for someone from the School Board to serve.

**McMillan:**

We have to deal with the Sunshine Law all along. I don't know how ya'll get away from it. Ya'll should have to deal with it too.

**McMillan:**

We don't have a problem with advertising the meetings with the Working Group.

**Glazer:**

It's good public policy to advertise your meetings.

**Dudley:**

Let me say this, I refer to Mike because I respect his judgment as a fellow attorney. I think it's a good idea to advertise the meetings anyway. I think it's good for the community to know, were we are meeting and have an opportunity to show up.

**Working Group Representatives**

- **2 representatives of GHI Board – Fred Dudley; Shaia Beckwith-James (Sunshine Law applies)**
- **8 member Working Representatives – Arrie Battles, Joy Anderson, Sarah Hinson, Senator Fred Dudley, Maria Pouncey, Jeff Lawson, Bud Wethington, Shaia Beckwith-James**

Mr. Glazer, GHI Attorney stated that the meetings would have to be advertised by Sunshine State Law and he cautioned Fred Dudley and Shaia Beckwith - James should not communicate about business that may come before the Board with each other based on Sunshine State Law.

**(5.) Future Meeting Dates - Howard McKinnon and Craig McMillan**

Mr. McMillan said they told the Commission we would get back with them sometime within the next couple of months, after the first of the year, so you need to decide when you will meet.

There was discussion on future meeting dates and times. Mr. McKinnon said he would coordinate next meeting for the Working Group.

Senator Fred Dudley asked was there anything helpful such as budgetary estimates that you have done so far.

Mr. McKinnon said they would work something up based off the ideas that were brought forth at the last Health Council Meeting. We would have a ball park figure.

Mr. Dudley also inquired about the appropriation of the monies. He asked was it subject to the control of the Council or the Hospital Board or does it have to go through the County Commission.

Mr. Glazer, GHI Attorney suggested the Working Group invite someone from the Clerk's Office to tell what this money is and how much and how it can be disbursed.

Mr. McMillan replied that he could give the amount of monies as of a couple of weeks ago, it was like \$256,000.

**(6.) Adjournment**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE GHI BOARD OR GCH COUNCIL AT THIS TIME, CHAIR MCMILLAN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:35 PM.**

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**Craig McMillan, Chair GHI Board of Directors, Inc**

**ATTEST:**

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**Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk**