

July 13, 2022

The Working Board Meeting of the Board of Commissioners for Island Hospital was called to order by Commissioner Iversen at 12:00 pm on July 13th in the Cypress Room of Island Hospital and via WebEx.

Those present were Commissioners Warren Tessler; Jan Iversen, Lynne Lang, PhD and Paul Maughan, PhD. Also present were Elise Cutter, CEO; Vicki White, RN Interim CCO, Julie Stewart, CFO, Dr. Jason Hogge, CMO, Kim Graf, Administration and Briana Alzola, Anacortes American.

No Present: Rob Carter, COS

Public Comment:

No Comments

Diabetes Care in Primary Care Clinics:

Dr. Hogge commended the numerous departments that have had a role in enhancing the treatment and tracking of diabetes care within our primary care clinics. Dr. Hogge shared information on diabetic patients and diabetic treatments. Highlighted were the following:

- Classification Categories: Type 1 and Type 2
- Criteria for Screening diabetics and prediabetics for asymptomatic adults
- Risk based screening for Type 2 diabetics and prediabetics in asymptomatic children and adolescents
- Criteria for screening and diagnosing prediabetics and diabetics
- The importance of linking quality measures to treatments in order to improve the quality of care and general health for all people
- Reviewed the primary care clinical goals for diabetes
- Introduced the use of Diabetes Care Team
 - Diabetic educator referrals with feedback
 - Nutritional counseling referrals with feedback
 - Clinical nurse educators who will work the registries
- Expanded on how the Meditech Expanse EMR system & equipment are used to help identify, document and tract diabetes within the primary care clinics:
 - Diabetes Registries
 - Health Management Record
 - Digital images for screenings
 - Point of Care HbA1c Analyzer

Next steps will be to analyze the data over the next several months in order to measure improvements in treating diabetic patients. There was discussion of the value group sessions can have in educating diabetic patients on nutrition and food guidelines.

There was discussion on diagnosing diabetic patients and the value of having testing equipment within the clinics to screen patients at any time.

Washington State Hospital Update:

Elise shared that hospitals in Washington State are operating above capacity. This is due to the challenges with placement difficulties and limited staffing. Placement issues result in more complex patients being kept longer locally and longer Emergency Department wait times. The national labor shortage has had a significant impact on healthcare workers and has contributed to capacity issues.

Elise expanded on how operating above capacity directly impacts Island Health. Patients staying with Island Health for longer period of times due to the challenges of transferring patients for higher level of care. Placing patients into long term care facilities has been challenging due to State regulations. Island Health has also seen increased ED patient volume and is experiencing staffing shortages.

Elise expanded on capacity impacts remarking on the following:

- Capacity crisis is impacting both urban and rural areas
- As larger hospitals reach capacity, smaller hospitals are caring for more complex patients that would normally be transferred out for specialty services.
- Biggest factor impacting capacity is the patients awaiting discharge to nursing homes, adult family homes or other similar settings.
- Limited inpatient bed capacity here and at the large tertiary hospitals impact patients in our community.

Elise shared what is being done to here at Island Health to address the capacity issues not that Island Health is partnering, educating legislators and state leaders on the current conditions and asking for support and solutions to move non-acute patient care out of the hospitals, continues to hire and training new staff, work with department leaders, physicians and care teams to improve processes to remove barriers for patients, staff and physicians and continues to work with DOH and local media to educate patients on when to use the Walk In Clinic vs. the Emergency Department.

Elise remarked on the joint efforts with other Washington State hospitals and WSHA to address the issues. Highlighted were the following:

- Stop discriminating against Medicaid patients by requiring unnecessary guardianships
- Fund bed readiness programs at acute care hospitals.
- Maintain and expand rapid response teams to stabilize long-term care facilities.
- Expand child and adult respite capacity to prevent inappropriate hospitalization of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Action Item: No Action Items

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Commissioner Iversen called for the meeting to be adjourned at 12:54pm.

