

**South County Health District
Regular Meeting October 29, 2024
203 Hwy 203, Union, OR**

Call to order 3:59 by President Susie Wirkkala

Roll Call: Present –Debbie Clark, Susie Wirkkala, Gerry Zastrow, Tyler Griffiths, Chris Power and District Manager Adina Ferguson.

Approval of Minutes: Debbie Clark made the motion to accept the 9-24 and 10-3 Emergency meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Chris, approved unanimously.

Financials: Financials were reviewed. Tyler suggested that we talk to Old West Credit Union because he is on the budget committee for the city and they were able to get a better interest rate. District Manager said she would do that right away.

Staff Changes: Adina shared that our dental assistant in training has decided to leave and has been replaced by an experienced dental assistant from the Elgin Clinic. The new employee has been able to ease some of Dr. Donick's load so wait time to see him has decrease about two months. We still have a significant wait time for hygiene because Heidi has cut her availability to 3 days per week to see if her shoulder would get any better. It is not working, so Heidi has put in her resignation. They are looking for her replacement.

Update on the roof: Adina shared that the roof is largely done, but Matt still needs to get the details done that require brush work. He had to remove a exhaust fan vent because it was leaking and he has patched that area so the roof no longer has any leaks. We are waiting for confirmation that the work is done before payment is issued.

Ethics and Code of Conduct policy: All board members have reviewed the policy and returned their signed copy to the District Manager. Everyone will bring their completed Conflict of Interest Declaration to the next meeting. Employees have review their new Ethics and Code of Conduct policy and will be completing their Declaration of Conflict of Interest forms this week.

Debbie noted that while going through the minutes from our initial meeting with Eileen, attorney for the district, there was mention of assigning a single board member to supervise the District Manager as a way of removing the conflict we have with Debbie Clark being related to the Adina Ferguson. At the time the board had not felt it was necessary, but after talking to the Ethics Commission, it might be something the board wants to consider. Gerry agreed to assume the role, given her frequent contact as Treasurer. All board members agreed to the arrangement.

Congressional Appropriations Grant: Debbie announced that SCHD did not get the grant for our clinic remodel. It seems that the federal government started out with a rural health priority but with the election coming up they shifted to equity, housing and other priorities. Debbie talked to Nick DuCote and discussed available grant options. They came up with a new plan to more aggressively pursue

funding. The government does not like to grant the full cost of a project because it does not show the requesting entity has any stake in the process. We will redefine the project to show that SCHD has already put in 20% of the project cost by purchasing the property needed and by paying for the roof repair. We can request 40% from the Congressional Spending grant and 40% from the Oregon State grant. Even if we get only one of those, we have lots of room to get help from Roundhouse Foundation and Ford Family Foundation. There are various smaller grants we can use for specific pieces of the project, like the parking lot. We also have the option to finance any shortfall. There is a tremendous amount of work to do and a short time to get it done. The state grant deadline is Jan-Feb and the federal grant has to be submitted by Feb.

We need to get Senator Merkley's office (Jessica Key) and Senator Wyden's office (Kathleen Kathey) out to union to tour our current clinic and the new clinic location. We need to get Bobby Levy and Bill Hansell out to tour the sites and we may need to get the new state senator out here. We need to rebuild our cost estimates and our project narrative.

The board also needs to focus on reaching out to our local stakeholders to build supportive relationships that will allow us to raise awareness for the clinic and to raise money for the project. Tyler will work with the city. We will ask Beth to help with Grande Ronde Hospital, Chris will help with CUP. Debbie works with the Community Center and will reach out to Main Street Union. They seem to be the most active and innovative group in Union. Our Hygienist will be on the EOCCO board to represent us with the group that manages the Oregon Health Plan in Eastern Oregon.

Adina has contacted AdDad the gentleman who does the video advertising in the area. He has tv's in doctor offices, clinics, Jiffy Lube and other locations where people are waiting for service. He will do a video for us that is 3-5 minutes for \$6000. That video can be played on the TV system to drive local business to the clinic and increase our non-OHP business. It can also be used to submit to grantors in order to help tell our story and show the need for the dental clinic.

Tyler made a motion to move forward with the AdDad video, Chris seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The board specified that the TV service would be paid by the month to see how that goes.

Debbie let everyone know that she and Adina will be meeting with Nick DuCote at this location next Wednesday, 11/6 at 10:00AM. Everyone is welcome to join so we can get the funding plan started.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30PM

Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 26 at 4:00PM