Blue Mountain Hospital District
170 Ford Road, John Day, OR 97845
BlueMountainHospital.org

BMHD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AUGUST 26, 2026

Board Members Present: Amy Kreger, Chair; Shawna Clark, Secretary; Tim Unterwegner, Treasurer; Kris Tanory; Barb Oliver; Sylvia Brown

Administration/Staff Present: Misty Robertson, CEO; Mike Ellis, CFO; Debbie Morris, CNO; Maisie Taylor, CHRO; Cynthia Lewis, Care Center AIT/DNS; Chris Wall, Director of IT; Dani Nodine, Quality; Kendel Margart, Chief of Staff; Brett Mumford, DO; Jena Knowles, PR/Foundation; Carmen Gardner, Executive Assistant

Guests/Staff Present: Approximately 35 individuals attended in person, with additional attendees participating via Microsoft Teams. An attendance sheet was provided for those attending in person.

Call to Order

Kreger called the Blue Mountain Hospital Board of Directors meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Board Chair reminded attendees that the meeting was being recorded and of public meeting requirements.

Additions/Deletions

The following adjustments were made to the agenda.

- Deletions:
  - Under Item VI, New Business;
    - D. Non-Clinical Policy Approval – Investment Policy Statement (not ready for approval)
- Additions:
  - Under Item VI, New Business;
    - A. 3. Emergency Capital Purchase – Alpine Fire Panel Replacement, Care Center
    - D. Grant Resolution 2026-02

Community Comment

Several community members addressed the Board regarding staffing stability, employee retention and burnout, quality and continuity of care, labor negotiations, communication, and community confidence in the Hospital District. Community members also raised concerns regarding the recruitment and retention of permanent medical staff and the impact of temporary staffing on continuity of care.

Questions and discussion included the status and timeline of union negotiations, staffing and provider recruitment, employee morale, and communication with the community. Concerns regarding social media and trust in leadership were also discussed.

The Board and administration responded to questions and encouraged community members to attend future Board meetings and work sessions.

Approval of Minutes

Kreger asked for approval of the minutes from the July 22, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

Correction to July Minutes: Oliver brought forth discussion regarding the motion related to the wage analysis in the July 22, 2026, minutes. It was clarified that the motion was specifically to approve the CEO wage adjustment. The Board approved the July minutes as corrected.

Motion: Tanory moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Brown seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

A. Compliance Update
The Board was advised that the compliance update was included in the Board packet. No questions or discussion were noted.

New Business

Financial Report

1. Treasurer Report
Unterwegner reported that the Finance Committee had met earlier in the week and reviewed several financial matters.

2. CFO Report
Ellis reviewed the July financial statements. July was the first month of the fiscal year, and increased volumes contributed to a positive monthly bottom line of approximately $292,000. Balance sheet metrics, including days cash on hand and days in accounts receivable, were within Board goals and consistent with previous trends.

Inpatient volumes were approximately 20% above the prior fiscal year's average, while emergency department visits were approximately 12% above average.

Ellis also discussed Food Services. The department experienced an annual loss of approximately $300,000 in the prior fiscal year. Cafeteria and Juniper Ridge meal prices were increased as part of efforts to improve department revenue and reduce the cost per meal. Ellis reported a direct cost per meal of approximately $14.78.

3. Emergency Purchase
The Board discussed replacement of the fire panel at the Care Center. The existing panel was functioning but had been recommended for replacement by the vendor, Alpine. The estimated cost was approximately $31,000, primarily related to rewiring. The Board was advised that failure of the system could require 24-hour fire watch monitoring.

Motion: Clark moved to approve the unexpected expense for the Care Center. Oliver seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Resignation

The Board received and accepted Brown's resignation from the Board of Directors. Brown expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Board and stated that she intended to continue supporting the Hospital District. Letter of resignation included with the minutes.

Motion: Unterwegner moved to accept Brown's resignation. Tanory seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Retirement Plan Updates

Taylor provided an update regarding the retirement plan renewal. The proposal included a reduction in administrative fees from 0.26% to 0.21% of participant assets and an increase in financial education services from 10 to 16 service days annually. Revenue-sharing credits will continue to be returned directly to participant accounts. A more robust process for reviewing investment options is also being developed.

Grant Resolution 2026-02

Knowles presented the Board with a resolution supporting an application to the Business Oregon Regional Infrastructure Fund for a backup generator for the Care Center. The proposed project is approximately $300,000 if fully funded.

Motion: Oliver moved to approve Resolution 2026-02 supporting the grant application for a backup generator for the Care Center. Tanory seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Medical Staff Report

Dr. Margart reported on the August 4 Medical Staff meeting, including four appointments and one reappointment. He also provided an overview of the Hospital District's current inpatient and outpatient staffing model, provider recruitment, and quality improvement activities.

Dr. Margart reported improvements in outpatient order processes, access to test results, antimicrobial stewardship, peer review, and the new St. Alphonsus stroke partnership. He also reported improved emergency department door-to-provider times, ranging from approximately 6 to 25 minutes in recent months.

The following appointments and reappointments are recommended for approval

Appointment

- Siraj Haq, MD, CORA – Courtesy Medical Staff
- Jens Johansson, DO – Courtesy Medical Staff
- Jignesh Patel, MD – St. Al's Telestroke Roster
- Tachira Tavarez, MD – St. Al's Telestroke Roster

Reappointment

- Andrew Janssen, MD – Courtesy Medical Staff

Motion: Clark moved to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented. Tanory seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Administrative & Department Reports (see reports)

CEO Report

Robertson provided an update on the Cascade High Value Network and the Hospital District's participation in the Medicare Shared Savings Program. The program is expected to provide an additional estimated $270,000 to $370,000 in revenue through improved care and reduced Medicare costs. The Hospital District is also pursuing additional revenue opportunities and working through the Oregon approval process.

Robertson reviewed the Hospital District's community communication efforts, including biweekly staff emails, social media, LinkedIn, website updates, radio, print media, Board meetings, work sessions, community stakeholder communications, community engagement events, and an upcoming annual report.

She also provided an update on the Hospital District's provider staffing model, recruitment efforts, and the distinction between full-time and casual employed providers.

Robertson provided an update on union negotiations, noting that the Hospital District is awaiting a decision from the Oregon Employment Relations Board before bargaining dates can be scheduled. She also discussed the status quo approach and market adjustments that had been made in selected areas.

Blue Mountain Care Center Report

Lewis reported that she had no additions to her written Board report.

CNO Report

Morris provided an update on maternity services and efforts to develop and strengthen the Hospital District's maternity care model. The Hospital District has hired a nurse midwife who is scheduled to begin September 1

and is interviewing an additional nurse midwife. Nursing recruitment and training efforts were also discussed, including plans to direct new graduate nurses toward OB training and continued participation in the Hospital District's nursing education programs.

Morris also provided an update on the planned tele-neonatology partnership with St. Charles, which would provide remote neonatology support for deliveries and ill newborns.

Human Resources Report

Taylor provided updates regarding employee engagement, benefits, and insurance. The Employee Activities Committee is being rebuilt to increase opportunities for employees to connect, build relationships, and grow both personally and professionally. The Board was advised that the Painted Sky membership will conclude September 1 due to low utilization, with the Employee Activities Committee exploring other opportunities for employee engagement.

Taylor also reported a 3.6% increase in the total premium cost for the Hospital District's Moda/OEBB health and vision plans and noted that medical and vision premium cost-sharing has been standardized at a 70/30 employer/employee split. No changes were made to the dental plan or retirement match.

IT Report

Nothing additional to the written report.

Hospice/Home Care Report

Nothing additional to the written report.

Employee Participation

Employees were invited to provide comments. Sutton George, Clinical Services Coordinator and Lead Medical Assistant for the Strawberry Wilderness Community Clinic, addressed the Board regarding clinic operations, staffing, provider retention, nursing students, patient volume, and investment in existing employees.

Sutton reported increased clinic volume and requested greater recognition of the clinic's improvements. Discussion followed regarding provider capacity, access, upcoming nurse practitioner and nurse midwife staffing changes, and the potential need for regular clinic volume reporting. The Board discussed requesting a more detailed review of clinic volumes and financial performance at a future Finance Committee meeting.

Brandi Fountain raised a question regarding organizational continuity and expressed concern that successful programs and initiatives could be disrupted with changes in the CEO or administration. She asked whether the Hospital District has a plan to ensure continuity of programs and initiatives during leadership transitions. Discussion followed.

Meeting Feedback

The Board and attendees discussed communication, community engagement, and the availability and notification of public Board meetings.

Items for Future Board Meetings

The Board requested that a Strawberry Wilderness Community Clinic report be included in future Board packets, including clinic activity and improvements.

Adjournment

At 6:39 p.m., with nothing further to discuss and no executive session, Kreger called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Unterwegner moved to adjourn the meeting. Oliver seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Minutes Submitted by:
Carmen Gardner
Executive Assistant

Amy Kreger, Board Chair — Date: 9-23-26

Shawna Clark, Board Secretary — Date: 10.16.26

amy.kreger@outlook.com

From: Sylvia Brown <sylviabrown.rn0@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2026 3:30 PM
To: Amy Kreger
Subject: BMHD

Dear Board Chairman

After careful thought and consideration this will serve as my resignation to the board of directors for Blue Mountain Hospital District. August will be my last board meeting.

The board of directors has supported some very hard decisions that I believe were 100% necessary to keep our hospital viable and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of that. I have a deep appreciation for the hard job that being on a hospital board is.

My decision although was hard to decide when, was easy to know where my passion lies. I thought that being on the board would be fulfilling and keep me connected to Blue Mountain but in my heart I really just want to work at Blue Mountain. In my 17 year nursing career 14 of those have been at Blue Mountain and I have always been proud to say that.

I have made lifelong friendships and a deep love for the care I have gotten to provide to Grant County and I told myself if I was ever given the opportunity to work there again I would, and that time has come.

I believe in the work and mission of the board and I will continue to support its actions.

Sylvia Brown