



## Blue Mountain Hospital District

170 Ford Road, John Day, OR 97845  
BlueMountainHospital.org

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### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2026

**Board Members Present:** Amy Kreger, Chair; Shawna Clark, Secretary; Tim Unterwegner, Treasurer; Kris Tanory; Sylvia Brown; Paul Smith

**BMHD Staff Present:** Misty Robertson, CEO; Mike Ellis, CFO; Lori Lane, Director of Compliance; Maisie Taylor, HR Director; Debbie Morris, CNO; Chris Wall, IT Director; Cynthia Lewis, Care Center Administrator/DNS; Zac Bailey, MD; Erika Adams, NP; Shelly Boyd, NP; Jody Starbuck; Danielle Hunt, Radiology; Gretchen Spicer, RN; Magda Broekere, Radiology; Dani Nodine, Quality Manager; Sami Norland; Faith McCarthy; Kelsey McAllister; Lizz Bate; Carmen Gardner, Executive Assistant

**Others Present:** Jessi Brunson; Amanda Hardman; John Rowell

**Others Virtual:** Dr. Kendel Margart; Makaela Hughet; Taylor Moss; Jack (unverified); DL (unverified); 541-620-0564 (unverified)

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### Call to Order

Amy Kreger called the Blue Mountain Hospital Board of Directors meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

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### Additions/Deletions

Kreger asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda; none were requested.

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### Community Input

Jessi Brunson, a community member, read a letter expressing concern regarding recent resignations and layoffs at Blue Mountain Hospital. The letter was signed by Brunson and 10 additional community members. No other community comments were made.

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## **Approval of Minutes**

Kreger asked for approval of the minutes from the January 28, 2026 Board of Directors meeting.

**Motion:** Clark moved to approve the minutes as presented. Smith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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## **Old Business**

### **Traveler/Staffing Quarterly Update**

Maisie Taylor presented a quarterly update highlighting potential cost savings if traveler staff were replaced with permanent staff, particularly in the hospital and care center. Temporary staffing related to employee leave was separated from traveler usage. Taylor noted the ongoing CNA cohort is expected to further reduce reliance on traveler staffing. Board members expressed appreciation for the report and discussed the positive impact of the CNA program.

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## **New Business**

### **Financial Report**

#### **Treasurer Report**

Tim Unterwegner reported that the Finance Committee met on February 23 and reviewed the financial statements. He invited Mike Ellis to present a summary to the board.

#### **CFO Financial Report**

Mike Ellis reported that the hospital remains on track with its budget. January reflected an operating loss of \$212,000, which was consistent with projections. Ellis noted the hospital's cash position improved due to the annual property tax collection. He also discussed separating restricted and unrestricted cash in future financial reports. Days cash on hand were reviewed, with approximately five days of total cash considered restricted.

### **Committee Appointment for Interim Board Member**

Kreger announced that six applications have been received for the interim board member position. The application deadline is February 28. Kreger appointed Unterwegner, Tanory, and Clark to review applications and present a recommendation at the March meeting. The interim member will serve until the next election in 2027.

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## **Medical Staff Report**

Dr. Zac Bailey highlighted new policies and thanked contributors Lori Lane and Rod Carpenter. Bailey welcomed Dr. Yolanda Beatriz Suarez, MD, who has completed a geriatrics fellowship. The Medical Staff approved the listed policies and appointment at their March meeting and recommended them for board approval.

### **Policies & Procedures**

- Full list included in the board packet.

### **Appointment**

- Daiya Healthcare – Yolanda Beatriz Suarez, MD, Courtesy Medical Staff

**Motion:** Clark moved to approve the policies and appointment as presented. Tanory seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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## **Administrative & Department Reports**

### **CEO Report**

Misty Robertson highlighted several updates. New emergency department providers beginning in March include Dr. Guy Zickgraf, Dr. Paula Godfrey, and Dr. Russ Nichols (casual). A full-time nurse practitioner will begin in the clinic in April, and Erin Gosnell, a participant in the Grow Your Own program, is expected to graduate this summer and begin full time in the fall.

Robertson also reported that Dr. Amber Elliott has been hired as a casual general surgeon to assist with call coverage. The hospital continues to host medical students from the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine and has been approved as a potential rotation site for the OHSU Rural Residency Track. Robertson added that the Care Center received a grant to support its CNA cohort program.

### **Blue Mountain Care Center Report**

Cynthia Lewis reported that the Care Center admitted one new resident this week and anticipates another admission next week.

### **CNO Report**

Debbie Morris highlighted plans for a new RN cohort beginning August 31, 2026. Morris noted the current cohort is expected to graduate in April 2027, with graduates potentially becoming employees or advancing within the organization.

## **Human Resources Report**

Maisie Taylor noted a correction to the January Highlights report, indicating there are 22 open positions rather than the 24 originally reported. No additional updates were provided.

## **IT Report**

Chris Wall had no additional updates beyond the written report.

## **SWCC Report**

Lori Lane and Maisie Taylor had no additional updates. Discussion occurred regarding no-show and cancellation rates at the clinic. Staff are developing a report to better track no-shows and are distributing the clinic policy and registration information to patients. Additional reporting comparing scheduled appointments and available appointment slots was suggested to better understand clinic capacity and fill rates.

## **Hospice/Home Care Report**

Jody Starbuck reported the current hospice census is 10, an increase from eight reported previously, with two additional pending admissions.

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## **Employee Participation**

Sami Norland addressed the board regarding recent decisions related to the clinic.

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## **Meeting Feedback**

Kreger thanked attendees for participating and invited feedback. No comments were offered.

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## **Items for Next/Future Board Meeting**

No items were identified.

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## Executive Session

Kreger stated that no decisions would be made following executive session.

**Motion:** Unterwegner moved to enter executive session under **ORS 192.660(2)(f)** to consider information, or records exempt from public inspection. Tanory seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**5:30 PM** – After a brief break, Kreger called the executive session to order.

**Present:** Kreger, Clark, Unterwegner, Smith, Brown, Tanory, Robertson, Lane

**5:43 PM – Motion:** Unterwegner moved to adjourn executive session and return to open session. Tanory seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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## Open Session

No discussion occurred and no decisions were made.

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## Adjournment

5:47 PM – Motion: Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. Smith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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Minutes Submitted by:  
Carmen Gardner  
Executive Assistant

  
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Amy Kreger, Board Chair

  
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Shawna Clark, Board Secretary

3-25-2026  
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Date

3.25.26  
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Date