

KershawHealth core measures hit 100% again
November 14, 2014

In July, KershawHealth reported scoring 100 percent on six quality core measures for the third month in a row. Monday, KershawHealth Board Vice Chair Dr. Tallulah Holmstrom reported four of those core measures struck the 100 percent again for at least six months, ending in September. Holmstrom, chair of the board's quality committee, reported one core measure hit 100 percent for the ninth straight month.

The four measures reaching the 100 percent mark are for the treatment of:

- * heart attacks, nine consecutive months (January through September);
- * heart failure, eight consecutive months (February through September);
- * stroke, seven consecutive months (March through September); and
- * pneumonia, six consecutive months (April through September).

Two other core measures, for the treatment of venous thromboembolism and another focused on reducing surgical complications, fell from the 100 percent mark.

"Six months for pneumonia, heart failure, stroke and AMI (heart attacks), consecutively, is really something to be proud of. This is a really exciting thing for us," Holmstrom said. "That means, for those illnesses, people got perfect care. We're talking about perfect care for everybody with that diagnosis for six, seven, eight and, now, nine months running."

Also during Monday's board meeting, Trustee Susan Outen said the strategic planning committee's Elgin subcommittee met in late October and engaged in a lengthy executive session discussion about various strategic options KershawHealth could pursue at the Elgin campus.

"We understand that the larger and more complex options we're contemplating could require some regulatory approval such as a ... certificate of need," Outen said. "Most of these projects of that magnitude would be best left in the hands of a new financial partner. Should that occur in the near future ... so, for the moment, we'll put together a feasibility study for developing an ambulatory surgery center at Elgin."

KershawHealth is already engaged in a strategic partnership with Orthopaedic Associates to create a joint (orthopedic) center of excellence at Elgin. In addition, Holmstrom said an ad hoc committee focused on a "CEO transition agreement" met recently but deferred any report to Monday night's executive session.

In other regular business Monday:

* Trustee Bobby Jones reported on the KershawHealth Board of Visitors' recent meeting. Jones said members discussed a range of Kershaw County-related issues, a nursing award and KershawHealth's strategic plan. He said the board of visitors appeared appreciative of any information on the strategic plan. Jones and KershawHealth Vice President of Marketing and Community Development Joseph Bruce said board of visitors member Charlie Phillips, of Elgin, passed away recently. Bruce said Phillips was in the middle of his second three-year term and "always had glowing things to say" about KershawHealth.

* Board Chair Karen Eckford and several other trustees remarked on KershawHealth's recent employee recognition dinner. Jones said about 70 people attended; Eckford said there was a "positive energy" at the event.

* Eckford also led a discussion about the board's remaining schedule for November and December in light of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Trustees ultimately decided to not the change dates of their remaining meetings, which will be held Nov. 24, Dec. 8 and Dec. 22. When asked how everyone felt about the Dec. 22 meeting, Trustee Eric Boland responded, "I'm excited," to which Eckford added, "We've got a lot of work to do."

The open portion of Monday's meeting lasted only about 20 minutes. Trustees then entered executive session for nearly three hours to discuss what Eckford specifically termed the "interim CEO transition agreement" and strategic partnership proposals offered recently by Capella Healthcare and Duke LifePoint. Trustees returned to open session at 9:15 p.m., and did not take any action except to adjourn.