

APPROVED MINUTES

MEETING OF:

PATIENT SAFETY AUTHORITY

ZOOM MEETING

TIME: 1:22 P.M.

DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Patient Safety Authority**September 21, 2023**

1
2 Nirmal Joshi, M.D., Chair
3 Daniel Glunk, M.D.
4 William Wenner, M.D.
5 Eric Weitz, Esquire
6 Kathleen Law, M.D.
7 Veronica Richards, Esquire
8 Amelia Paré, M.D.
9 Lynn Kornblau, Esquire
10
11 Also Present:
12
13 Caitlyn Allen, Director of Engagement & Publications
14 Tony Arnold, Business Operations Manager
15 Michelle Bell, Director of Outreach and Education
16 Amanda Bennett, Infection Preventionist
17 Shirley Dominick, Patient Safety Liaison
18 Kelly Gipson, Project Manager
19 Regina Hoffman, Executive Director
20 Becky Jones, Director of Data Science and Research
21 Shawn Kepner, Data Analyst
22 Rick Kundravi, Senior Patient Safety Liaison
23 Christopher Mamrol, Senior Patient Safety Liaison
24 Karen McKinnon-Lipsett, Administrative Specialist
25 Shelly Mixell, Administrative Specialist
26 Melanie Motts, Senior Patient Safety Advisor
27 Howard Newstadt, Financial Director and CIO
28 Jessica Oaks, Program Manager
29 Jackie Peck, Communication Specialist
30 Molly Quesenberry, Patient Safety Advisor
31 Cathy Reynolds, Senior Patient Safety Liaison
32 Christine Sanchez, Patient Safety Analyst
33 Megan Shetterly, Senior Patient Safety Liaison
34 Amber Sizemore, Esquire, Attorney for PSA
35 Krista Sorvino, Communications Specialist
36 Heather Stone, Administrative Specialist
37 Matthew Taylor, Patient Safety Analyst
38 Robert Yonash, Senior Patient Safety Liaison
39 Betty Adler
40 Brian Bachowski

York Stenographic Services, Inc.

2303 East Philadelphia Street., York, PA 17402 - (717) 854-0077

1 Maureen Barnes, Cassatt Patient Safety Organization
2 Melinda Bechtel
3 Keirstyn Biggans (UPMC)
4 Phyllis Blanton (Gainwell)
5 Anne Marie Browne
6 Jolene Calla (HAP)
7 Michele Daniele
8 Colleen Downey (Independence Blue Cross (IBX))
9 John Duggan
10 Garrison Gladfelter (DOH)
11 Anthony Hennen (The Centersquare)
12 Becky Jones
13 Beth Kern (Community Health Systems)
14 Shelly McGonigal (Allegheny Health Network)
15 Lori Moyer-Wolfe (GSRH)
16 Mary Ellen Nepps (OGC-UPENN)
17 Georgine Olexa (GSRH)
18 Della Payne
19 Patrick O'Rourke (Health Committee/House Demo. Caucus)
20 Lisa Painter (UPMC)
21 Kristina Perez (UPMC)
22 Kathy Pratt (MLHS)
23 Nina Renzi (Penn Medicine)
24 Maureen Ruhl (OGC-UPENN)
25 Mary Kay Schwemmer
26 Colleen Scrantine (Allegheny Health Network)
27 Robert Shipp (HAP)
28 Jill Sonnenberg (Allegheny Health Network)
29 Alex Ulsh, IT Systems Administrator
30 Sean Zabaneh (Duane Morris)
31 Byron Aldinger (York Stenographic Reporter)
32 (412)267-6767
33 (412)789-8238
34 (610)776-3100
35 (717)475-5606
36 (717)571-7719
37 (717)894-2818
38 (814)452-5000
39



Executive Session

September 21, 2023 at 12:30 PM ET

Location: Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

Consideration of personnel matters and to engage in non-deliberative informational discussions regarding various actions and matters which have been approved at previous public meetings.

Public Meeting

September 21, 2023 at 1:00 PM ET

Location: Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

Agenda

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- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the June 29, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- IV. Report of Board Chair
- V. Executive Director Report
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Evaluation of Event Reporting - Public Comment
 - b. Board Bylaws - External Communications
- VII. New Business
 - a. FY2023-24 Budget Review and Approval
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Adjournment

1 ***

2 PATIENT SAFETY AUTHORITY

3 The regularly scheduled meeting of the Patient Safety
4 Authority was held via a Zoom call on Thursday,
5 September 21, 2023. Nirmal Joshi, M.D., Chair, called
6 the meeting to order at 1:22 p.m.

7 ***

8 A motion to approve the minutes of June 29, 2023,
9 carried unanimously.

10 ***

11 Report of Board Chair

12 [Dr. Joshi, Chair, advised that he has no specific
13 report, other than comments on other segments of the
14 hearing.]

15 ***

16 Executive Director Report

17 [Regina Hoffman, Executive Director, began her report
18 by advising that Sunday was World Patient Safety Day,
19 with a theme of engaging patients for patient safety,
20 and to coincide with that, the Authority released The
21 Patient's Companion, a pocket guide to understanding
22 your health care. Ms. Hoffman advised this is
23 available for download on the PSA website, with a
24 print version which hospitals can use to share with

1 patients. Ms. Hoffman reported that the Outreach and
2 Education Team kicked off the new Keystone, Keys to
3 Investigation, on July 1. She explained that advisors
4 are in the process of meeting with facilities to
5 review the processes and discuss upcoming
6 opportunities for education. Ms. Hoffman went over
7 some of the upcoming webinars and workshops that will
8 be offered. Ms. Hoffman advised that low-volume
9 reporter letters were recently sent to 38 facilities,
10 to inform facilities that they may be underreporting
11 patient safety events that occur in their facility.
12 Ms. Hoffman advised that the first part of the third
13 writing workshop was held on September 14. These
14 workshops provide an opportunity for healthcare
15 facility staff involved in patient safety and quality
16 improvement projects to translate those efforts into a
17 manuscript for publication. Ms. Hoffman went on to
18 report that there will be a transition of the Patient
19 Safety journal from a serial publication to a rolling
20 publication schedule. There will no longer be a print
21 copy, however, a printed comprehensive issue will be
22 published in December which will highlight all of the
23 advisements sent to Pennsylvania healthcare facilities

1 in the past year. Ms. Hoffman advised that three
2 anonymous reports were received in August, and an
3 additional report was received in September. She
4 explained that this may just be an anomaly, or it may
5 be due to the change in how anonymous reports are
6 submitted. Ms. Hoffman provided an update on neonatal
7 complications. She advised that supplemental data
8 requests were forwarded to 44 facilities, and all but
9 one of the forms were returned, however, 97 of those
10 had incomplete information; meaning, one or more of
11 the mandatory questions were not answered, or the
12 answers provided were not helpful. The Data Science
13 Team is now beginning to analyze the information that
14 was received, although Ms. Hoffman advised any
15 conclusions that they are able to make may be limited.
16 There was extensive discussion on the issue that some
17 facilities failed to answer questions one, two, three,
18 and five, which were made optional, when they
19 originally were all mandatory. Eric Weitz voiced his
20 concerns that there was only a 40 percent compliance
21 rate, even after the subcommittee had met with
22 hospitals and health systems, and accommodated their
23 biggest concerns. He believed that it was

1 unacceptable, and suggested that the matter be looked
2 into further. Veronica Richards and Dr. Joshi echoed
3 Mr. Weitz's concerns.]

4 ***

5 Old Business

6 [Regina Hoffman, Executive Director, discussed the
7 issue of evaluation of event reporting. She reminded
8 the parties that last December the Board approved a
9 plan of evaluating reporting practices in
10 Pennsylvania's long-term acute care hospitals. She
11 went on to advise that implementation of that plan is
12 scheduled to begin after the Board meeting, after the
13 matter had been opened for public comment. She
14 advised that the plan is to conduct a pilot to
15 evaluate current reporting practices, and help
16 facilities ensure that they are identifying events
17 within their facility and reporting them appropriately
18 through the Pennsylvania patient safety reporting
19 system. The pilot would be for the 13 long-term acute
20 care hospitals across the state, and is projected to
21 begin in the fall. The primary focus for this review
22 will be deaths and transfers to higher levels of care.
23 Ms. Hoffman gave a detailed breakdown of how the

1 process will work, and advised that she is aware that
2 the electronic medical records that will be reviewed
3 can be voluminous, and explained that PSA staff will
4 be willing to go on site to review the records if that
5 is easier for the facilities. After the review, a
6 written report would be provided to the facilities,
7 that would include an assessment of their overall
8 reporting practices, any opportunities that were able
9 to be identified for improvement, and a list of how
10 many serious events were identified by PSA staff, and
11 then how many of those events were correctly reported
12 by the facility into PA-PSRS. An aggregate report
13 would then be prepared for the PSA Board. The matter
14 was then opened up for public comment. Robert Shipp
15 from HAP began his comment by reiterating that the top
16 priority of Pennsylvania hospitals is patient safety
17 and high-quality care. He also advised that he was
18 encouraged that 99 percent of hospitals reported the
19 data, and a number reported it on the questions that
20 they were not required to. He advised that the
21 feedback that HAP received from their members was that
22 it was confusing that the material was sent out as a
23 research study, which typically would be optional.

1 Mr. Shipp expressed some of the concerns about the
2 proposed work plan, and explained that the hospital
3 community needs to be very deliberate and thoughtful
4 about the use of hospital resources, because of
5 shortages. Mr. Shipp advised that the sample group of
6 facilities is small, however, the patients are very
7 complex, and although the proposed work plan is
8 focusing on addressing perceived patient quality
9 concerns, it will unnecessarily divert critical
10 resources that would otherwise be directed to ensuring
11 safe and high-quality care for patients. Mr. Shipp
12 advised that there are significant concerns about the
13 need for the proposed work plan, and the data request
14 is likely to lead to misinterpretation. He believes
15 that the PSA should not implement the LTACH work plan,
16 but instead, a stakeholder group should be convened to
17 explore and develop a consensus on the remaining
18 unresolved issues that have been identified, such as
19 definitions and their applicability to event
20 reporting. Eric Weitz acknowledged Mr. Shipp's
21 statements, and inquired if the PSA did not look into
22 the matter, what assurance could be expected from the
23 hospitals that the lack of critical resources is not

1 impacting patient safety. Mr. Shipp responded that a
2 review of the patient safety plans and reporting at
3 these facilities points to the improvements that they
4 are trying to make and the care that is being
5 provided. Dr. Glunk Dr. Wenner, Dr. Paré, and Dr.
6 Joshi echoed Mr. Weitz's concerns.]

7 ***

8 New Business

9 [Howard Newstadt, Financial Director and CIO, gave a
10 detailed presentation on the FY 2023-24 Budget Review
11 and Approval. Mr. Newstadt began by advising that the
12 proposed budget was reviewed, approved, and
13 recommended by the Authority's Budget Finance
14 Committee on August 29. He went on to advise that the
15 PSA completed fiscal '22 with expenditures of \$7.16
16 million, against a budget of \$7.7 million, leaving a
17 surplus of \$539,838. Due to changes in the treasury
18 investment pool and higher interest rates, the PSA
19 received \$389,390 in investment income for the past
20 year. The new proposed budget is in the amount of
21 \$8,070,000, with \$5,565,682 in personnel, and \$2.5
22 million in operations. This is a \$370,000 increase
23 from the fiscal '22 budget. Salaries and benefits

1 were a big driver in the increase. Veronica Richards
2 made a motion to approve the budget as presented.
3 Eric Weitz seconded the motion, and it passed
4 unanimously.]

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6 [The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.]

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Byron Aldinger
Minute Clerk
York Stenographic Services

1			PATIENT SAFETY AUTHORITY
2			BOARD OF DIRECTORS
3			REFERENCE INDEX
4			SEPTEMBER 21, 2023
5			
6		COUNTER	
7	TIME	NUMBER	AGENDA
8			
9	1:22	00:07	Call to Order
10			
11		00:10	Roll Call
12			
13		2:07	Approval of the
14			June 29, 2023,
15			Meeting Minutes
16			
17		2:25	Report of Board Chair,
18			Nirmal Joshi, M.D.
19			
20		2:36	Executive Director
21			Report, Regina Hoffman
22			
23		22:05	Old Business, Evaluation
24			of Event Reporting -
25			Public Comment, Regina
26			Hoffman
27			
28		56:46	Old Business - Board
29			Bylaws - External
30			Communications -
31			Subject Tabled
32			
33		58:47	New Business -
34			FY 2023-24 Budget Review
35			and Approval, Howard
36			Newstadt
37			
38		1:14:10	Adjournment