**TITLE:** **Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**
**DATE/TIME:** **May 26, 2026 at 7:00 AM**
**LOCATION:** **Valor Health Fernlee Conference Room and Zoom**

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The Valor Health Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by Hoss White. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

**Board Member Attendance:** Hoss White (Chair), David Little (Vice Chair), Dave Shaw, Judy Barbera, Earl DeFur, Ron Oberleitner, Angie Phillips, Kelsey Masaitis, Jason McIntosh, Jim England, Brad Turpen (CEO), Dr. Zachary Bastian (Med Staff President).

**Staff and Guest Attendance:** Michael Sokolowski (CFO), Matt Godfrey (Exec. Dir. of Physician Services), Tahja Jensen, Victoria Mendoza (Executive Assistant/Med Staff Coordinator), Mike Cummings (HR Manager).

**Absent:** Shane Roe (Past Chair), Kathy Prindle (Exec. Dir. of Clinical Services).

## II. AGENDA AMENDMENTS – ACTION ITEM

## III. STANDING AGENDA

### A. Consent Agenda – ACTION ITEM

1. Approval of minutes
   - Planning 3/13/2026*
   - PICC 4/14/2026*
   - Finance 4/21/2026*
   - Board Minutes 4/28/2026*

**MOTION:** Judy Barbera moved to approve the consent agenda with the minutes as presented. Dave Shaw seconded the motion. No objections, the motion passed.

### B. Public Comments

1. No Public Comments.

### C. Commissioner Update – *Earl DeFur*

1. General Update
   - Road department has begun chip seals throughout the county.
   - County Budget preparation has begun for FY27.
     - Budget will include expenses for the stoplight that will be installed on Mill Rd. and Hwy 16.
   - Earl has joined opioid meetings to lead the opioid program that should be established in the County. Brad will coordinate Earl with Malerie Bettfreund, Social Worker and Case Manager, to determine what resources can be available for this program.

### D. Finance Committee – *Judy Barbera*

1. Committee Report
   - Finance Committee met last week and reviewed and approved the April Financial Statements.
   - An in-depth discussion was held regarding late documentation reporting, claims and coding process improvements, and the cleanup of aging accounts receivable (AR).
2. Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Submission Proposal
   - The RHTP program authorized $50 billion for all states over five years, with 50% of funding distributed equally amongst all states. Idaho received $186M to distribute in FY26.
   - The RHTP submission proposal must address at least 3 of the 12 categories established by the State of Idaho. Funding priorities align with the following

initiatives:
  - Improving rural access to care through technology
  - Ensuring accessible, quality care through innovative models
  - Sustaining rural workforce with training, recruitment, and retention
  - Implementing population-specific, evidence-based projects to make rural America healthy again
  - Investing in rural health infrastructure and partnerships
- Between May-June 2026 Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) will release the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and begin competitive subgrant solicitations.
- Between July and September 2026, contracts and subgrants awards are anticipated.
- All year 1 (FY26) funding must be obligated by October 30, 2026. –
- Michael presented a proposed submission package totaling approximately $14.885M. Each proposal outlines its purpose, associated risks if not funded, and alignment with Idaho's RHTP priorities.
  - EHR Implementation Funding - $6.8M
  - ED and OR Modernization - $4.0M
  - Surgical Services Modernization Initiative - $1.4M
  - Radiology Imaging Enhancement Initiative - $935K
  - Laboratory Infrastructure Modernization Initiative - $600K
  - Rural Workforce Stabilization Initiative - $750K
  - Physical Therapy Service Line Initiative - $400K

3. Financial Statements (April)
   - Total Patient Revenue for April was $4.8M
   - Cash collections were also at a record high of $2.7M, but due to the clean-up of older AR, the contra-revenue adjustment was high at 55%.
   - Expenses were higher in Professional Services due to Orthopedic and Pain Management, however, productivity measures, including RVUs demonstrate corresponding growth.

*Discussion:*
Kelsey asked whether a formal marketing strategy or budget exists. She shared recent research indicating that 61% of consumers report lower trust in businesses that utilize artificial intelligence (AI) in marketing efforts and noted that several recent Valor Health social media posts appeared to be AI-generated.
Brad stated he was unaware of AI being used in social media content and will follow up with Staci Carr, Marketing Manager, and Kane Communications to further investigate. He added that Executive Leadership recently reviewed Kane's Marketing Strategy proposal, which outlines promotional priorities for key service lines.
Hoss asked whether workforce positions funded through the RHTP would be reduced once the five-year program concludes. Michael explained that most workforce-related funding is focused on learning management systems, workforce stabilization, and reducing reliance on traveler staffing by strengthening permanent workforce recruitment and retention, not on temporarily increasing wages.
Brad noted that the State of Idaho has not yet released the official application. David Little recommended presenting the proposal to the County Commissioners once the application process is finalized to ensure alignment and support.
Ron recommended adding Behavioral Health as a higher priority. Brad clarified that Behavioral Health is included within the strategic priorities but is currently planned as a Year 2–5 objective.
Angie asked whether specific plans exist for utilizing the $750K for Workforce Stabilization Initiative funding. Michael confirmed that clear guidelines have been established, including retention, engagement, and employee recognition initiatives. He added that this effort will also align with workforce engagement reporting current and Fun Squad activities that support organizational culture.

**E. Planning Committee – *Brad Turpen***

1. **Planning Committee Dashboard FY26***
   - This item was included in the Board packet but not discussed in the meeting.
2. **Board Goals Dashboard FY26***
   - This item was included in the Board packet but not discussed in the meeting.
3. **FY26 Strategic Plan Updates***
   - This item was included in the Board packet but not discussed in the meeting.

**F. Medical Staff – *Dr. Zachary Bastian***

1. Infection Preventionist Appointment (Christina Ostrem) * - **ACTION ITEM**
   - Christina Ostrem joined Valor Health on February 16, 2026.
   - Christina has extensive experience in Infection Prevention and Employee Wellness.
   - Key responsibilities that Christina will oversee:
     - Ongoing surveillance, monitoring, and analysis of infections, trends and risk factors across Valor Health
     - Develop, implement, and evaluate infection prevention policies, procedures, and evidence-based practices.
     - Collaborate with Medical Staff, nursing leadership, department leaders, and other stakeholders to reduce infection risks and promote patient safety.
     - Support compliance with CMS Conditions of Participation and other applicable federal, state, and accrediting body standards.
     - Participate in reporting, investigations, performance improvement activities, and follow-up actions related to infection prevention and control.
2. Committee Reports
   - MEC recommended May Credentialing providers for Board approvals.
   - Several Respiratory Therapy-related policies were reviewed, updated and approved.
3. May Medical Staff Highlights* *(reference only)*

**MOTION:** Jim England moved to approve Christina Ostrem's appointment retroactive to February 16, 2026. Dave Shaw seconded the motion. All in favor, no objections. The motion carried.

**G. Patient Care Services – Matt Godfrey**

1. General Update
   - Matt
     - Capital Surgical Associates (Orthopedic Services) continues to receive positive feedback from both patients and staff. Surgical Services staff highlighted the group's collaborative approach and support.
     - New provider onboarding updates include:
       - Lisa Watson, LCSW – Behavioral Health Consultant for Valor Health Family Medicine – beginning end of July.
       - Kristina Welbourne, PMHNP – Psychiatrist for Valor Health Family Medicine – beginning end of July.
     - Health System Week (May 11 – May 15) was very successful. The employees appreciated all the activities and snacks prepared for them each day. The Daisy and Tulip Award Ceremony and Choose Joy Award Ceremony were wonderful events and well attended.
       - Sara Mullikin, RN – 2026 Daisy Award recipient
       - Jessica Krebs, MA – 2026 Tulip Award recipient
       - Becky Thompsen, Dietary Lead – 2026 Choose Joy Award recipient
     - With school being out soon for the summer, Matt discussed referral outreach with Jake George, Athletic Trainer. Jake agreed and will begin visiting local provider offices to discuss services and enhance referrals to Valor.

**H. Provider Privileging Approvals – ACTION ITEM**

1. May Privileging Providers*
   - This item was tabled for next meeting to ensure all provider packets are signed by our Medical Staff president.

**I. Board of Trustees – *Hoss White***

1. General Update
   - Jason McIntosh has agreed to be the Board presence for the Valor Health Foundation.
   - Angie will be a part of the PICC Committee.
   - Ron will be a part of the Planning Committee.
   - Hoss will discuss with Jim and Kesley offline to determine which committee they would like to be a part of.
   - Hoss encourages Board members to attend the Idaho Hospital Association (IHA) Convention and encourages other Board members to attend. The Conference will be held in Sun Valley from September 28 – October 1.
2. Other Upcoming Meetings
   - Medical Staff – Tuesday, June 2, 2026 (Judy Barbera)
   - PFAC CY26 Q3 – Thursday, July 16, 2026 (Ron Oberleitner)
3. Agenda Items – Submit by June 8.

**J. Foundation Update – *Brad Turpen***

1. Foundation Update
   - The Valor Health Foundation awarded four $1,000 scholarships to seniors continuing their education in healthcare at the high school awards ceremony.
   - The first Festival of Trees meeting was held last Tuesday to begin planning for the event that takes place in the second week of November. The Foundation and FOT Committee still face challenges in location due to the Packing Shed being placed for sale.
   - The Foundation will present an annual update to the Board at an upcoming meeting.
   - Stacy Jones, Foundation Treasurer, was recently recognized for the 3-year anniversary on the Foundation.

**K. Administration**

1. General Update
   - Kathy remains on extended medical leave. During her absence, clinical staff have been receiving support from Brad and Matt.
   - Brad and Michael have upcoming meetings with health insurance vendors for employee benefits and retirement plans.
   - Implementation meetings have begun with Pointcore, as we begin the EHR transition process.
   - The Youth Rotary Auction was well attended by Valor Health team members and raised more than $70K.
   - Valor Health sponsors the first day of Cherry Festival (June 17). The Board is encouraged to stop by or volunteer at the booth.
   - The Idaho Hospital Association (IHA) recently distributed a summary of primary election results. Brad will attend the upcoming IHA Board Retreat and share relevant updates with the Board.

**L. Valor Culture and Board Education**

1. Hoss shared a patient experience recognizing Dr. Zachary Bastian and Sydney Higgenbotham, Informatics Specialist. The patient had experienced difficulties accessing the patient portal and expressed appreciation for the efforts both individuals made to resolve the issue and restore access to her medical records, test results, and provider notes.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Executive Session –** 8:28 a.m.

Hoss moved to go into Executive Session per code Idaho Code §74-206(1)(a) & (b) – Personnel Matters, Idaho Code §74-206(1)(f) – Communicate with Legal Counsel regarding litigation, and Idaho Code §74-206(1)(i) – Communicate with Risk Manager/Insurer regarding claims. Ron seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Brad Turpen and Tahja Jensen attended Executive Session as Ex-Officio non-voting members.

Roll Call:
In attendance

- ✓ Hoss White
- ✓ David Little
- ✓ Dave Shaw
- ✓ Judy Barbera
- ✓ Angie Phillips
- ✓ Kelsey Masaitis
- ✓ Jim England
- ✓ Jason McIntosh

Not Present

- Shane Roe
- Earl DeFur – present for Board meeting, but not able to attend Executive Session.

The Board left the Executive Session and regular session resumed at 8:51 a.m.

## V. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 a.m.