TITLE: **Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**
DATE/TIME: **August 25, 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 7:31 a.m. by Hoss White. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

Board Member Attendance: Hoss White (Chair), David Little (Vice Chair), Shane Roe (Past 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), Kathy Prindle (Exec. Dir. of Clinical Services), Tahja Jensen (County Attorney), Victoria Mendoza (Executive Assistant/Med Staff Coordinator), Mike Cummings (HR Manager), Karen Ritchie (Foundation Vice President), Corrina Beard (Foundation Board Member), Chancen Hall (Pain Medicine Provider).

Absent:

II. **Valor Medical Staff and Board of Trustees Engagement (7:00am-7:30am)**

III. **AGENDA AMENDMENTS – ACTION ITEM**

IV. **STANDING AGENDA**

A. Consent Agenda – ACTION ITEM

1. Approval of minutes
   - PICC 7/14/2026*
   - Finance 7/21/2026*
   - Board Minutes 7/28/2026

MOTION: Dave Shaw moved to approve the consent agenda with corrections to the 7/28/2026 Board of Trustees minutes. Jim England seconded the motion. All in favor, no objections, the motion carried.

B. Public Comments

1. No public comments.

C. Valor Health Foundation Annual Update – Karen Ritchie, Corrina Beard

1. Karen Ritchie, Vice President of the Valor Health Foundation attended this meeting and gave an annual update to the Board regarding the Gem County Festival of Trees.
   - Last year, the Foundation raised approximately $52K after expenses, with about 210 attendees at the Festival of Trees Gala.
   - This year's Festival of Trees will be held at the Gem County Fairgrounds. Events will begin on Tuesday and conclude Saturday with the Gala.
   - There will be 12 trees up for auction this year. Other items that will be auctioned are centerpieces, dessert, and Christmas wreaths.
   - Karen encouraged Board members to help spread the word regarding volunteer opportunities for Festival of Trees preparations and the Gala.
   - The Foundation Board is actively recruiting new members and asked the Trustees to encourage community members to join the Foundation Board.

D. Commissioner Update – *Earl DeFur*

1. General Update
   - The Road and Bridge Division Manager position remains open and has been challenging to fill.
   - The Spring Creek Gravel Pit has been appealed again, with a hearing date still to be

determined.

- There is ongoing discussion regarding growth and expenses for the Fire Department related to growth in southeastern Gem County, including Valnova.

E. Finance Committee – *Judy Barbera*

1. Committee Report
   - Judy reported the Finance Committee met last week and reviewed and approved the July Financial Statements.
2. CFO Report
   - Michael reported the July Contractual Adjustment increased with patient volumes and clean-up efforts with our Accounts Receivable (AR). A total of $407,000 in write-offs and bad debt collections were cleaned up in July.
   - Expenses were higher in July due to incentives for new providers celebrating their one-year anniversaries and the security camera installation, which needed to be purchased prior to reimbursement from the grant.
   - Improvements continue with the Lab Outreach Program. The Quality Department is assisting with tracking objectives and goals to streamline workflow and decrease denials.
   - Rural Health Transformation Program applications opened on August 18. Michael is working with necessary department leaders and Lenny Layman, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Grant Writer, to submit the packets before September 13.
3. Financial Statements (July)
   - July ended with $5.1 million in Total Patient Revenue. Increased volumes in Imaging, Laboratory, Urgent Care, and Inpatient services contributed to this result.
   - Total cash collection remained consistent at $2.4 million.
   - Other factors that increased expenses were overtime, contract labor, and new provider onboarding.
   - Total Net Income for July ended with a loss of $215K.
4. Financial Dashboard (July)
   - This item was not discussed.

Discussion:
David asked whether a pro forma lookback had been completed for the Lab Outreach Program. Brad reported that a lookback has not been completed for lab outreach but we are building the capability to do that for other service lines. Brad emphasized that analyzing the profitability of one department versus another needs to take into account how the departments support and interact with each other in sending orders, referrals, and more. .
Kelsey asked whether the percentage of write-offs by service line could be reviewed. Michael reported that this information is available through Multiview. Kelsey noted that this could be useful in identifying which service lines are more profitable. Michael added that the organization is also investigating denials by payer each month with Revenue Cycle and working to ensure accurate information is captured during registration, as registration-related issues have been a significant source of denials.
Dave asked whether the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in provider charting has resulted in additional denials. Matt reported that there has not been an increase in denials associated with AI use in charting but will investigate whether AI utilization has had any impact.

F. PICC Committee

1. **Committee Report**
   - Dave reported that PICC met earlier in July and discussed several Quality initiatives. PICC also reviewed the DNV corrective action plans (CAPs) update and the 2026 EMTALA Dashboard, which was recently implemented to ensure the organization remains on target with the corrective actions established following the CMS audits.

G. Planning Committee – *Shane Roe*

1. **Committee Report**

- The next meeting will be held in September.

2. **EHR Update – ACTION ITEM**
   - This item was tabled and will be voted on at the Special Board meeting to be held on Friday, August 28.
3. **Planning Committee Dashboard FY26***
   - This item was included in the Board packet for reference but not discussed in the meeting. Will update next meeting.
4. **Board Goals Dashboard FY26***
   - This item was included in the Board packet for reference but not discussed in the meeting. Will update next meeting.
5. **FY26 Strategic Plan Updates***
   - This item was included in the Board packet for reference but not discussed in the meeting.

H. Medical Staff – *Dr. Zachary Bastian*

1. Committee Reports
   - Dr. Bastian reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Medical Executive Committee to the Board.
2. August Medical Staff Highlights* *(reference only)*

I. Patient Care Services – Matt Godfrey

1. General Update
   - Matt
     - Pain Management strategic planning is underway.
     - Chronic Care Management in collaboration with CareHarmony has been implemented.
     - Derek Rodigo, Doctor of Physical Therapy, has verbally accepted his contract and will begin on October 1.
     - Lisa Watson, LCSW, has started and will be seeing patients for behavioral health at Valor Health Family Medicine. Recruitment is still ongoing for a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.
   - Kathy
     - The Medical-Surgical department is now fully staffed with Valor employees. There are still staffing challenges in the Emergency Department.
     - Kathy shared a Trust Moment involving the Laboratory Department and Executive Leadership. Laboratory staff expressed appreciation for Executive Leadership's support as the organization works through challenges with the Lab Outreach Program.
     - Kathy is working with Radiology Manager Rachel Lund to begin the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for radiology groups to provide reading services for Valor Health.

J. Provider Privileging Approvals – ACTION ITEM

1. August Privileging Providers

MOTION: Hoss White recommended approval for the listed providers. Shane Roe moved to approve the provider privileging for:

- Brett Palmer, MD, Diagnostic Radiology, Initial Appointment
- Taylor Rasmussen, MD, Pediatrics, Initial Appointment
- Brigham Hardy, DO, Family Medicine, Initial Appointment

Jason McIntosh seconded the motion. No objections, all in favor. The motion carried.

K. Board of Trustees – *Hoss White*

1. General Update
   - Hoss is working with Tahja on updates to Board Bylaw language regarding the number of Board members who may serve on Board subcommittees with the recent

increase of Board members.
- Shane and Ron will be attending this year's IHA Convention in Sun Valley on September 28 – September 30.

2. Vice Chair-Elect – **ACTION ITEM**
   - Hoss updated the Board and recommended Angie Phillips for Vice Chair-Elect, with transition to Vice Chair in January 2027.
   - Hoss would also like the Board to consider recommending Ron Oberleitner for Vice Chair-Elect in January 2027 Elections and Successions.
3. Other Upcoming Meetings
   - Medical Staff – Tuesday, September 1, 2026 (Kesley Masaitis)
   - PFAC CY26 Q3 – Thursday, November 19, 2026 (Shane Roe)
4. Agenda Items – Submit by September 14.

MOTION: Dave Shaw moved to approve Angie Phillips as Vice Chair-Elect transitioning to Vice Chair in January 2027. Ron Oberleitner seconded the motion. All in favor, no objections, the motion carried.

L. Foundation Update – *Jason McIntosh*

1. Foundation Update
   - Updates were provided by Karen Ritchie. Jason emphasized the ongoing recruitment challenges with Foundation membership and Festival of Tree committee volunteers.

M. Administration

1. General Update
   - Staffing is beginning to stabilize for clinical areas, but there is still traveler utilization in Radiology and Emergency Department.
   - Human Resources has contracted a fractional recruiter for a six-month trial period to assist with staffing stabilization in clinical areas and Revenue Cycle.
   - Michael has begun the process with department leaders for building the FY27 Capital Budget.
   - Brad updated the Board on the Divert process at Valor Health. We do everything we can to avoid declaring divert. The Administrator On-Call is the only individual authorized to make the decision to place the hospital on divert when a plausible reason exists.
   - Brad met with Leela Vaughn (Vice President of Epic) and Kootenai leadership who has interest in being the host for the Idaho Rural Health Collaborative with Epic instance.
   - We have been invited to participate in the Shadow Butte Advisory Council. Ty Weber, VHC UC Provider, is interested in being a part of this council.

Discussion: David asked whether a divert report could be provided to the Finance Committee to identify trends and contributing factors. Brad reported that a flowsheet is consistently used for documentation. We do not have a tracker currently but one can be created for presentation to the Finance Committee.

N. Valor Culture and Board Education

1. No new updates.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Executive Session – None.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 a.m.