

**Kearney County Health Services  
Governing Board of Trustees  
Special Meeting April 4, 2019**

**MINUTES**

The special meeting of the Governing Board of Kearney County Health Services met in the South Conference Room I of Kearney County Hospital, 727 East First Street, Minden Nebraska, Thursday, April 4, 2019.

Notice of the meeting was posted at Kearney County Health Services, Hospital, Minden Medical Clinic, Minden Post Office, Minden Exchange Bank and [www.kchs.org](http://www.kchs.org) under Board of Trustees prior to the meeting.

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Dick McBride called the meeting to order at 9:01 pm and called attention to the public meeting laws which were available upon request. Present:

**Board Members**

Clark Abrahamson  
Jeff Hanson  
Dick McBride-Chairman  
Stephen Olson  
Sam Stadler

**KCHS Staff, Leadership Team**

Luke Poore, CEO  
Kayla Rhynalds, CFO  
Kendra Brown, RN, MSN, Acute Care DON  
Rebecca Cooke, Human Resources Director  
Connie Jorgensen, LPN, Adm. Assistant  
Janell Shelton, RHC Director  
Mary Bungler, RN, BSN Care Coordinator

**Others**

John Roberts, MA-President Midwest Health Consultants, Executive Director of Nebraska Rural Health Association.

Introductions were made and John Roberts spoke about his credentials and background in rural Nebraska hospitals. John asked each member what their thoughts were about the healthcare environment in the future. The KCHS Mission Vision and Values statement was reviewed. Other thoughts included having a common statement between KCHS and the community, offering valued based services, keeping our population here and how to compete with the larger area hospitals. Key issues were high quality care, low costs, plus stability of healthcare providers.

Other areas discussed were the importance of reviewing your strategic plan annually and communication it with staff and the community. Focusing on exceptional customer service and community education is how we beat out larger facilities.

John listed four trends that are threatening rural health care:

- Dramatic Rural Hospital closures due to low or negative operating margins.
- Growing disparities in rural areas. Suicide in Nebraska increased in 2000 -2010 to higher than urban areas.
- Rural health needs to focus on valued based payment keeping prices comparable.
- Retail health. Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway, JP Morgan merging for retail healthcare. Rural Health needs good broadband coverage, share health data like the Balanced Scorecard. It may come to 5-6 rural hospitals merging together somewhat like the school mergers.

In closing the KCHS Mission Vision and Values statement was reviewed and John thought it was one of the best he had seen. He added we need to focus on knowing our patients, enable transparency of financial wellness, share health data, and consider patient's life flows and personal economic situations.

A motion was made by Jeff Hanson to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 am. The motion was seconded. Voting aye: Abrahamson, Stadler, Hanson, Olson and McBride. Motion carried.

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Chairman

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Secretary