

NORTH FORT WORTH ALLIANCE  
Notes of Meeting, 9:00 a.m., October 17, 2015  
Villages of Woodland Springs Amenity Center

President Rusty Fuller called the meeting to order at 9:15AM. A quorum was not met. He introduced two visitors: Charles Edmonds – District #4 Member of the Zone Commission and Barry Cram – Community Engagement Specialist.

President Fuller introduced the speakers for the meeting:

Clint Abernathy – President of Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Alliance

Dr. Monika Mathur – Chief Medical Officer of Texas Alliance

Mandy Forbus – Community Integration Coordinator

The presenters spoke as a panel, so individuals are not connected to the following parts of the presentation:

Texas Alliance Hospital was, from its inception, built as a community partner focusing on the Mind, Body and Spirit of the area residents. As in the development of the hospital, they continue to reach out to the community to get input on health needs. This input is used to shape their growth and expansion.

September 13, 2015 was the third year anniversary. In that time, they have grown from 58 beds to 78 beds with plans to expand by 24 more beds in the near future. A cardiovascular specialty area has been added and is expected to be expanded. They have worked to expand their acute care capabilities so patients do not have to be transported to other facilities. This keeps the patients close to loved ones.

The current facilities are “boxed out” for up to 108 beds. That is to say, they have room within the current building to put 108 beds. Beyond that, construction will have to be out or up to get to the next level.

The Hospital has continued to hone its focus on the total well being of the community. That means programs for before medical attention is needed, during the stay of the patient in the facility and after the patient leaves the facility. They have a comprehensive program on diabetes and a cancer support group.

The medical community is seeing a shift to value-based care. Quality measures are being put in place to track overall health support to curtail, as much as possible, recurring visits. There is also a move to more transparency of medical performance through metrics reporting.

More medical specialists are moving to this area, partly because they live here. Doctors are now approaching Texas Alliance Hospital for the opportunity to practice there. Doctors do operate out of more than one hospital. Many of the Texas Alliance doctors also practice in other Fort Worth facilities. There is a greater diversity of experts in differing medical fields who are practicing at the hospital

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Texas Alliance Hospital realized that they needed to be able to support pediatric care in concert with the natal unit. They have worked to attract Cooks Children's Hospital to build a facility right next door to the Texas Alliance Hospital property. The facility will at first be an urgent care facility. Future plans call for expansion to having hospital beds for those cases which require hospital stays.

The Hospital has, in conjunction with its parent corporation, partnered with UT Southwestern Medical School on issues of training and research. Likewise, they have programs with Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD, KISD and NWISD to provide training in conjunction with those districts' medical specialty students.

The plan is to move toward developing and gaining accreditation for a Trauma Center at the Texas Alliance Hospital. The initial effort will be toward a Level IV facility. Level IV would be for such things as motor vehicle accidents.

This hospital is designed to make the most out of technology to enhance the availability of equipment at the right time in the right place. People from Mission Control get the call for a piece of equipment and they can use technology to locate the equipment not in use and get it to the area that needs it. Nurses are not taken away from their patient responsibilities to track down the equipment.

Patient and staff safety are very important. Whether it is medications or physical environment, the Hospital conducts daily safety briefings and has programs to improve safety conditions. It is imperative that each individual know the names and dosages of the medications you take and for what medical reason they were prescribed.

To reduce costs to patients who use the ER as a primary care place, Texas Alliance has an ER Navigator. These folks work with this group of patients to help them find a better place to obtain primary care at a lower cost.

As a group, ER doctors used to be involved in just the intake and treatment of ER patients. If the patient was admitted, the ER doctor no longer had involvement with the patient. Texas Alliance has changed that. Now they are getting the ER doctors more involved in the discussions of ongoing treatment of patients they have seen.

To enhance their nursing staff, Texas Alliance works with nursing schools to help their nurses, who wish, to get higher degrees. The hospital pays for their tuition.

A member of the attendees asked about the distinctions between the various urgent care and emergency care facilities and the hospital ER. Here is a summary of the response and does not represent medical advice: If you have ailments like fever, upset stomach or such, consider going to urgent care. Urgent care has a lower rate for treatment than the ER facility. Independent ERs have limited emergency facilities and for some cases, simply stabilize the patient and transport them to a hospital.

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Texas Alliance is working with the independent ERs to become familiar with their capabilities and medical expertise to facilitate admissions from their facilities into the Texas Alliance hospital without the hospital having to redo diagnoses.

A question from the attendees concerned Blue Zones noting that some of the awareness of the Blue Zones Project has somewhat worn off. It is going to take all of us to make this work. Mandy said she would take this feedback to the next Blue Zones meeting. The primary organizations involved in promoting and implementing the Blue Zones initiative are the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, City of Fort Worth, Texas Health Resources and the national Blue Zones organization of Health Ways.

President Fuller thanked the speakers for their presentation and the great job their institution is doing in our community.

Jennifer Kranda reminded everyone to vote. Early voting starts Monday October 19, 2015.

The meeting was ended at 10:35AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell E. Fuller, President