



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Medical Center Assures Compliance with State Law

- Board Acted Responsibly with Patient Care as First Priority -

Estes Park, CO – A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Park Hospital District was held on December 30, 2016. The meeting focused on addressing several concerns brought forward by some community members in recent weeks. The conclusion was that the Board acted responsibly and maintains the highest quality of patient care as its first priority.

A summary of the key items addressed by the board included the following:

- Interim CEO Mark Gregson's contract was agreed upon by all board members by consensus. Boards often make decisions by consensus, especially on items that are on-going.
- All minutes of Board meetings and documents requested by community members were handed over to the requesting party by the Executive Assistant within 72 hours.
- A third term of President Diana Van Der Ploeg in May 2016 was agreed upon by the entire board with the motion to accept the recommended slate of officers made by board member Steve Murphree and seconded by board member Gerald Mayo. All three of the new board members attended extensive board orientation and received information packets on board governance for their review, study, and reference at future times.
- Board member Ryan White is legally serving his term as a Park Hospital District Board member. His address for his home and business are listed in Estes Park.
- Discussions held in Executive Session are not for public record and are not included in the minutes of general meetings. As stated before, these sessions are taped and stored for 90 days according to policy. There was an issue regarding availability of recordings over a period of several weeks. A plan was implemented to ensure all executive meetings are taped and retained according to policy.
- Management Directions, Inc. was hired by Mark Gregson and the Park Hospital District to review the financials and recommend improvements to the operations and processes of

Estes Park Medical Group. There was never a mention or intention to "fire" or "dismiss" employees by bringing in this company.

Nearly all issues were raised following the dismissal of a Medical Center employee in fall 2016. To protect the privacy of the individual involved, and in accordance with legal guidelines, the Medical Center cannot comment on any details surrounding personnel related matters.

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"At all times, the president of the Hospital District Board of Directors has operated in accordance with Colorado state law," said Richard Lyons, Esq. senior counsel at Lyons Gaddis in Longmont, and general counsel to the Park Hospital District.

"With respect to compliance with internal policy regarding the term for Board president, that policy, like all in Board policies, can be waived which was done regarding Ms. Van Der Ploeg's additional term" Lyons explained. "We believe the allegations have all been considered and adequately addressed. In addition, we found no unethical or illegal behavior regarding the quid pro quo allegation."

Board leaders and administrators emphasize that the physicians and staff of Estes Park Medical Center are focused on serving the needs of its patients in collaboration with partners in the community. Estes Park Medical Center continues to receive numerous national awards for quality and patient satisfaction not only in the clinic but in its Emergency Department, Home Health Care, Hospice and Prospect Park Living Center.

Board members, staff, physicians and other healthcare professionals have been patients themselves or have family or friends who have been patients at Estes Park Medical Center. Each and every one has a personal stake in the care this organization provides, and take their responsibility to our community and patients very seriously.

The new permanent CEO, Larry Learning, takes over at the Medical Center on January 16, 2017.

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