

Meeting of the Joint Conference Committee

Thursday, December 17, 2020, 1 – 2:30PM

Arrowhead Regional Medical Center

"ZOOM" Conferencing Platform

Present	Rodney Borger, MD; William Gilbert; Leonard Hernandez; Sam Hessami, MD; Kambiz Raoufi, MD; Janice Rutherford; Webster Wong, MD
Excused	
Guests	Nanette Buenavidez; Mark Comunale; Chekesha Gilliam; Staci McClane; Charles Phan; Justine Rodriguez; Stephanie Rose; Katrina Shelby; Wesley Toh; Ron Taber

Item	Discussion	Follow-up														
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 1PM.															
1. Review Joint Conference Committee Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2020	<p>A motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2020 JCC meeting was put forth by Supervisor Janice Rutherford and seconded by Webster Wong, MD. The roll call results are:</p> <table><tr><td>Rodney Borger, MD</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>William Gilbert</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Sam Hessami, MD</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Leonard Hernandez</td><td>Absent During Polling</td></tr><tr><td>Kambiz Raoufi, MD</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Janice Rutherford</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Webster Wong, MD</td><td>Yes</td></tr></table> <p>Minutes are approved as submitted.</p>	Rodney Borger, MD	Yes	William Gilbert	Yes	Sam Hessami, MD	Yes	Leonard Hernandez	Absent During Polling	Kambiz Raoufi, MD	Yes	Janice Rutherford	Yes	Webster Wong, MD	Yes	
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2. COVID Vaccine Update	<p>Andrew Goldfrach, ARMC Chief Operating Officer, reported ARMC received its initial allocation of 1,950 doses of the Pfizer COVID vaccination. The previous day, six County healthcare workers received the first dose of the vaccine. The initial dose was given to an ARMC ICU nurse, followed by ARMC's infectious disease physician, Dr. Sharon Wang, an ER attending physician, a respiratory therapist, a medical resident, and Dr. Rod Borger. This day was the first day of many more to come for the hospital's frontline employees to receive their vaccination. Vaccinations are given to the highest risk worker first, based on whether they are in the Emergency Room and/or a COVID unit. As of 10:30AM this morning, ARMC had administered about 500 doses, which is an excellent beginning. At 6:30AM, this morning, the line was wrapped around and down the hallway, with social distancing. Staff are eager to receive a vaccination, which is excellent feedback from staff. This enthusiasm is likely to continue as additional vaccines are administered to more frontline health care workers, and ultimately all County residents. Mr. Goldfrach is excited to be a part of the process and believes Dr. Rod Borger best summed it up with these words, "This is the greatest scientific</p>															

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	<p>advancement since the landing on the moon.” Next week, the next allocation of vaccines for the hospital will arrive and ARMC will continue to vaccinate hospital employees, until everyone is vaccinated, and the County moves to the next vaccination tier.</p> <p>Mr. Gilbert thanked Mr. Goldfrach for the work he has done coordinating the vaccine program. He and the County appreciate Mr. Goldfrach's leadership collaboration with the State and other County departments.</p> <p>Mr. Leonard Hernandez, County Chief Executive Officer, echoed Mr. Gilbert's comments and complimented the ARMC team on the phenomenal job they have done through the extent of the pandemic, particularly with the vaccinations. “The collaboration and teamwork of this leadership team is phenomenal. It's not a common thing and it takes a lot of work and dedication. Congratulations and thank you all.”</p>	
3. Nursing Update	<p>Nanette Buenavidez, Chief Nursing Officer, reported as follows:</p> <p>1) Staffing – ARMC was fortunate to receive 25 nurses from its Medical Health Operational Area Coordination (MHOAC) request. Twenty-one of them were ICU nurses and the rest were telemetry nurses, which has been a huge help in ARMC's ability to be able to mobilize and move patients around. In total, ARMC should receive another 37 registered nurses. There also other ancillary support staff that will be coming to assist ARMC, including Nursing Assistants, Paramedics, and EMTs. This will help to alleviate some of the pressure on ARMC staff.</p> <p>2) Surge Capacity - With the extra staff at ARMC, ARMC may be called upon to provide additional assistance to other County health care providers. If this becomes necessary, ARMC has mobilized a number of things. In addition to the current 48 ICU beds, which are all full at this time, ARMC has begun utilizing its recovery room, which holds an additional 10 ICU patients, for “Clean (non-COVID) Patients”. Other areas available at ARMC are the GI clinic and Pain clinic. Dependent on ARMC's Burn patient census, there are 14 ICU critical care beds in the Burn unit. ARMC has capacity, but staffing is another challenge. ARMC needs to expand internally, before expanding externally, and is able to do this by mobilizing space within the hospital. This includes conference rooms, the cafeteria, and the lobby, if necessary. Expanding to the external tents is the last option due to inclement weather and distance from the hospital, but if the beds are needed, they can be activated. ARMC is positioned well, at the moment, and able to not only manage its own census, but hopefully also able to help its community partners that may be struggling with their critical care bed census.</p> <p>Supervisor Janice Rutherford, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, thanked the entire team for the amazing work being done, right now. “I can't even imagine how exhausted and stressed everyone is under these conditions. I know no one signed up for this, although it was</p>	

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	always a theoretical possibility. Thank you for the extra hours you're putting in, the extra mental energy, the extra stress you're bearing. I know my constituents appreciate it and I appreciate it so much and I hope that we are able to express that adequately and convey it. I wish we could see you in person every day to be able to do that, but thank you, thank you, thank you. You guys are doing great work and I hear nothing but positive feedback from the folks who are interacting with ARMC. We really appreciate it." Mr. Gilbert also thanked the team, "We are very blessed to have such a talented team. It takes a village, as they say. . . doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, EVS workers, nutritional services workers. Everyone pulling together."	
4. End-of-Year Hospital Update	Mr. Gilbert gave an ARMC year-end report summary regarding COVID. County hospitals continue to be somewhat overwhelmed. They are all working together. There is excellent communication and collaboration. The hope is that with the rollout of the vaccine, as it gets more widespread, crowd immunity and a flattening of the curve will begin. However, the holiday season will be tough for the hospital team. All are on high alert and working through the holidays to serve all ARMC patients. Mr. Gilbert wished everyone a happy holiday. Hopefully, going into January, there will be less strain on the healthcare system.	
5. Public Comment	No public comment	
6. Next Meeting of the Joint Conference Committee	The next meeting will be scheduled based on availability of the JCC members, but no less than 4 times per year.	
7. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 1:35PM	

Approved by: _____
William L. Gilbert, Chair

Date