

MINUTES OF
STEPHENS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 11, 2026

PLACE: Clear Fork Bank – Tower Room

Board members present:

Tom Echols, President

Kevin Simmons

Gregg Goodall

Todd Tidwell

Also present, CEO Gena Speer, Chief Financial Officer Nadine Dunn, Chief Nursing Officer Stephen Gleitz, Director of Revenue Cycle Linda Moore, Administrative Services Samantha Palacios

Tom Echols called the meeting to order at 5:26 PM.

Gena shared that the Rural Health Transformation Funds have been released and the request for applications have a timeline of May 22 – June 1.

Special Business:

Gena shared updates on four grants currently in progress. For the Innovation Grant (\$2M-\$5M) which is separate from RHTP, she plans to expand surgical services. Challenges include HVAC, humidity, and room air pressure monitoring. There is interest from a general surgeon, as well as opportunities to bring podiatry procedures back, develop GI services, and explore pain management and orthopedic procedures. This grant requires one FTE with 85% dedicated to the project. Benefits include improved access to care, increased revenue, and better patient retention.

For the RHTP initiatives, she also noted that all grants are independent and receiving one does not affect eligibility for others. There are six initiatives total, with three available for direct application and others accessed through vendors or clinically integrated networks.

Initiative 1 focuses on health, wellness, and chronic disease management. It aims to create a full-service wellness center that could include a gym, workout classes, nutritional counseling, and education. The first three years are focused on program development with just under \$1M in funding, with years four and five offering up to \$1.175M per year based on meeting community health metrics.

The grant does not allow new construction or expansion, so the plan is to renovate an existing building. This could also help meet the community's need for a senior center and strengthen the hospital district's role in the community. Potential properties include the YMCA building and the fire station, which the city may offer at a low cost.

Memberships and some insurance programs could help support costs, with limited coverage available for certain services like diabetes education.

Initiative 4 focuses on recruitment, retention, and professional development. It provides funding for incentives like relocation, sign-on, and retention bonuses.

It also aims to build a healthcare pipeline with schools such as TSTC or the local high school. Recipients must sign a five-year contract and come from out of state or non-rural areas of Texas. The grant is likely approved if the applicant meets the requirements.

Initiative 6 provides up to \$2M or 25% of the hospital's appraised value, and the hospital qualifies for the full amount. It would be used to address the infrastructure needs and replace or upgrade equipment, including plumbing and HVAC and patient care equipment.

The board decided to appoint Kevin Simmons, Bruce Curry, and Gregg Goodall to a subcommittee to advise and help guide the grant process. Todd Tidwell made a motion to approve the subcommittee, seconded by Kevin Simmons, approved by all.

Todd Tidwell made a motion to adjourn at 6:25 PM, seconded by Bruce Curry, approved by all.

Samantha Palacios
Administrative Services


Gena Speer
CEO/Administrator