

TO: Skagway Traditional Council

FR: Judean Gordon *JG*
SEARHC Board Representative

Date: February 2, 2024

RE: SEARHC Board of Directors Regular Meetings

The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) Board of Directors were scheduled for regular board and committee meetings on January 24–26, 2024. Due to the winter storm and heavy snow conditions impacting the Juneau area, the meeting schedule at the SEARHC offices was adjusted to ensure the safety of all participants. On January 23, after careful consideration, a decision was made to abridge the meeting schedule and a memorandum was sent out to the Board of Directors informing them of these changes.

The Executive Committee and Patient Experience Committee meetings were deferred, and the remaining meetings were condensed. Also of note, several members of the Board attended the meeting virtually. The following summaries provide highlights over the three days:

Accreditation Governing Body Committee – January 24, 2024

The Accreditation Governing Body (AGB) met on Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. Eight members were present and the Southern Region Director was excused. SEARHC Chief of Staff, Dr. Guillermo Espinoza, presented the January 2024 Medical Staff Credentials list that included 17 new appointments, 27 re-appointments, one change in staff category, 12 administrative closures/resignations, and the Virtual Radiologic (vRad) Teleradiology list. Also presented was a new privilege request form for Bariatric Surgery privileges.

SEARHC SVP/Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Elliott Bruhl, then presented a clinical research request regarding a survey-based study that examines patient satisfaction with osteopathic treatment for musculoskeletal pain that was approved. In addition, the AGB endorsed Draft Resolution 2024-03 *In support of Level IV Trauma Center Designation for Wrangell Medical Center* and moved to the full Board for recommendation. The next meeting of the AGB will be on Wednesday, April 24 in Renton, Washington at the new SEARHC administrative offices.

Finance Committee – January 25, 2024

The Finance Committee met on Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. with SEARHC's auditing firm, Elgee Rehfeld, LLC. All committee members were present. The auditors reviewed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 financial audit and informed the Committee that SEARHC had a clean audit, with zero findings. SEARHC Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, Dan Harris, also reported the first quarter Chief Financial Officer report to the Committee.

- First quarter financial results, including net income and investments, continued trends of positively exceeding budget. Favorable patient volumes have also continued throughout the region.
- Draft Resolution 2024-04 *Approval of Walker Foundation Transaction* was endorsed by the Committee for recommendation to the full Board.

Board of Directors – January 26, 2024

The Board of Directors met Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. The Chair expressed gratitude for the flexibility of the Board and SEARHC staff in accommodating an abbreviated meeting due to the snowstorm. SEARHC's auditing firm presented a high-level review of the financial audit to the Board.

- The audit was free from material error. In reviewing the audit, financial trends showed that SEARHC had \$70M in total assets 13 years ago. Today, SEARHC has accomplished over \$900M in total assets thanks to the leadership of the Consortium.
- Both, Resolution 2024-03 and Resolution 2024-04 were approved by the Board.
- A special meeting is being planned for the week of February 19, 2024 to continue the unfinished business of the Board of Directors.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent our community on the SEARHC Board of Directors and invite you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Again, thanks for your continued support of SEARHC's important mission: *Alaska Native People working in partnership to provide the best healthcare for our communities.*