

Hospital Expansion Planning Meeting

The meeting discussed the need to consolidate medical practices into one building to provide urgent care and expand the hospital campus. Challenges include parking pressure and the need for contiguous spaces. Funding options include a \$1.1 million mill levy for capital projects, grants, and service area tax. The hospital aims to pay off \$20 million in bonds by 2032. Past bond projects included \$1 million for the initial hospital and \$10 million for ER upgrades. The community needs assessment drives service expansion, with a focus on outpatient services. Concerns about board compensation and Medicaid cuts were also addressed.

Transcript

<https://otter.ai/u/HGFvkvUEDFA130y6ZkiLyIN6HJ4>

Action Items

- [] Explore options to acquire contiguous properties to expand the hospital campus.
- [] Investigate opportunities to build a new medical office building on the hospital campus to house clinics and urgent care.
- [] Assess the feasibility of adding cardiac care services and expanding parking capacity.

- [] Engage the community to gather input for the upcoming community health needs assessment.

Outline

Consolidation and Expansion Plans

- Speaker 1 discusses the need to consolidate medical practices into one building to provide urgent care options and improve community health.
- The plan includes updating systems, moving generators, maximizing space, and acquiring real estate to expand the hospital campus.
- The facility master plan includes a building at the end of the hospital for consolidating all medical clinics.
- Acquiring contiguous spaces is crucial for efficient operations, but parking pressure at the hospital poses a challenge.

Funding and Bond History

- Speaker 1 explains the use of the plant replacement expansion fund, grants, and service area tax to generate capital for facility improvements.
- The hospital has a history of using bonds for expansion, with the last successful bond vote in 2007.
- Past bond projects included adding Long Term Care, upgrading ER, X-ray, and surgery, and building a new ER imaging main entrance.
- The hospital aims to pay off all bonds by 2032, with future bond projects dependent on voter approval.

Community Health and Wellness

- Speaker 1 emphasizes the hospital's mission to promote community health and wellness through personalized, high-quality local care.
- The hospital is celebrating its 70th anniversary, highlighting its history and the need to update facilities.
- Speaker 1 invites questions from the group and introduces key members of the board and hospital staff.
- Speaker 2 sets ground rules for the meeting, encouraging respectful participation and brief storytelling.

Location and Parking Challenges

- Speaker 3 inquires about the location of a medical office building to house all clinics and urgent care.
- Speaker 1 explains ongoing discussions with the borough to identify suitable parcels of property near the hospital campus.
- Parking is a significant challenge, with limited space available for expansion.
- The hospital is exploring options for purchasing property behind the hospital to provide additional parking spaces.

Cardiac Care and Parking Expansion

- Speaker 4 asks about plans for cardiac care expansion and parking space needs.
- Speaker 1 discusses the difficulty of supporting a cardiologist in Homer due to the lack of necessary tools like a cath lab.

- The hospital is exploring options for providing more parking spaces, including the long-term care area and behind the hospital.
- The need for cardiac care services is highlighted, with limited access to diagnostic cardiology in Homer.

Community Needs and Specialty Services

- Speaker 7 shares personal experiences as a caregiver and the importance of having local healthcare services.
- The hospital's role in providing essential services like pediatrics, dermatology, and nephrology is emphasized.
- Speaker 1 explains the community health needs assessment process and the importance of feedback from residents.
- The hospital is working to recruit specialties and expand outpatient services to meet community needs.

Operating Board and Compensation

- Speaker 9 raises concerns about the compensation of the operating board and the fairness of its representation.
- Speaker 1 clarifies that board members are paid a stipend of \$6,000 a year and are not paid millions of dollars.
- The hospital's operating board is a private 501(c)(3) corporation, and board members are appointed by the current members.
- The hospital competes with other communities to recruit healthcare providers, offering market rates for their services.

Medicaid and Long-Term Care

- Speaker 1 discusses the potential impact of Medicaid cuts on the hospital and long-term care residents.

- Alaska is less impacted by Medicaid cuts due to its unique provider tax structure.
- The Rural Health Transformation Fund may provide some funding to offset Medicaid cuts.
- The hospital is working with legislators to address the potential impact of Medicaid changes on its services.

Growth and Expansion Metrics

- Speaker 10 asks about the metrics and decision-making process for expanding and updating the hospital.
- The facility master plan drives decisions based on future needs, including more operating room space and outpatient delivery space.
- The hospital prioritizes services based on community feedback and the need for economic viability.
- The planning and community relations committee helps inform decisions about service expansion and campus growth.

Community Involvement and Feedback

- Speaker 11 encourages community members to participate in the community needs assessment and support the hospital through the foundation.
- The hospital uses various methods to gather community feedback, including surveys, social media, and community events.
- Speaker 2 mentions the availability of surveys for community members to share their desires for the hospital.
- The importance of community involvement in shaping the hospital's future is emphasized.

Bond Indebtedness and Mill Levy

- Speaker 12 inquires about the use of bond indebtedness and the potential impact on the mill levy.
- The mill levy is made up of one point for capital projects, which is determined by the mayor and approved by the Assembly.
- Bond indebtedness will go away when the bonds are paid off, but the mill levy for capital improvements will remain.
- The hospital aims to build up services to eliminate the mill levy, but significant capital needs and infrastructure issues must be addressed first.

Efficiency and Private Sector Alternatives

- Speaker 12 questions the efficiency of the hospital's current operations and the potential for private sector alternatives.
- Speaker 1 explains the governance structure and the need for community support to make changes.
- The hospital is contracted to operate by the Assembly, and any changes would require community and political support.
- The discussion highlights the need for a clear plan and community involvement to address the hospital's challenges and improve services.