

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Washington Township Health Care District was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 via Zoom in order to comply with Alameda County's orders as revised on December 7, 2020 to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to maintain restrictions on movement and public gathering. Director Nicholson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Roll call was taken. Directors present: William Nicholson, MD; Jeannie Yee; Bernard Stewart, DDS; Jacob Eapen, MD; Michael Wallace

ROLL CALL

Absent:

Also present: Kimberly Hartz, Chief Executive Officer; Ed Fayen, Sr. Vice President and COO; Stephanie Williams, Vice President; Paul Kozachenko, Legal Counsel; Dee Antonio, District Clerk

Guests: Prasad Kilaru, MD; Jeffrey Stuart, MD; Sue Rubin, and Nicholas Kozachenko

There were no oral communications.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no written communications.

In accordance with District law, policies, and procedures, Director Stewart moved that the Board of Directors approve the Crisis Standard of Care: Resource Allocation in Conditions of Absolute Scarcity Principles and Guidelines, a triage allocation system to be enacted during a public health emergency as specified in the Guidelines.

*ACTION ITEM:
CONSIDERATION OF
CRISIS STANDARD OF
CARE POLICY*

Director Yee seconded the motion.

Kimberly Hartz, CEO, introduced preliminary background on the formation of this policy. Dr. Jeffrey Stuart and Dr. Prasad Kilaru joined in the discussion regarding the circumstances and various scenarios taken into account in the development of this policy. It was noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has been a crisis without precedent forcing hospitals and healthcare providers to grapple with the concept that they may reach a point when they are no longer able to provide every patient with the necessary resources because critical resources may not be available in sufficient quantities for every patient.

Since March 2020, Washington Hospital has been working with two goals in mind: (1) we need to be prepared for the worst, and (2) we need to do everything possible to avoid the worst. In preparing for a crisis situation, Washington Hospital initiated a Daily COVID Call focused on many initiatives including securing essential equipment, obtaining "days of supply" of personal protective equipment and additional equipment, and converting rooms to "negative pressure" in order to treat additional COVID-positive patients while also protecting nurses, physicians, and support staff.

A multidisciplinary team was formed to create a policy to address what would happen if and when space or supplies to treat every patient were depleted; in other words, a Crisis Standard of Care whereby the focus of care shifts from delivering

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individual patient care to delivering the best care for the patient population. This multidisciplinary team consisted of members of the medical staff leadership, a bioethicist, members of the Bioethics Committee, representatives from nursing, administrative staff, and Legal Counsel. The initial draft of the policy was approved by the Medical Executive Committee in April 2020, but was not brought forward to the Board of Directors at that time.

On June 8, 2020, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released its own Crisis Standard of Care guidance, including a model policy. The multidisciplinary team continued to meet to discuss the CDPH guidance in addition to examining policies from other organizations including Stanford and the University of California, to ensure that Washington's draft policy remained consistent with its peers.

On December 28, 2020, CDPH released All Facilities Letter 20-91 which instructed each hospital in California to submit its Crisis Standard of Care Policy to CDPH for review and to post a copy of the policy on the hospital's public website no later than January 6, 2021.

Dr. Sue Rubin spoke on her role as an Ethicist in the creation and development of this policy.

On Monday, January 4, 2021, the Medical Executive Committee approved the draft of Washington Hospital's Crisis Standard of Care policy

Roll call was taken:

William Nicholson, MD – aye
Jeannie Yee - aye
Bernard Stewart, DDS – aye
Jacob Eapen, MD - aye
Michael Wallace – aye

The motion unanimously carried.

There being no further business, Director Nicholson adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

DocuSigned by:

William Nicholson

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William Nicholson, M.D.
President

DocuSigned by:

Michael Wallace

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Michael J. Wallace
Secretary