



**Minutes of Regular Scheduled Board Meeting
Dawson County Hospital District
February 24, 2026**

Members Present: David Sanderson, Board President Nicky Chapman, Board Secretary
Mike Johnson, Board Member Leslie Hawkins, Board Member

Members Absent: Steven Hatchett, Board Vice-President (voting)

Guests Present: Craig Carter, Attorney for Jackson & Carter, PLLC(via conference call);
Renaë Thomas, President for Thomas & Thomas Financial Management
Services; and Mary Elizabeth Davis, Reporter for Lamesa Press Reporter

Staff Present: Freddy Olivarez, Chief Executive Officer; Jo Beth Smith,
Chief Operating Officer; Diane Sherrill, Director of Nursing and
Registered Nurse; Cynthia Maria Vasquez, Human Resources Director; and
Sara Del Busto, Recording Secretary

1. **Call to Order:** David Sanderson, Board President, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., with the above-mentioned members, staff and guest present.
2. **Invocation:** The invocation was given by David Sanderson, Board President.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge of allegiance was given by David Sanderson, Board President.
4. **Public Comment Session:** The Board of Directors entered Public Comment Session pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act Government Code Section 551.001(4)(B) at 8:31 a.m.
 - A. The Board of Directors received no public comments.
 - B. David Sanderson, Board President, adjourned the Public Comment Session at 8:31 a.m.

5. Consent Agenda:

A. Old Business:

1. **Receive Quarterly Investment Report.** Deferred.
2. **Discuss and Take Action on Appointment of Election Judges for Board of Directors Election to be held Saturday, May 2, 2026** – Sara Del Busto, Deputy Early Voting Clerk. Omit.

B. Approval of Minutes:

Action will be taken to approve the minutes of the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting held January 27, 2026.

C. Medical Staff Report:

1. **Receive report from Medical Staff representative.**
2. **Take action on any credentialing recommendations.**

D. Report of Officers and Committees:

1. **Receive and take action on the payments for the month of January 2026 Accounts Payable** – Renae Thomas, President, Thomas & Thomas Financial Management Services.

E. Receive and Accept Certification of Unopposed Candidates for Precinct Two and Precinct Four for the Board of Directors Election for Saturday, May 2, 2026

– Sara Del Busto, Deputy Early Voting Clerk.

F. Receive and Take Action on Order of Election Cancellation for Precinct Two and Precinct Four Board of Directors Election for Saturday, May 2, 2026 in accordance with Section 2.053(a) of the Texas Election Code

– Sara Del Busto, Deputy Early Voting Clerk.

Motion made by Leslie Hawkins to accept the Consent Agenda, and seconded by Nicky Chapman. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Administrative Report:

A. Freddy Olivarez, Chief Executive Officer

– Freddy Olivarez, Chief Executive Officer presented to the board the following:

1. Freddy Olivarez presented to the board the Medical Arts celebrated the Superbowl with an annual Superbowl free lunch meal for employees and employees dressed in their favorite team jersey;
2. Freddy Olivarez announced to the board a blood drive is scheduled at Medical Arts Hospital on Thursday, March 19, 2026 from 12 noon to 3:15 p.m. in the hospital community room;
3. Freddy Olivarez presented to the board the hospital district has sponsored an ad in the drug awareness guide for the Lamesa Police Department Safety Education Program;
4. Freddy Olivarez presented to the board an invitation to attend the regional board workshops hosted by the Texas healthcare Trustees (THT) in College Station, Texas on Friday, March 13, 2026 and Lubbock, Texas on Friday, March 27, 2026 as presented in the administrative report packet. Freddy Olivarez presented interested board members may contact Sara Del Busto for registration;

5. Freddy Olivarez presented to the board an invitation to attend the Texas Healthcare Trustees (THT) Healthcare Governance Conference scheduled for June 4, 2026 to June 6, 2026 at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio Riverwalk Hotel. Freddy Olivarez presented interested board members may contact Sara Del Busto for registration;
6. Freddy Olivarez announced to the board the retirement and farewell celebration scheduled for Mrs. Jo Beth Smith, Chief Operation Officer. Freddy Olivarez expressed appreciation for the years of service for Mrs. Jo Beth Smith as she is a valuable member to the organization who will be missed.

7. Report of Officers and Committees:

A. Receive and take action on the Financial Reports for the month of January 2026
– Renae Thomas, President, Thomas & Thomas Financial Management Services.

Renae Thomas presented the January 2026 financial reports to the board. Renae Thomas, President, Thomas & Thomas Financial Management Services, facilitated discussion with Freddy Olivarez, Chief Executive Officer, and the Board of Directors on the chargemaster project, patient accounting with emphasis on billing, collections, and denials, and chief financial officer position. After discussion was held a motion made by Nicky Chapman to accept the financial reports for January 2026, and seconded by Mike Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Executive Session: Enter into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code Sections: 161.032/records and proceedings of a medical committee or medical peer review committee, reports from compliance officer; and Texas Government Code Sections 551.074/personnel matters; 551.071/ consultation with attorney regarding legal issues related to personnel.

A. The Board of Directors of Dawson County Hospital District now convenes in Closed Session the date is February 24, 2026 and the time is 9:11 a.m.

B. Enter into Executive Session pursuant to the above cited authorities:

1. Receive Quarterly Quality Improvement and Risk/Safety Report – Diane Sherrill, Director of Nursing, Quality Improvement/Risk Management Director and Registered Nurse.

2. Personnel Matters – Freddy Olivarez, Chief Executive Officer.

3. Consultation with Attorney – Craig Carter, Attorney of Jackson & Carter, PLLC.

C. The Board of Directors of Dawson County Hospital District now adjourns its Closed Session and will return to Open Session. The date is February 24, 2026 and the time is 12:11 p.m.

9. Old Business:

A. Receive and Take Action to Approve Physician Contract for Dr. Anthony Gipson, MD through the District – David Sanderson, President of the Board.

David Sanderson presented to the board the physician contract for Dr. Anthony Gipson, MD through the district. A motion was made by Leslie Hawkins to approve the physician contract for Dr. Anthony Gipson, MD through the district, and seconded by Nicky Chapman. Motion carried unanimously.

10. New Business:

A. Receive Annual Board Evaluation Form for Board of Directors Self-Assessment

– Freddy Olivarez, Chief Executive Officer.

David Sanderson presented to the board the annual board evaluation form for board self-assessment. No action was taken by the board.

11. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Mike Johnson. Mr. David Sanderson, President of the Board, adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.