



Office of Missouri State Auditor
Nicole Galloway, CPA

Putnam County Memorial Hospital



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Missouri State Auditor

CITIZENS SUMMARY

Findings in the audit of Putnam County Memorial Hospital

Background

In September 2016, the State Auditor's Office announced a series of audits of county hospitals to focus on financial and operating best practices for acute care facilities that are critical to individuals who live and work in the surrounding communities.

The Putnam County Memorial Hospital opened in 1963 with the first patient admitted in October of that year. The hospital was designated as a critical access hospital (CAH) in the 1990s, which is a designation designed to reduce the financial vulnerability of rural hospitals and improve access to healthcare by keeping essential services in rural communities. The hospital is one of 36 CAHs in Missouri and is licensed for 15 acute care beds.

On November 29, 2016, the hospital's Board of Trustees (Board) entered into a lease agreement, for operating the hospital, with Hospital Partners, Inc. As part of this lease agreement, the Board is transferring operational ownership, via an official Change of Ownership process through the state of Missouri, and transferring the hospital's Medicare and Medicaid provider numbers to that entity. However, as of August 1, 2017, the Department of Health and Senior Services had yet to receive a change of ownership request.

Lack of Board Oversight

The Board did not perform sufficient due diligence over the process of awarding management contracts. In addition, the Board did not adequately document how decisions related to the hiring of management companies were made or retain sufficient documentation to show they conferred with legal counsel prior to entering into the contracts. The Board did not ensure personnel were in place to provide oversight of management company activities, and did not provide sufficient direct oversight of the compensation paid to the companies, including salaries paid to executive administration personnel. The Board has not provided appropriate oversight of laboratory contracts entered into by the new CEO/management company President. As a result, the hospital is incurring unnecessary payroll costs, and is involved in questionable laboratory billing practices.

The Board did not provide sufficient oversight to be aware the CEO entered the hospital into a verbal agreement for a \$500,000 loan. The Board does not have adequate procedures in place to provide sufficient oversight and ensure all travel reimbursements are reasonable and proper. Additionally, the hospital did not properly report all employee's wages earned to the state and federal government and reimbursed questionable expenses. The Board did not receive or request sufficient documentation from the previous management company prior to approving the addition of an inpatient psychiatric unit in March 2012, did not approve the management contracts put in place to run the unit, and did not provide any ongoing oversight or monitoring of the unit until its closure in December 2015.

Immediately upon signing the current management contract with the hospital, the CEO and his associates began billing significant amounts of out-of-state lab activity through the hospital. In the event the insurance companies being billed for this activity determine it is not legitimate, or

question the propriety of the hospital having out-of-state phlebotomists on its payroll, the Board and the hospital could potentially be held liable.

Financial Condition

The hospital is in extremely poor financial condition. The hospital's financial condition has steadily declined since we reported similar concerns in our 2 year-end December 31, 2011, audit report of Putnam County. In addition, several prior financial statement audit reports, including the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2014, identified a going concern issue with the hospital (conditions and events given rise to substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue). The hospital has high levels of uncollectable accounts receivable, while at the same time experiencing high accounts payable balances.

Computer Security

The hospital does not store copies of backup data at an off-site location.

In the areas audited, the overall performance of this entity was **Poor**.*

*The rating(s) cover only audited areas and do not reflect an opinion on the overall operation of the entity. Within that context, the rating scale indicates the following:

- Excellent:** The audit results indicate this entity is very well managed. The report contains no findings. In addition, if applicable, prior recommendations have been implemented.
- Good:** The audit results indicate this entity is well managed. The report contains few findings, and the entity has indicated most or all recommendations have already been, or will be, implemented. In addition, if applicable, many of the prior recommendations have been implemented.
- Fair:** The audit results indicate this entity needs to improve operations in several areas. The report contains several findings, or one or more findings that require management's immediate attention, and/or the entity has indicated several recommendations will not be implemented. In addition, if applicable, several prior recommendations have not been implemented.
- Poor:** The audit results indicate this entity needs to significantly improve operations. The report contains numerous findings that require management's immediate attention, and/or the entity has indicated most recommendations will not be implemented. In addition, if applicable, most prior recommendations have not been implemented.

All reports are available on our Web site: auditor.mo.gov

Putnam County Memorial Hospital

Table of Contents

State Auditor's Report	2
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Introduction	
Background	4
Scope and Methodology	6

Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings	
1. Lack of Board Oversight	7
2. Financial Condition	18
3. Computer Security	22

Organization and Statistical Information	23
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Appendixes

A	Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets, Year Ended June 30, 2016	24
B	Questionable Travel Expenses	25
C	Critical Access Hospital Average Comparison	26
D	Auditee Responses	27



NICOLE GALLOWAY, CPA
Missouri State Auditor

Honorable Eric Greitens, Governor
and
Putnam County Memorial Hospital Board
and
Putnam County Commission
Unionville, Missouri

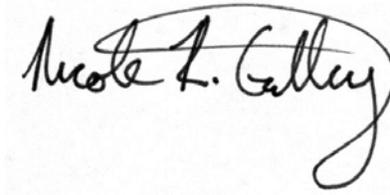
We have audited certain operations of the Putnam County Memorial Hospital in fulfillment of our duties under Chapter 29, RSMo. This audit is included in a series of rural health care audits, which focus on financial and operating best practices at various acute care facilities that are critical to their local community. The objectives of our audit were to:

1. Evaluate internal controls over significant management and financial functions as they relate to the financial condition of the care facility.
2. Evaluate compliance with certain legal provisions as they relate to the financial condition of the care facility.
3. Evaluate the economy and efficiency of certain management practices and operations, including certain financial transactions, as they relate to the financial condition of the care facility.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards applicable to performance audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides such a basis.

The accompanying Organization and Statistical Information is presented for informational purposes. This information was obtained from the hospital's management and was not subjected to the procedures applied in our audit.

For the areas audited, we identified (1) deficiencies in internal controls, (2) noncompliance with legal provisions, and (3) the need for improvement in certain management practices and procedures. The accompanying Management Advisory Report presents our findings arising from our audit of the Putnam County Memorial Hospital.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole R. Galloway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end of the name.

Nicole R. Galloway, CPA
State Auditor

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Putnam County Memorial Hospital

Introduction

Background

Putnam County Memorial Hospital began with the development of a hospital committee appointed by the local Rotary Club and Lions Club. On July 30, 1957, voters approved a \$225,000 bond issue for the construction of the hospital. In late 1960, Putnam County received a \$250,000 federal grant, which was later increased by \$9,500. The hospital opened in 1963 with the first patient admitted in October of that year.

In June 1967, Putnam County voters approved a property tax levy of \$0.20 per \$100 assessed valuation for maintenance of the hospital. In 1999, voters approved an increase in the property tax levy to \$0.4775 per \$100 assessed valuation. In addition, in 2000, the Putnam County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees (Board) placed a 1/2 cent sales tax with a 5 year expiring term on the ballot. Voter approved establishment of that sales tax and have subsequently voted to renew the tax in 2005, 2010, and 2015. Absent additional renewals the sales tax will expire on March 31, 2021.

The hospital was designated as a critical access hospital (CAH) in the 1990s. The CAH designation was created by Congress in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act in response to hospital closures in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The designation is given by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to certain rural hospitals meeting specific criteria. The primary eligibility requirements for CAH designation are the hospital must (1) have 25 or fewer acute care inpatient beds, (2) be located more than 35 miles from another hospital, (3) maintain an annual average length of stay of 96 hours or less for acute care patients, and (4) provide 24/7 emergency care services. The CAH designation is designed to reduce the financial vulnerability of rural hospitals and improve access to healthcare by keeping essential services in rural communities. The hospital is one of 36 CAHs in Missouri and is licensed for 15 acute care beds.

In August 2006, the Board issued revenue bonds with a principal amount of \$7,700,000 to finance improvements to the hospital. These bonds were payable solely from the net revenues of the hospital. The bond covenant required the hospital to (1) maintain a debt service coverage rate of 1.25,¹ (2) maintain a minimum level of 33 days of expenses in hospital bank accounts, and (3) have less than 90 percent of accounts payable outstanding for a period of 60 days or less and the remaining 10 percent of accounts payable outstanding for a period of 90 days or less. In 2011, the hospital could no longer maintain the required debt service coverage, liquidity, and outstanding accounts payable limits under the bond covenants. In March 2012, the hospital's Operating Fund balance fell to approximately \$8,000

¹ The debt service coverage rate is a ratio of cash flow available to pay current debt obligations.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital Introduction

and the hospital had to use debt service reserve funds to meet debt obligation due in 2011 and 2012.

In August 2012, voters approved issuance of General Obligation (GO) Bonds by Putnam County totaling \$7,630,000 to refinance the revenue bonds and renovate a portion of the hospital as a specialized geriatric care ward. The county issued the bonds in October 2012. A GO bond is a municipal bond backed by the credit and taxing power of the issuing jurisdiction. The county is guaranteeing the bonds and would become liable if the hospital cannot meet payment obligations. With the use of the GO bond proceeds, the hospital opened a 10 bed inpatient psychiatric facility in January 2013.

In April 2012, the Board contracted with Practice Plus, Inc. (Practice Plus), a medical consulting firm, to provide management services to the hospital. Practice Plus provided the day-to-day management and operations of the hospital. The company also provided key members of the hospital's administration, with Cindy Cummings becoming the hospital's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Jerry Cummings becoming the hospital's Chief Operating Officer (COO). Practice Plus brought new primary care physicians and specialists, re-established a physical therapy program at the hospital, and started the Senior Life Solutions program. The Senior Life Solutions program offered an intensive, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary outpatient treatment program for persons aged 60 and older, focusing on depression and behavioral disorders. Practice Plus continued to provide management services to the hospital until the CEO and COO resigned at the Board's request on December 8, 2015.

On December 9, 2015, the Board formed an in-house Executive Committee² to provide the day-to-day management services for the hospital. On December 31, 2015, the Executive Committee closed the operations of the inpatient psychiatric facility due to the negative effect on the hospital's financial condition. The Executive Committee provided management services to the hospital until September 2016 when the Board entered into a management services contract with Hospital Partners, Inc. (Hospital Partners). Hospital Partners provides the day-to-day management and operational decisions of the hospital. The President of Hospital Partners, David Byrns, was named the CEO of the hospital on September 13, 2016.

² The Executive Committee was made up of the following hospital employees: Nathan Baughman, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Officer; Gayle Pickens, Director of Nursing; Susan Daniels, Chief Financial Officer; Richard Morrow, Financial Business Advisor; Debbie Douglas, Director of Human Resources; and Dr. Dawn Fairley, Chief Medical Officer.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital Introduction

On November 29, 2016, the Board entered into a lease agreement, for operating the hospital, with Hospital Partners. As part of this lease agreement, the Board is transferring operational ownership, via an official Change of Ownership (CHOW) process through the state of Missouri, and transferring the hospital's Medicare and Medicaid provider numbers to Hospital Partners. Once the CHOW is finalized, Hospital Partners will begin making a monthly lease payment of \$20,000 to the Board; \$18,000 of this monthly payment will be paid to the Board and is to be escrowed by the Board and used for capital purposes, while \$2,000 of this monthly payment will be paid to the Putnam County Commission and is to be escrowed by the County Commission up to a cap of \$50,000 and used for future maintenance expenses in case the hospital closes. The CEO indicated the CHOW was signed and submitted to CMS and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) on April 30, 2017; however, DHSS personnel indicated as of August 1, 2017, the department had not received it.

Scope and Methodology

The scope of our audit included, but was not necessarily limited to, the hospital's fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

We reviewed management contracts between the hospital and Practice Plus, as well as Hospital Partners. Our review of these contracts covered the Board's oversight of them, including the performance of background checks of officials and companies hired and documentation of how and why decisions relating to the hiring of a specific management company occurred. In addition, we also reviewed payroll records and expenditure documentation of the hospital. Our review of payroll records included a review of salaries paid to all employees, and a review of W-2 forms to evaluate the accuracy of the information reported and the appropriateness of applicable withholdings. Our review of expenditure documentation included a review of expenditures made to management companies and other various entities, as well as a review of reimbursements made to administrative personnel.

Our methodology also included conducting interviews with appropriate hospital personnel and reviewing Board meeting minutes and other pertinent documents.

We obtained an understanding of the internal controls that are significant within the context of the audit objectives and assessed whether such controls have been properly designed and placed in operation. We also obtained an understanding of legal provisions that are significant within the context of the audit objectives, and we assessed risk that illegal acts, including fraud, and violation of applicable contract or other legal provisions could occur. Based on that risk assessment, we designed and performed procedures to provide reasonable assurance of detecting instance of noncompliance significant to those provisions.

Putnam County Memorial Hospital

Management Advisory Report

State Auditor's Findings

1. Lack of Board Oversight

The Board does not provide sufficient oversight over activities of the hospital, did not perform sufficient due diligence over the awarding and development of management contracts, and did not ensure personnel were in place to monitor the activities of contracted management companies. As a result, (1) excessive compensation has been paid to management company officials, (2) loans to the hospital occurred without the Board's knowledge and without the Board agreeing to loan terms, (3) questionable employee reimbursements occurred, (4) employee wages earned were not always properly reported to the state and federal government, (5) significant decisions related to the offering of services have been made without adequate information being provided to the Board, and (6) out-of-state employees have been placed on the hospital's payroll.

1.1 Management contracts

The Board did not perform sufficient due diligence over the process of awarding management contracts. In addition, the Board did not adequately document how decisions related to the hiring of management companies were made or retain sufficient documentation to show discussions with legal counsel occurred prior to entering into the contracts.

Proposals not formally requested, procured, or analyzed

The Board entered into management services contracts in April 2012 with Practice Plus, Inc. (Practice Plus), and again in September 2016 with Hospital Partners, Inc. (Hospital Partners). The Board entered into both contracts without requesting formal bids or proposals for such services. Based on conversations with Board members and a review of meeting minutes, all discussions related to the management services contracts were informal in nature, with little specific information documented, and no critical evaluation of the contract proposed. The Board did not receive official proposals or projected financial results prior to awarding either contract. Board members indicated they conducted background checks and reference checks for the management companies; however, no documentation was retained of work performed and the extent of the reviews may have been basic internet searches. A review of the Board minutes indicates (1) approximately 8 hours of discussion time over approximately 2 months led to the decision to enter into the agreement with Practice Plus and (2) approximately 3 hours of discussion time over approximately 11 days led to the decision to enter into the agreement with Hospital Partners. Board minutes did not document what, if any, documents or presentations the Board received from the prospective management companies or how or what led to the decision to enter into agreements with these firms.

Board members indicated they discussed with other entities the possibility of providing management services to the hospital prior to entering into these agreements; however, no other firms ultimately expressed interest in managing the hospital. Any specific discussions or proposals from these other entities were not documented.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

Lack of adequate
documentation to support
contract reviews

Formally requesting management proposals, contracts, and projected financial results for analysis is critical for determining what operations are in the best interest of the hospital. By not documenting all reviews performed and discussion held, in detail, the Board is unable to support the management decisions made.

The Board could not provide adequate documentation to show discussions with legal counsel occurred prior to entering into the management contract with Hospital Partners. The Board signed the agreement without adequate legal counsel input despite the County Commission's offer to pay for legal services and despite the contract being drafted by the entity being contracted with. A local attorney told audit staff he read the proposed agreement in September 2016 at the request of the Board; however, he received no compensation for those services and could not provide specific details on what services the Board requested. In addition, the Board provided us limited correspondence between the County Commission's attorney and Hospital Partners that indicated an attorney acting as an agent for the County Commission reviewed the agreement.

As a result of inadequate legal review, the management contract between the Board and Hospital Partners includes an indemnity clause stating "Putnam County Memorial Hospital shall at all times indemnify and hold harmless Hospital Partners, its officers and directors, from and against any and all claims, losses, liabilities, actions, management and proceedings, and expenses, (including reasonable attorney fees) arising out of Hospital Partner's management and operation of the Facility during the term of the agreement to the extent that there are operating funds available to provide for same." Such a clause leaves the Board and the hospital potentially liable for any fraudulent or negligent activity of the contractor, which would be unusual for a contract of this nature. The contract also omits basic financial terms defining how much the contractor is to be compensated. See additional information regarding management fees incurred at MAR finding number 1.2.

Article VI, Sections 23 and 25, of the Missouri Constitution does not permit local governments to grant public money to benefit private individuals, corporations, or associations. The indemnity clause in the management agreement between the hospital and Hospital Partners requires the Board to extend public money for the actions of Hospital Partners. By indemnifying the management services contractor, the hospital is extending public funds to cover costs associated with mismanagement or fraudulent actions, if they occur. In addition, by not defining the financial terms of the contract, the Board entered into an agreement with unknown financial impact.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

1.2 Oversight of
management
compensation

The Board did not ensure personnel were in place to provide oversight of management company activities, and did not provide sufficient direct oversight of the compensation paid to management companies, including salaries paid to executive administration personnel. The process to award raises to management companies and executive administrative personnel is not formalized as part of the management contract. As a result, administrators received raises without clear justification, and in the case of Hospital Partners, payments of salaries and management fees occurred without Board approval.

Practice Plus raises

The Board approved significant salary increases to the Practice Plus Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Operations Officer (COO) without any predetermined, objective performance measurement criteria, and did so during a significant financial shortfall (see MAR finding number 2). In December 2014, the Board approved 53 percent and 60 percent pay increases for the CEO and COO, respectively. The combined annual salary paid to these two positions increased by approximately \$128,000, with salaries of the CEO and COO increasing to \$208,132 and \$148,108, respectively.

Board members indicated they based the decision to provide these raises on documentation provided by the CEO and COO indicating salaries of comparable positions at peer hospitals. The Board did not have any defined measurable performance standards or goals outlined to base the decision. By granting a significant increase in the contracted salaries paid to these officials during a time of extreme financial distress, the Board further harmed the hospital's financial position.

Hospital Partners
compensation and fees

The new CEO, who is also the President of the management company, approved his own salary, and paid his own management company management and accounting fees not specified in the management contract. The management services contract with Hospital Partners does not contain any compensation terms for the CEO, who also serves as the President of Hospital Partners, or contain a specific management fee structure for work performed. However, the contract does state "the consideration given and paid for the services to be provided by Hospital Partners is the agreement by Putnam County Memorial Hospital to enter into a future lease agreement with Hospital Partners." As a result, any payments made to the management company and management company officials would not be in accordance with the management contract. In addition, the Board did not ensure other hospital officials not associated with the contractor monitored the activity of the management company.

After the management services contract was signed, the new CEO approved his own annual salary of \$160,000. Over the next 5 months, the CEO directed the hospital's human resources personnel to increase his annual



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

salary to \$180,000, and eventually to an annual salary of \$200,000. Board members indicated they were aware the CEO may be included in the hospital's payroll and thus receive an annual salary; however, the Board Chairman indicated a salary amount for the CEO was not discussed and approved by the Board prior to March 2017, when we discussed this issue with the Board.

In addition to the \$200,000 annual salary being paid to the CEO, the CEO also directed hospital staff to pay management and accounting fees totaling \$360,000 from September 2016 through February 2017 to Hospital Partners, none of which were outlined and defined in the management services contract. Minutes for the September 12, 2016, Board meeting show the Board was informed by the CEO that the hospital would not be required to pay management fees. However, the hospital has made monthly payments to Hospital Partners of \$50,000 for management fees, and \$20,000 for accounting fees every month since the management agreement was signed. Board members indicated they were not aware the hospital was making these payments. The Board approves the check register, which includes these expenditures, at each monthly Board meeting; however, Board members do not review these expenditures in detail during their approval process. The only documentation to support these expenditures is a check request form used by the hospital to process payments, most of which were approved only by the CEO, stating only the amount to be paid to Hospital Partners. The new CEO told us the monthly fees were deemed necessary by Hospital Partners for the purpose of managing and operating of the facility.

Ensuring contracts contain adequate and clearly detailed consideration will help the Board comply with all contract terms and provisions. Placing personnel at the appropriate level of the organization to adequately segregate accounting duties and monitor the activity of the management company would have provided the Board with some assurance contract terms were being complied with and hospital assets were protected. In the absence of the appropriate personnel in place within the organization, active oversight by the Board is essential to ensure the assets of the hospital are secure.

1.3 Laboratory contracts and questionable laboratory billings

The Board has not provided appropriate oversight of laboratory contracts entered into by the CEO/management company President. As a result, the hospital is incurring unnecessary payroll costs, and is involved in questionable laboratory billing practices.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

Laboratory contract and payroll costs

In October 2016, the hospital contracted with Hospital Laboratory Partners, LLC³ (Hospital Lab Partners) to operate all clinical and operational aspects of a clinical laboratory on behalf of the hospital. The Board did not formally approve the contract, did not provide any oversight of the terms of the contract, and was not aware of any of the contract's terms or the hospital's obligations to the contractor. Due to this lack of oversight, beginning in November 2016, the CEO added payroll expenses of approximately \$68,000 per month for 33 phlebotomists to facilitate laboratory activity, in violation of the contract's terms. The hospital's laboratory contract specifically states such expenses are the responsibility of the laboratory contractor. The Board did not approve the addition of these positions.

The contract with Hospital Lab Partners states the contractor "shall provide all personnel, equipment, supplies, and management support necessary for the comprehensive operation of the hospital's clinical laboratory." The Board was aware the hospital employed the phlebotomists, but did not provide specific approval. The CEO stated these phlebotomists were hired by the hospital to provide pre-laboratory services related to the clinical lab and, by law, had to be employees of the hospital; however, he could not provide documentation to the specific law referenced in his response. Board members indicated they were not aware the contract with Hospital Lab Partners requiring the contractor to provide all personnel for the lab. Oversight by the Board of significant contracts is necessary to ensure the financial best interests of the hospital are served.

As a result of our inquiries about the phlebotomist payroll expenses, the CEO stated Hospital Lab Partners had reimbursed the hospital for the costs. However, in verifying this information the CEO was only able to provide documentation of a journal entry on the hospital's financial system, but could not provide evidence that a check was deposited or monies wired into the hospital's bank account.

Questionable laboratory billing practices

The hospital's laboratory contract with Hospital Lab Partners has resulted in a significant increase of questionable revenues from laboratory billings of health insurance companies. Based on our review of hospital accounts, the vast majority of laboratory billings are for out-of-state lab activity for individuals who are not patients of hospital physicians.

The laboratory contract states the hospital will bill all lab tests through the hospital and the hospital will then pay Hospital Lab Partners 80 percent of lab revenues for managing and providing operational support of the lab. From November 2016 through February 2017 the hospital paid Hospital Lab

³ Hospital Lab Partners was incorporated in Florida on October 13, 2016, and entered into the Putnam County Hospital laboratory contract on October 20, 2016.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

Partners \$19.8 million for laboratory billings received. However, as of January 23, 2017, the hospital's Unionville, Missouri lab had not begun processing tests, according to discussions with the CEO, but billings for the lab had begun immediately upon Hospital Partners signing the management agreement with the Board. Our review of lab billings received by the hospital indicate the originating activity is for out-of-state patients for lab work not conducted in Putnam County. Hospital officials have not provided sufficient support to justify why such activity is being billed through the hospital. The Board and the CEO have stated the lab is now open but cannot tell us the specific date that occurred.

During the audit, the State Auditor's Office was contacted by the fraud examiner of a private insurance company in Florida that had recently denied claims of approximately \$700,000 from the hospital due to the excessive cost of the claims, a lack of documentation to support the claims, and indications the billings may be fraudulent. This individual referred us to a fraud investigator for a second, much larger, private insurance company who stated payments of up to \$4.3 million in what the company considered fraudulent claims had been paid to the hospital in recent months. Based on this information, the second insurance company is no longer paying any claims from the hospital because the billings submitted are pass-through billings, which are indicative of a fraud scheme. Continued use of such questionable laboratory billings could leave the hospital at risk if such activity is deemed to be inappropriate by the insurance companies billed, or if these insurance companies seek reimbursement for questionable amounts billed.

Laboratory subcontractors

In addition to the lab management fees paid to Hospital Lab Partners, the hospital also paid approximately \$10.6 million in lab management fees to other subcontracted laboratories from November 2016 through February 2017. These payments occurred without adequate supporting documentation. The only documentation to support the lab management fee expenditures were email messages from a business associate of the CEO stating the amount to be paid to the entity. According to the CEO, these entities are subcontractors of Hospital Lab Partners, so the hospital does not have contracts with them. Board members indicate they were not familiar with these entities, did not know the purpose of these payments, or the payments occurred. Without adequate documentation to support the expenditures there is no assurance the payments are for legitimate hospital business.

Questionable use of
phlebotomy services

The employment of 33 primarily out-of-state phlebotomists to perform pre-laboratory services throughout the country is a questionable practice, and could put the hospital at risk. Based on documentation provided by hospital personnel, the phlebotomists on the payroll work out of various medical



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

practices throughout the country. Table 1, summarizes the number of phlebotomists that are employed by the hospital and what states they work.

Table 1: Number of phlebotomists employed, by state

Resident State	Number of Employees
Alabama	1
Arizona	1
Arkansas	3
California	2
Georgia	4
Kentucky	3
Louisiana	3
Missouri	2
Oklahoma	2
Tennessee	5
Texas	7

Source: Putnam County Memorial Hospital personnel records

In June 2014, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, issued a fraud alert⁴ which addressed compensation paid by laboratories to referring physicians and physician group practices for blood specimen collection, processing, and packaging, and for submitting patient data to a registry or database. This memorandum also refers to a number of other guidance documents and advisory opinions previously issued on the general subject matter, and discusses the federal anti-kickback statute,⁵ which was established to protect patients from inappropriate medical referrals or recommendations by health care professionals who may be unduly influenced by financial incentives. It is unclear why the CEO placed staff from 33 different medical practices on the hospital's payroll, however, such practices may not be legitimate, and could put the hospital at risk if questioned.

1.4 Loan agreement

The Board did not provide sufficient oversight to be aware the CEO entered the hospital into a verbal loan agreement with Hospital Partners and Empower Investment Group. The agreement provided the hospital with a \$500,000 loan at an 8 percent interest rate. According to the CEO, the loan was for payroll and other financial obligations of the hospital. The Board was unaware the hospital received the loan, and therefore, did not approve it or enter into a written agreement with Hospital Partners or Empower Investment Group. This condition occurred, in part, because personnel, such

⁴ Special Fraud Alert: Laboratory Payments to Referring Physicians, June 25, 2014, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General.

⁵ 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

as a Controller, were not in place at the appropriate level of the organization to monitor the activity of the management company and the Board did not provide sufficient oversight to identify the loan payments. Based on our observation of Board meetings and inquiries of the Board Chairman, loan payments were included in monthly expenditure reports approved by the Board but members did not inquire about the payments or their purpose.

Ensuring personnel are in place at the appropriate level of the organization to monitor the activity of a contracted management company would provide the Board assurance hospital expenditures are appropriate. In the absence of personnel providing such oversight, the Board's review of hospital activity must be extensive. As a result of the Board's lack of oversight, the hospital was not in compliance with Section 432.070, RSMo, which requires contracts for political subdivisions to be in writing. Written contracts are necessary to ensure all parties are aware of their duties and responsibilities, help protect against unauthorized payments, and ensure all debt accrued is properly managed. Written contracts should specify the services to be rendered, the manner and amount of compensation to be paid, and should be signed by all vested parties. Adequate Board oversight of hospital expenditures is essential to ensure hospital resources are being used in a responsible manner.

1.5 Questionable travel reimbursements and unreported compensation

The Board does not have adequate procedures in place to provide sufficient oversight and ensure all travel reimbursements are reasonable and proper. Additionally, the hospital does not properly report all employee's wages earned to the state and federal government. We identified the following questionable expenditures:

CEO travel reimbursements

From September 2016 through February 2017, the hospital reimbursed the CEO approximately \$19,700 for travel expenses. However, the management agreement between the hospital and Hospital Partners is silent as to travel expense reimbursement for the CEO. The Board or another independent party does not review the travel expenses claimed to ensure they are reasonable and proper, and during the period reviewed, the CEO was responsible for approving his own expense account. The Board reviews the check register during the monthly board meeting; however, Board members indicated they do not review the detail of the expenditures and checks have already been issued by the time they review the register.

Our review of travel expenses reimbursed to the CEO noted approximately \$5,300 in questionable expenditures. For example, the CEO was reimbursed for meals while in his home state of Florida, alcohol, cigarettes, prescription medication, cell phone and cell phone accessories, a laptop computer, household goods, personal items (i.e., razors, skin care products, etc.), car washes, key fob for a personal vehicle, golf in Florida, and luggage. Supporting documentation for one expense, in the amount of \$231, was not



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
 Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

submitted with the CEO's expense report, but the CEO was still reimbursed for the expense. See Appendix B for a listing of these questionable reimbursed expenses.

CEO reportable wages

The hospital did not properly report the CEO's wages earned to the state and federal government. From September 10, 2016 to November 4, 2016, state income taxes totaling \$1,029 were withheld from the CEO's paycheck. During the pay period ending November 18, 2016, the CEO was refunded \$1,029 for the state income taxes previously withheld from his paycheck and did not have state income tax withheld from subsequent paychecks. A review of the CEO's 2016 calendar year W-2 form determined the hospital did not report its state tax ID number, state wages earned or state income tax withheld on it.

Section 143.041, RSMo, states a tax is imposed for every taxable year on income of every nonresident which is derived from sources within the state. While the CEO is a resident of Florida, all income earned within Missouri is reportable and taxable within the state. Similarly, Chapter 143.191, RSMo, includes requirements for employers to report wages and withholding of state income taxes. By not reporting \$50,154 in compensation the CEO earned in Missouri, the state did not collect approximately \$2,784 in income taxes. Table 2 shows the salary paid to and taxes withheld from the CEO's paycheck.

Table 2: CEO Salary and Taxes Withheld

Pay Period	Gross Salary	Net Salary	State Taxes	Federal Taxes	Other
09/10/2016 - 09/23/2016	\$ 2,461.54	1,949.73	(86.00)	(237.50)	(188.31)
09/24/2016 - 10/07/2016	6,153.85	4,331.00	(299.00)	(1,053.08)	(470.77)
10/08/2016 - 10/21/2016	6,153.85	4,331.00	(299.00)	(1,053.08)	(470.77)
10/22/2016 - 11/04/2016	6,923.08	4,789.87	(345.00)	(1,258.60)	(529.61)
11/05/2016 - 11/18/2016	6,923.08	6,163.87	1,029.00	(1,258.60)	(529.61)
11/19/2016 - 12/02/2016	6,923.08	5,134.87	0.00	(1,258.60)	(529.61)
12/03/2016 - 12/16/2016	6,923.08	5,134.87	0.00	(1,258.60)	(529.61)
12/17/2016 - 12/30/2016	7,692.31	5,629.87	0.00	(1,473.98)	(588.46)
	\$ 50,153.87	37,465.08	0.00	(8,852.04)	(3,836.75)

Source: Putnam County Memorial Hospital payroll records

In addition to unreported state wages, the hospital did not properly report some taxable mileage reimbursements on the CEO's calendar year 2016 W-2 form. Included in the reimbursement for travel expenses to the CEO was \$2,907 for mileage reimbursements. The hospital reimbursed the CEO for mileage at a rate of 57.5 cents per mile; however, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reimbursement for business miles driven was 54 cents per mile in 2016. The CEO provides beginning and ending odometer readings



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
 Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

on each expense report; however, the mileage is not distinguished between business and personal. From September 29, 2016 to January 10, 2017 the hospital reimbursed \$2,907 to the CEO for mileage, while the mileage reimbursement at the IRS rate during this time period totaled \$2,730, a difference of \$177. The reimbursement amount in excess of the IRS standard rate is considered taxable income, but was not included as wages earned on the CEO's W-2 form. Table 3 depicts mileage reimbursed to the CEO, as well as a comparison of the rate reimbursed as compared to the IRS rate.

Table 3: CEO Mileage Reimbursement

Expense Period	Mileage	Hospital Rate	Reimbursement Amount	IRS Rate	IRS Amount	Difference
09/29/2016 - 10/12/2016	370	.575	\$ 212.75	.54	\$ 199.80	\$ 12.95
10/13/2016 - 10/27/2016	1,136	.575	653.20	.54	613.44	39.76
10/28/2016 - 11/15/2016	1,076	.575	618.70	.54	581.04	37.66
11/16/2016 - 12/14/2016	1,176	.575	676.20	.54	635.04	41.16
12/15/2016 - 01/10/2017	1,298	.575	746.35	.54	700.92	45.43
	5,056		\$ 2,907.20		\$ 2,730.24	\$ 176.96

After reviewing a draft version of this report, the CEO filed amended state withholding monthly reports for the period September 2016 through May 2017 and paid state income tax withholdings of about \$6,400 to the Missouri Department of Revenue. Additionally, the hospital ceased making individual expense reimbursements to the CEO as of January 10, 2017, and approved a flat daily per diem rate of \$100 for travel expenses incurred while the CEO is in travel status for the hospital.

1.6 Inpatient psychiatric care unit

The Board did not receive or request sufficient documentation from Practice Plus prior to approving the addition of an inpatient psychiatric unit in March 2012, did not approve the management contracts put in place to run the unit, and did not provide any ongoing oversight or monitoring of the unit until its closure in December 2015. The hospital invested approximately \$625,000 in the construction and renovation of the unit with operational costs estimated to be at least \$2.5 million annually.

Prior to the approval of the psychiatric unit, Board minutes indicate the Board received estimates of what such a unit could generate. The Board minutes did not include any of the provided information, nor did the Board retain this information. In July 2012 the Board received information on the estimated operating costs of the unit, but did not receive information on estimated revenues. There is no documentation of final financial projections for the unit and no documentation of the Board asking for additional information prior to the opening of the unit in December 2012.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

In addition, based on a review of Board minutes and discussions with the Board, the Board did not request or receive any information related to the performance of the psychiatric unit until after it closed in December 2015. Based on our review of limited information provided to the Board, the unit resulted in an operational loss of approximately \$1.5 million for the 2 calendar years preceding its closure.

The addition of such a unit represented a significant investment for the hospital, particularly in light of the hospital's financial condition. A thorough cost analysis and review by the Board prior to making such a decision would help ensure an investment of this nature is in the best interests of the hospital. Providing the appropriate level of due diligence prior to approving such actions, as well as monitoring the ongoing performance of the unit, is the Board's responsibility.

1.7 Conclusions

Immediately upon signing the management contract with the hospital, the CEO and his associates began billing significant amounts of out-of-state lab activity through the hospital. Deposits into the hospital's bank accounts for the months of December 2016 through May 2017, totaled approximately \$92 million. For perspective, annual hospital revenues were \$12.7 million and \$7.5 million for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, respectively. Approximately 80 percent of the new revenue generated from lab activity is disbursed to the laboratory companies, with an additional 6 percent going to the billing company, and another portion going towards payroll costs for out-of-state phlebotomists. The CEO has business relationships with the billing company as well as several of the subcontractor laboratories, and the laboratory company receiving millions of dollars from the hospital was incorporated a week after the initial management contract. In the event the insurance companies being billed for this activity determine this activity is not legitimate, or question the propriety of the hospital having out-of-state phlebotomists on its payroll, the Board and the hospital could be held liable. This potential is increased due to the unusual indemnity clause Hospital Partners included in the management contract. Additional oversight by the Board is necessary to ensure the actions of the management company are in the best interests of the hospital.

Recommendations

The Board:

- 1.1 Establish procedures to provide sufficient due diligence over the awarding of contracts. The Board should also document how and why final decisions are made in order to support the decision made was in the best interest of the hospital. In addition, the Board should ensure legal counsel perform a formal, documented review prior to entering into future contracts in order to ensure the contracts do not include broad indemnity clauses.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

- 1.2 Establish procedures to ensure sufficient oversight of contracts is performed and provide direct oversight of the compensation paid to management companies and executive administration personnel.
- 1.3 Recover payments made to laboratory-related staff and ensure laboratory contract terms are followed going forward, and provide additional oversight of laboratory activity to ensure activity being billed is appropriate.
- 1.4 Ensure proper agreements are entered into for all loans received by the hospital.
- 1.5 Establish procedures to provide sufficient oversight to ensure expense reimbursements are reasonable and proper, and to ensure sufficient documentation supports all expenditures. In addition, the Board should ensure procedures are established to properly report wages earned for all employees to the state and federal government.
- 1.6 Establish procedures to perform a through cost-benefit analysis when making significant operational decisions of the hospital, including ensuring all documentation is thoroughly reviewed and all reviews and discussions are documented.
- 1.7 Evaluate payments made to Hospital Partners and the CEO, and take action to recover any questionable or inappropriate payments, and reevaluate the Board's existing relationship with this entity.

Auditee's Response

The Putnam County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees failed to provide a complete response to the audit findings. See Appendix D for the Board's partial response.

2. Financial Condition

The hospital is in extremely poor financial condition. The hospital is audited separately from the county, with the last financial statement audit report issued for the year ended June 30, 2014. According to discussions with the hospital's Controller, accounting firms have been unwilling to perform a financial statement audit of the hospital in subsequent years due to a lack of resources for payment.

The hospital's financial condition has steadily declined since we reported similar concerns in our 2 year-end December 31, 2011, audit report of Putnam County.⁶ In addition, several prior financial statement audit reports, including the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2014, identified a

⁶ Report No. 2012-058, *Putnam County*, issued in June 2012.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
 Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

going concern issue with the hospital (conditions and events given rise to substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue).

As indicated in Table 4, the hospital's audited and unaudited financial information indicate net position has been consistently negative and has continued to worsen since the year ended June 30, 2013. Net position is the difference between what is owned (assets) and what is owed (liabilities) and it represents the measure of net worth. The hospital's net position has decreased each year due to growth in liabilities far exceeding growth in assets.

Table 4: Assets, Liabilities, and Net Position

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30,			
	2016 (unaudited)	2015 (unaudited)	2014 (audited)	2013 (audited)
Assets	\$ 10,012,137	11,916,645	11,874,360	9,474,860
Liabilities	(16,060,912)	(14,430,364)	(13,443,996)	(10,972,160)
Net Position	\$ (6,048,775)	(2,513,719)	(1,569,636)	(1,497,300)

In addition, as shown in Table 5, the hospital has continued to operate at a deficit since at least the year ended June 30, 2013, with expenses exceeding revenues each year. The annual operating losses have become increasingly more severe over time, as indicated by the \$3.6 million operating loss for the year ended June 30, 2016, which is more than four times the operating loss of approximately \$900,000 in fiscal year 2013.

Table 5: Revenues, Expenses, Operating Losses, and Changes in Net Position

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30,			
	2016 (unaudited)	2015 (unaudited)	2014 (audited)	2013 (audited)
Operating revenue	\$ 7,509,123	12,660,860	13,269,489	8,296,867
Operating expense	(11,090,700)	(14,206,449)	(14,034,529)	(9,175,408)
Operating Loss	(3,581,577)	(1,545,589)	(765,040)	(878,541)
Non-operating revenue	297,476	601,506	692,704	595,531
Change in Net Position	\$ (3,284,101)	(944,083)	(72,336)	(283,010)

For the year ended June 30, 2016, actual revenues totaled \$7.5 million, or approximately 49 percent of the \$15.2 million budgeted revenues. In addition, although the hospital expended only \$11.1 million of the \$15.4 million expenditure budget, actual expenditures exceeded actual revenues by approximately \$3.6 million.

Also, the hospital's financial report indicates operating cash totaled \$251,966 per the balance sheet as of June 30, 2016, with total operating expenditures of approximately \$11 million for the year ended June 30, 2016.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

The hospital's operating cash balance was sufficient to cover only 8.3 days of operating expense.

As the hospital's financial condition continued to worsen, hospital management began using tax anticipation notes and promissory notes to obtain funding to pay hospital expenses. From 2011 to 2015, hospital management financed funding of \$1,410,000 through various tax anticipation notes and promissory notes.

Accounts receivable and
accounts payable

The hospital has high levels of uncollectable accounts receivable, while at the same time experiencing high accounts payable balances. As of June 2016, accounts receivable totaled approximately \$5.5 million, of which 76 percent, or approximately \$4.2 million, remained uncollected after 120 days. Accounts receivable that remain outstanding for long periods of time are less likely to be collected. According to the hospital's current financial report, nearly \$3.6 million of the accounts receivable are likely uncollectable. These uncollectable amounts represent care provided to patients for which the hospital received no compensation.

In addition, the Board meeting minutes indicated the hospital was extremely behind in making payments to vendors. As of June 2016, the hospital calculated it took, on average, 379 days to make payments to vendors and current accounts payable totaled approximately \$7.9 million.

After Hospital Partners began providing management services for the administration of the hospital in September 2016, the hospital entered into settlement agreements with its delinquent account vendors. On August 31, 2016, accounts payable totaled approximately \$5.6 million. However, as of November 30, 2016, accounts payable had been reduced to approximately \$4.2 million because of settlements with vendors. As of March 31, 2017, the hospital has been meeting the obligations of the settlement agreements.

Statewide performance
comparison

We obtained statewide hospital data from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to evaluate the performance of the hospital relative to statewide averages of other critical access hospitals (CAH). Our analysis determined that despite an occupancy rate of 37.5 percent, which is higher than the statewide CAH average of 32.2 percent, the hospital generates revenues per bed and governmental revenues per Medicare discharge at a significantly lower rate than other peer hospitals. The low governmental revenue per Medicare discharge becomes especially relevant considering the hospital generates significantly more revenue from Medicare and Medicaid sources than the statewide CAH average. The reasons for the low revenue per bed, and low governmental revenues per Medicare discharge are beyond the scope of our audit; however, additional investigation is warranted and could help improve the financial condition of



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Management Advisory Report - State Auditor's Findings

the hospital. See Table 6 for comparative data for 2015 (most recent year available), and Appendix C for additional comparative data.

Table 6: CAH Average Comparison for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Putnam County Memorial Hospital	CAH Statewide Average
Revenues Per Bed	\$ 489,702	892,973
Payroll Expense Per Bed	\$ 222,201	378,908
Medicare Revenues Per Medicare Discharge	\$ 41,651	54,421

CPA audits and cost reports

The hospital did not receive an independent CPA audit for fiscal year 2015 or 2016. In addition, the hospital did not submit required annual cost reports to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) during this time period. The purpose of these reports is to ensure the hospital has been sufficiently reimbursed by Medicare during the year. Based on the results of the cost report, the hospital would either owe CMS for overpayments received or be owed due to inadequate reimbursements. Cost report results are used to set the hospital's reimbursement rate for the following year. The CEO indicated an outside company has been hired to prepare the hospital's cost reports for fiscal year 2015 and 2016.

The lack of an independent CPA audit limits the reliability of financial information available to the Board for budgeting and planning purposes. In addition, the untimely completion and submission of cost reports to CMS can present significant potential liabilities to the hospital. The Board should ensure cost reports are timely completed and submitted to CMS in the future. In addition, the Board should ensure independent CPA audits are performed on an annual basis.

Conclusion

The financial condition of the hospital needs to be addressed immediately by the Board to ensure the continued access to healthcare for the citizens of Putnam County. While the Board has taken some action to address accounts receivable, accounts payable, cash flow and other concerns, the efforts have not resulted in the significant improvement or stabilization of the hospital's serious financial condition. Based on our review of peer hospital data, a review of governmental billing procedures is necessary to ensure revenues are maximized.

Recommendation

The Board better monitor the financial condition of the hospital and continue to explore all options to improve the hospital's financial condition, including a review of federal billing procedures, to ensure the healthcare needs of Putnam County citizens continue to be met.

Auditee's Response

The Putnam County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees failed to provide a complete response to the audit findings. See Appendix D for the Board's partial response.



3. Computer Security

The hospital does not store copies of backup data at an offsite location. The hospital backs up file server data (i.e., information and documents used on a daily basis by various departments within the hospital), to a separate server, on an hourly basis; however, the data is not periodically transferred to an secure offsite location. Not storing backup data offsite leaves it susceptible to the same damage as the original data.

A minimal level of backup information, together with records of the backup copies and documented restoration procedures, should be stored at a secure offsite location on a regular and timely basis. By not doing this, critical data may not be available for restoring systems following a disaster or other disruptive incident.

Recommendation

The Board ensure backups of the hospital's electronic data are stored at a secure offsite location on a regular and timely basis.

Auditee's Response

The Putnam County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees failed to provide a complete response to the audit findings. See Appendix D for the Board's partial response.

Putnam County Memorial Hospital

Organization and Statistical Information

Putnam County Memorial Hospital is headed by a five-member board. Each member is voted to a 5-year term. As of June 30, 2016, the Putnam County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees (Board) consisted of the following members:

Member	Term Expires
Howard Luscan, Chairman	April 2017
Dave Schultz, Vice Chairman (1)	April 2020
Pula McCormack, Secretary/Treasurer (2)	April 2021
Joe Ream, Trustee	April 2017
Vacant (3)	April 2017

- (1) Dave Schultz resigned from the Board on March 27, 2017. Linda Valentine was elected by write-in vote at the April 4, 2017 election and was sworn in on April 20, 2017.
- (2) Pula McCormack resigned from the Board on September 26, 2016. Kelly Busker was appointed by the County Commission on November 28, 2016, and was sworn in on the same day.
- (3) Greg Fleshman resigned from the Board on April 11, 2016, thus leaving a vacant position at June 30, 2016. Frank Shekleton was appointed by the County Commission to the vacant position on September 26, 2016, and was sworn in on October 6, 2016. Frank resigned from the Board on January 23, 2017.

The hospital provides medical services, such as cardiac rehabilitation, emergency services, inpatient care, laboratory services, occupational therapy, outpatient care and service, physical therapy, and radiology services, in Putnam County. The hospital also has one rural health clinic.

Cindy Cummings served as CEO of the hospital from April 11, 2012 until December 8, 2015. The hospital was without a CEO from December 8, 2015 until September 12, 2016, when the Board entered into a management agreement with Hospital Partners, Inc. and David Byrns became CEO.

At June 30, 2016, the hospital employed 79 full-time employees, 9 part-time employees, and 24 as needed employees.

Putnam County Memorial Hospita

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets

This appendix documents Putnam County Memorial Hospital's unaudited financial statement for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016.

<u>Revenues</u>	
Operating Revenues	
Inpatient	\$ 3,111,975
Outpatient	9,108,755
Family Clinic	433,328
Rural Health Clinic	623,770
Behavioral Health Unit	1,882,528
	<u>15,160,356</u>
Contractual Adjustments	
Medicare	3,938,842
Medicaid	681,871
Commercial	1,945,909
Rural Health Clinic & Family Clinic	315,078
Charity Accounts	25,043
Provision for Uncollectible	1,754,679
	<u>8,661,422</u>
Net Patient Service Revenue	<u>6,498,934</u>
Other Operating Revenues	1,010,189
Total	<u>\$ 7,509,123</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Operating Expenses	
Salaries and Wages	\$ 4,854,016
Employee Benefits	805,578
Interest Income	437,370
Contract Labor	1,019,200
Medical Professional Fees	576,698
Other Professional Fees	454,367
Supplies and Other	1,672,751
Administrative Services	372,123
Depreciation and Amortization	898,597
Total Operating Expenses	<u>11,090,700</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>(3,581,577)</u>
Non-operating Income (Expenses)	
Investment Income	1,595
Noncapital Grants and Gifts	137,884
Property and Sales Tax Revenue	618,423
Loss on Sale of Capital Assets	(460,426)
Total Non-operating Income	<u>297,476</u>
Increase (Decrease) In Net Assets	<u>(3,284,101)</u>
Net Assets (Deficit), Beginning of Year	(2,764,674)
Net Assets (Deficit), End of Year	<u>\$ (6,048,775)</u>

Source: Putnam County Memorial Hospital's unaudited income statement for fiscal year 2016.

Putnam County Memorial Hospital Questionable Travel Expenses

This appendix documents the questionable expenditures by category to the 38 vendors the CEO had expenditures to and was reimbursed for by the hospital from September 29, 2016 to January 10, 2017. The listing is as of January 10, 2017.

Vendor	Meals in Home State of Florida	Alcohol/Tobacco (Cigarettes)	Golf in Florida	Personal Items	Electronics	Unknown	Total
America Landslide Lounge	\$ 0.00	10.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.38
Best Buy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	695.32	0.00	695.32
Bonefish Mac's	545.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	545.00
Buddy's Place	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Casey's General Store	0.00	1,130.61	0.00	27.39	0.00	0.00	1,158.00
City of Pompano Golf Course	0.00	0.00	130.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	130.00
CJ's Convenience Store	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Dick's Sporting Goods	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.79	0.00	0.00	190.79
Fleur Car Wash	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
Galuppi's	129.00	24.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	153.12
Great American Bagel	6.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.88
Hudson News	7.58	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	9.58
Hy Vee	0.00	83.90	0.00	38.60	0.00	0.00	122.50
Jack Nicklaus Golden Bear Grill	37.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.00
Kaluz Restaurant	270.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	270.00
Kwik Stop (Florida)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	348.49	348.49
Kwik Zone	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.70	0.00	0.00	8.70
Lito's Surf and Turf	283.85	88.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	372.00
Mad Meatball	0.00	18.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.50
Marlee's Diner	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.00
Mike's Metro Lock and Safe	0.00	0.00	0.00	265.00	0.00	0.00	265.00
News 2U	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.07	0.00	0.00	1.07
One to One Pharmacy	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.99	0.00	0.00	9.99
Owl Pharmacy	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.41	0.00	0.00	26.41
Paradies Airport Shops	13.77	0.00	0.00	6.65	0.00	0.00	20.42
Phillips Famous Seafood	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Plane Box Food Company	2.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.49
Pour Boy II	0.00	69.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.46
Prairie Tap Room	0.00	7.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.99
Quik Trip	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	126.42	129.42
Shell	0.00	70.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.25
Sicilian Oven	50.88	0.00	0.00	2.88	0.00	0.00	53.76
Sprint	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	329.33	0.00	329.33
Square View Inn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Staples	0.00	0.00	0.00	120.82	0.00	0.00	120.82
The Continental	0.00	2.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.75
Toot-Toot Restaurant	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
Walmart	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.18	0.00	0.00	13.18
	\$ 1,406.45	1,581.11	130.00	726.48	1,024.65	474.91	5,343.60

Putnam County Memorial Hospital Critical Access Hospital Average Comparison

This appendix compares Putnam County Memorial Hospital's revenues per bed, payroll expense per bed, Medicare governmental revenues per Medicare discharge, occupancy rate, and federal revenues as a percent of total revenues to the CAH statewide average for fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015.

Data provided by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services indicates that as of May 4, 2017, there are 36 CAHs in Missouri. The CAH designation was created by Congress in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act in response to hospital closures in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The designation is given by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to certain rural hospitals meeting specific criteria. The primary eligibility requirements for CAH designation are the hospital must (1) have 25 or fewer acute care inpatient beds, (2) be located more than 35 miles from another hospital, (3) maintain an annual average length of stay of 96 hours or less for acute care patients, and (4) provide 24/7 emergency care services. Some benefits of hospitals obtaining the CAH status include (1) cost-based reimbursement from Medicare (as of January 1, 2004, CAHs are eligible for allowable costs plus 1% reimbursement); (2) required networking with an acute care hospital, which can provide support to the CAH and allow for transfer of more acute patients; (3) flexible staffing and services; (4) capital improvement costs included in allowable costs for determining Medicare reimbursement; and (5) access to educational resources and technical assistance and/or grants.

	2015			2014			2013		
	Putnam County Memorial Hospital	CAH Statewide Average	Percent of CAH Statewide Average	Putnam County Memorial Hospital	CAH Statewide Average	Percent of CAH Statewide Average	Putnam County Memorial Hospital	CAH Statewide Average	Percent of CAH Statewide Average
Revenues Per Bed ¹	\$489,702	892,973	54.8%	512,930	843,668	60.8%	539,221	778,522	69.3%
Payroll Expense Per Bed ²	\$222,201	378,908	58.6%	210,551	364,963	57.7%	198,137	328,062	60.4%
Medicare Governmental Revenues Per Medicare Discharge ³	\$41,651	54,421	76.5%	43,659	54,768	79.7%	43,160	45,647	94.6%
Occupancy Rate ⁴	37.5%	32.2%		37.6%	32.0%		21.2%	31.1%	
Federal Revenues as a Percent of Total Revenues ⁵	74.7%	59.7%		79.3%	63.5%		76.5%	60.7%	

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and SAO calculations

¹Revenues per bed = (total net patient revenue / number of staffed beds).

²Payroll expense per bed = (total payroll expenses / number of staffed beds).

³Medicare governmental revenues per Medicare discharge = (total Medicare governmental revenues / number of Medicare discharges).

⁴Occupancy rate = (inpatient days * 100) / (licensed bed capacity * 365).

⁵Federal revenues as a percent of total revenues = (Medicare revenues + Medicaid revenues) / (Medicare revenues + Medicaid revenues + total non-government revenues).

Putnam County Memorial Hospital

Auditee Responses

The Putnam County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees was provided a draft report for official comment on May 25, 2017. After providing responses to each recommendation on June 16, 2017, the Board's legal counsel requested to withdraw the responses in a phone conversation during the last week of June. The Board formally withdrew its formal response on July 13, 2017. We asked the Board to provide new responses by July 17, 2017. On that date, the Board's legal counsel provided the attached management responses that did not address all recommendations in the report. The correspondence also included a request for an extension to provide additional responses. We agreed to this request and asked for any additions or changes to the responses by July 24, 2017. On that date, the Board's legal counsel did not provide additional responses, but requested an extension to the due date. We agreed to extend the due date to July 31, 2017. Again, no additional responses were provided by the revised deadline.

Section 29.200.12, RSMo requires the State Auditor's Office to provide 30 days for audit responses, and government auditing standards require responsible officials receive a "reasonable period of time" to provide responses. The Board has been provided a "reasonable period of time" for responses, and more than twice as much time as required by state law. Therefore, the audit is being released with the Board's partial responses provided on July 17, 2017.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Auditee Responses



DETAILED RESPONSE TO STATE AUDITOR'S FINDINGS

The transmittal correspondence ("Correspondence") pertaining to the Draft Audit Report ("Draft") states the objectives of the audit were to:

1. Evaluate internal controls over significant management and financial functions as they relate to the financial condition of the care facility.
2. Evaluate compliance with certain legal provisions as they relate to the financial condition of the care facility.
3. Evaluate the economy and efficiency of certain management practices and operations, including certain financial transactions, as they relate to the financial condition of the care facility.

The Correspondence stated she conducted the audit in accordance with the standards applicable to performance audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. That those standards required that she plan and perform her audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for her findings and conclusions based on her audit objectives. And finally that she believes that the evidence obtained provides such a basis.

Putnam County Memorial Hospital ("PCMH") notes however that although the objective of determining or evaluating the effectiveness of a program is discussed within the *Government Auditing Standards* ("GAS"), (See *Chapter 2 Standards for Use and Application of GAGAS*) cited by the Auditor's team, the Audit did not include in its list of objectives the objective to determine or evaluate the effectiveness of the PCMH. Nor did it identify any other context in which the identified Objectives are to be viewed.

Nor does the Audit identify, let alone with any specificity, the source of alleged evidence of many of its conclusions; therefore it is impossible to determine the "appropriateness" of that evidence" therefore puts in doubt the existence of a "reasonable basis" for the Drafts findings and conclusions.

Below we will identify, as best we can, those conclusions reached by the Auditor's team of most concern to the PCMH's.

1. LACK OF BOARD OVERSIGHT.

In Section 1, page 7, the Draft alleges that the Board:

- does not provide sufficient oversight over activities of the hospital,
- did not perform sufficient due diligence over the awarding and development of management contracts, and
- did not ensure personnel were in place to monitor the activities of contracted management companies.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Auditee Responses

Such allegations are made without reference to any legal authority, including but not limited to any statutory provision with which the PCMH was not in compliance in reference to §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo that authorizes the establishment of County Hospitals and their respective Boards, or any properly promulgated rules or regulations passed or adopted by the Missouri General Assembly, or the State of Missouri's Auditor ("Auditor"), or any Ordinance or Resolution passed or adopted by the Putnam County Commission ("County"), or any bylaw of the Board of Trustees of the PMCH ("Board") in regard to oversight responsibilities of the Board.

In fact, Missouri statutes provide that the board of hospital trustees shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for its own guidance and for the government of the hospital *as may be deemed expedient for the economic and equitable conduct thereof*, not inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo, and the ordinances of the city or town wherein such public hospital is located. §205.190 RSMo. The Auditor's team has failed to identify how or to what extent the Board acted contrary to, or inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo.

Nor did the Draft identify any industry standards in regard to the duties of the Board of Trustees of a County Hospital in the State of Missouri, or any other private or public hospital industry standard.

The Draft further states that as a result of the above lack of oversight:

- (1) Excessive compensation has been paid to management company officials,
- (2) Loans to the hospital occurred without the Board's knowledge and without the Board agreeing to loan terms,
- (3) Questionable employee reimbursements have occurred,
- (4) Employee's wages earned were not properly reported to the state and federal government,
- (5) Significant decisions related to the offering of services have been made without adequate information being provided to the Board, and
- (6) Out-of-state employees have been placed on the hospital payroll.

Such allegations are made without reference to any legal authority, including but not limited to any statutory provision with which the PCMH was not in compliance in reference to §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo that authorizes the establishment of County Hospitals and their respective Boards, or any properly promulgated rules or regulations passed or adopted by the Missouri General Assembly, or the Auditor, or any Ordinance or Resolution passed or adopted by the County, or any bylaw of the Board in regard to oversight responsibilities of the Board.

In fact, Missouri statutes provide that the board of hospital trustees shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for its own guidance and for the government of the hospital *as may be deemed expedient for the economic and equitable conduct thereof*, not inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo, and the ordinances of the city or town wherein such public hospital is located. §205.190



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Auditee Responses

RSMo. The Draft fails to identify how or to what extent the Board acted contrary to, or inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo.

Nor did the Draft identify any industry standards in regard to the duties of the Board of Trustees of a County Hospital in the State of Missouri, or any other private or public hospital industry standard.

1.1 MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS:

a. Proposals not formally requested, procured, or analyzed.

The Draft alleges the "...Board did not perform sufficient due diligence over the process of awarding management contracts."

However, in spite of the standards expressed within the GAS, the Draft fails to identify the Authority upon which such allegation is based or to provide "sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for her findings and conclusion."

Once again, such allegations are made without reference to any legal authority, including but not limited to any statutory provision with which the PCMH was not in compliance in reference to §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo that authorizes the establishment of County Hospitals and their respective Boards, or any properly promulgated rules or regulations passed or adopted by the Missouri General Assembly, or the Auditor, or any Ordinance or Resolution passed or adopted by the County, or any bylaw of the Board in regard to oversight responsibilities of the Board.

Again, Missouri statutes provide that the board of hospital trustees shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for its own guidance and for the government of the hospital *as may be deemed expedient for the economic and equitable conduct thereof*, not inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo, and the ordinances of the city or town wherein such public hospital is located. §205.190 RSMo. The Auditor's team has failed to identify how or to what extent the Board acted contrary to, or inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo.

Nor did the Draft identify any Industry standards in regard to the duties of the Board of Trustees of a County Hospital in the State of Missouri, or any other private or public hospital industry standard.

The Draft further alleges the Board did not adequately document how decisions related to the hiring of management companies were made or retain sufficient documentation to show they conferred with legal counsel prior to entering into management contracts.

The Draft fails to state upon what standards the Auditor's team relied in drawing such conclusions. Are such standards available to the Board and/or the County for review? Were such industry standards offered or made available to the County, the Board or the Management Company? The Draft fails to identify what would constitute "adequate" documentation or what constitutes "retention of sufficient documentation to show they conferred with legal counsel prior to entering into management contracts".

The finding and conclusion that the Board failed to retain "...sufficient documentation to show they conferred with legal counsel prior to entering into management contracts" and then turn such documentation over to the Auditor's team could be interpreted by the Auditor, the Auditor's team or



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Auditee Responses

other third parties, as a waiver of the Attorney-client Privilege enjoyed by the Board and the County, as well as, a waiver of the Confidentiality of Work Product of their Counsel. To force the Board or the County to waive their Attorney Client Privilege would be inappropriate. The Draft fails to cite any legal authority the Auditor has to order, or to directly or indirectly intimidate, the PCMH to waive its attorney client privileged and confidential communications.

A most important question for the Auditor's team is why they gave little weight to the fact that the Board indicated to the Auditor's team that the Board discussed with other entities the possibility of providing management services to the hospital prior to entering into both of the agreements; however, no other firms ultimately expressed interest in managing the hospital.

The Draft provides no evidence, let alone "sufficient appropriate evidence," as to why they question the credibility of the Board or the County. The Auditor's team fails to cite any statutory or regulatory provision that defines what constitutes "formal bids" or requirement that "formal bids or proposals for such services" be requested.

The Draft also fails to identify any Industry standard in regard to the duties of the Board of Trustees of a County Hospital in the State of Missouri, or any other private or public hospital industry standard, that would define or articulate the appropriate process for hiring a management company to operate the PCMH based upon the facts and issues relevant to PCMH.

The Draft states that "Based on conversations with Board members and a review of meeting minutes, all discussions related to the management services contracts were informal in nature, with little specific information documented, and no critical evaluation of the contract being proposed."

In regard to "appropriate evidence" as required by GAS, the Draft fails to provide any documentation, transcription or recording of said interviews of Board members, or which Board members were interviewed, when and for how long. The Draft fails to define what constitutes "formal or informal contractual discussions." It fails to identify the specific information requested, let alone required. The Draft fails to cite any statute, rule or industry standard that would delineate information the Board or County was required to seek and document.

The Draft fails to define what constitutes a "critical evaluation of the contract being proposed" and fails to cite any standards, guidelines, statute or rule upon which they base your conclusion.

The Board and/or County had engaged in long discussions with Blessing Hospital. However when Blessing Hospital decided not to enter into an agreement, time was of the essence. Three other companies were contacted, but once they learned of PCMH's financial condition, Hospital Partners, Inc. was the only one who agreed to meet with the Board. The Board and the County felt PCMH was within days of closing and had already stopped many of its services. To fail to expedite the process would have meant termination of services to the patients and citizens PCMH serves.

b. Contract not reviewed by legal counsel

The statement "Contract not reviewed by legal counsel" highlighted in the margin of the Draft is not true, as proven by the content of the Draft itself. While the headline highlighted in the margin states that the Contract was not reviewed by legal counsel, the text of the draft states:



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Auditee Responses

The Board could not provide *adequate* documentation to show they conferred with legal counsel prior to entering into the management contract with Hospital Partners. The Board signed the agreement without *adequate* legal counsel input despite the County Commission's offer to pay for legal services and despite the contract being drafted by the entity being contracted with. *A local attorney confirmed to our auditors that he read the proposed agreement around September 2016; however, no compensation was paid for those services and the attorney could not provide specific details on what services the Board requested. In addition, the Board provided limited correspondence between the County Commission's attorney and Hospital Partners which indicated an attorney acting as an agent for the County Commission reviewed the agreement. (Emphasis added)*

Again to allege or infer inappropriate conduct by the Board because they "...[did] not provide adequate documentation to show they conferred with legal counsel prior to entering into management contracts", or that "the attorney could not provide specific details on what services the Board requested", and that "the Board provided limited correspondence between the County Commission's attorney and Hospital Partners which indicated an attorney acting as an agent for the County Commission reviewed the agreement", and to ignore the fact that "A local attorney confirmed to our auditors that he read the proposed agreement around September 2016", could be interpreted by the Auditor, the Auditor's team or other third parties, as and inappropriate conduct on their part in seeking to force or intimidate the Board or the County to waive their Attorney Client Confidentiality and Privilege. Any compliance with such request could be interpreted by a third party as a waiver of the Attorney-client Privilege enjoyed by the Board and the County, as well as, a waiver of the Confidentiality of Work Product of their Counsel.

The Draft fails to cite any legal authority they had or have to request the PCMH or the County to waive their attorney client privileged and confidential communications. *(Emphasis added)*

As such, any direct or indirect allegation, any direct or indirect inference of a lack of "adequate" or "sufficient" legal advice should be deleted from any final Audit and redacted from any drafts retained by the Auditor's Office.

In regard to specific provisions of the contract, the Draft fails to cite any statutory authority or case law that would support their allegation that PCMH extended "...public funds to cover costs associate with mismanagement or fraudulent actions" and is silent as to the impact of the protections of sovereign immunity and §105.711 RSMo, upon the scenario presented by the Auditor's team.

1.2 OVERSIGHT OF MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION:

a. Practice Plus raises; Hospital Partners compensation and fees.

The Draft alleges:

"The Board did not ensure personnel were in place to provide oversight of management company activities, and did not provide sufficient direct oversight of the compensation paid to management companies, including salaries paid to executive administration personnel. The process to award raises to management companies and executive administrative personnel is not formalized as part of the management



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Auditee Responses

contract. As a result, administrators received raises without clear justification, and in the case of Hospital Partners, payments of salaries and management fees occurred without Board approval....

Board members indicated they based the decision to provide these raises on documentation provided by the CEO and COO indicating salaries of comparable positions at peer hospitals. The Board did not have any defined measurable performance standards or goals outlined to base the decision. By granting a significant increase in the contracted salaries paid to these officials during a time of extreme financial distress, the Board further harmed the hospital's financial position."

Such allegations are made without reference to any legal authority, including but not limited to any statutory provision with which the PCMH was not in compliance in reference to §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo that authorizes the establishment of County Hospitals and their respective Boards, or any properly promulgated rules or regulations passed or adopted by the Missouri General Assembly, or the Auditor, or any Ordinance or Resolution passed or adopted by the County, or any bylaw of the Board in regard to oversight responsibilities of the Board.

In fact, Missouri statutes provide that the board of hospital trustees shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for its own guidance and for the government of the hospital *as may be deemed expedient for the economic and equitable conduct thereof*, not inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo, and the ordinances of the city or town wherein such public hospital is located. §205.190 RSMo. The Draft has failed to identify how or to what extent the Board acted contrary to, or inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo.

Nor did the Draft identify any Industry standards in regard to the duties of the Board of Trustees of a County Hospital in the State of Missouri, or any other private or public hospital industry standard.

In regard to the Practice Plus compensation issues and terms of the Hospital Partners contract, additional time to review is needed before PCMH can adequately comment on the Draft's statements and conclusions, as PCMH has just recently retained Mr. Joe Bednar as legal counsel for representation of PCMH as to any issues arising out of or related to the Draft, and he requests additional time to supplement this portion of the PCMH response.

1.3 LABORATORY CONTRACTS AND QUESTIONABLE LABORATORY BILLINGS:

The Draft alleges:

The Board has not provided appropriate oversight of laboratory contracts entered into by the new CEO/management company President. As a result, the hospital is incurring unnecessary payroll costs, and is involved in questionable laboratory billing practices.

Such allegations are made without reference to any legal authority, including but not limited to any statutory provision with which the PCMH was not in compliance in reference to §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo that authorizes the establishment of County Hospitals and their respective Boards, or any properly promulgated rules or regulations passed or adopted by the Missouri General Assembly, or the Auditor, or any Ordinance or Resolution passed or adopted by the County, or any bylaw of the Board in regard to oversight responsibilities of the Board.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Auditee Responses

In fact, Missouri statutes provide that the board of hospital trustees shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for its own guidance and for the government of the hospital *as may be deemed expedient for the economic and equitable conduct thereof*, not inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo, and the ordinances of the city or town wherein such public hospital is located. §205.190 RSMo. The Draft has failed to identify how or to what extent the Board acted contrary to, or inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo.

Nor did the Draft identify any industry standards in regard to the duties of the Board of Trustees of a County Hospital in the State of Missouri, or any other private or public hospital industry standard.

a. Laboratory contract and payroll costs.

The Draft alleges:

In October 2016, the hospital contracted with Hospital Laboratory Partners, LLC3 (Hospital Lab Partners) to operate all clinical and operational aspects of a clinical laboratory on behalf of the hospital. The Board did not formally approve the contract, did not provide any oversight of the terms of the contract, and was not aware of any of the contract's terms or the hospital's obligations to the contractor. Due to this lack of oversight, beginning in November 2016 the CEO added payroll expenses of approximately \$68,000 per month for 33 phlebotomists to facilitate laboratory activity, in violation of the contract's terms. The hospital's laboratory contract specifically states such expenses are the responsibility of the laboratory contractor. The Board did not approve the addition of these positions....

Oversight by the Board of significant contracts is necessary to ensure the financial best interests of the hospital are served.

Such allegations are made without reference to any legal authority, including but not limited to any statutory provision with which the PCMH was not in compliance in reference to §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo that authorizes the establishment of County Hospitals and their respective Boards, or any properly promulgated rules or regulations passed or adopted by the Missouri General Assembly, or the Auditor, or any Ordinance or Resolution passed or adopted by the County, or any bylaw of the Board in regard to oversight responsibilities of the Board.

In fact, Missouri statutes provide that the board of hospital trustees shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for its own guidance and for the government of the hospital *as may be deemed expedient for the economic and equitable conduct thereof*, not inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo, and the ordinances of the city or town wherein such public hospital is located. §205.190 RSMo. The Draft has failed to identify how or to what extent the Board acted contrary to, or inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo.

Nor did the Draft identify any Industry standards in regard to the duties of the Board of Trustees of a County Hospital in the State of Missouri, or any other private or public hospital industry standard.

b. Questionable laboratory billing practices.

The Draft alleges:



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Auditee Responses

The hospital's laboratory contract with Hospital Lab Partners has resulted in a significant increase of questionable revenues from laboratory billings of health insurance companies.

The Draft does not offer any, let alone sufficient, appropriate evidence that the revenue increase is unlawful, or inappropriate, or inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo, and the ordinances of the County. §205.190 RSMo, and therefore until the Auditor's team can produce such appropriate evidence to PCMH, any such allegations or inferences should be deleted from the report.

In regard to the hospital's laboratory contract with Hospital Lab Partners, the issues and terms of the contract, more review is needed before PCMH can adequately comment on the Draft audit in regard to questionable billing practices, as PCMH has just recently retained Mr. Joe Bednar as legal counsel for representation of PCMH as to any issues arising out of or related to the Draft Auditor's Report, and the Auditor's team has not been able to provide any details as to the claim, including the name of the person making the claim, the actual facts supporting the claim, or the companies making the claim. Without such information it is impossible to provide an adequate response to an allegation based upon double or triple hearsay.

c. Laboratory subcontractors.

As previously stated, Missouri statutes provide that the board of hospital trustees shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for its own guidance and for the government of the hospital *as may be deemed expedient for the economic and equitable conduct thereof*, not inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo, and the ordinances of the city or town wherein such public hospital is located. §205.190 RSMo. The Draft fails to identify how, or to what extent, the Board is acting, or has acted, contrary to §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo.

Nor did the Draft identify any industry standards in regard to the duties of the Board of Trustees of a County Hospital in the State of Missouri, or any other private or public hospital industry standard.

In regard to the hospital's laboratory contract with Hospital Lab Partners issues and terms of the contract and those arising out of the contract, more review is needed before PCMH can adequately comment on the Draft audit, as PCMH has just recently retained Mr. Joe Bednar as legal counsel for representation of PCMH as to any issues arising out of or related to the Draft Auditor's Report.

It is noted that the Draft has not offered any appropriate evidence that the payments made were not for legitimate hospital business, and therefore until the Auditor's team can produce such proof to PCMH, any such allegations or inferences should be deleted from the report.

d. Questionable use of phlebotomy services.

As previously stated, Missouri statutes provide that the board of hospital trustees shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for its own guidance and for the government of the hospital *as may be deemed expedient for the economic and equitable conduct thereof*, not inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo, and the ordinances of the city or town wherein such public hospital is located. §205.190 RSMo. The Draft has failed to identify how, or to what extent, the Board of PCMH is acting, or has acted, contrary to §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Auditee Responses

Nor did the Draft identify any Industry standards in regard to the duties of the Board of Trustees of a County Hospital in the State of Missouri, or any other private or public hospital industry standard.

In regard to the hospital's laboratory contract with Hospital Lab Partners issues and terms of the contract and those arising out of the contract, including but not limited to the staffing issues, more review is needed before PCMH can adequately comment on the Draft audit, as PCMH has just recently retained Mr. Joe Bednar as legal counsel for representation of PCMH as to any issues arising out of or related to the Draft Auditor's Report.

It is noted that the Draft has not offered any appropriate evidence that the staffing decisions made were not for legitimate hospital business, and therefore until the Auditor's team can produce such proof to PCMH, any such allegations or inferences should be deleted from the report.

1.4 LOAN AGREEMENT:

The Auditor's team alleges:

The Board did not provide sufficient oversight to be aware the CEO entered the hospital into a verbal loan agreement with Hospital Partners and Empower Investment Group.

As previously stated, Missouri statutes provide that the board of hospital trustees shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for its own guidance and for the government of the hospital *as may be deemed expedient for the economic and equitable conduct thereof*, not inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo, and the ordinances of the city or town wherein such public hospital is located. §205.190 RSMo. The Auditor's team has failed to identify how or to what extent the Board of PCMH is acting, or has acted, contrary to §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo.

Nor did the Draft identify any industry standards in regard to the duties of the Board of Trustees of a County Hospital in the State of Missouri, or any other private or public hospital industry standard.

In regard to the Hospital Partners contract, the issues and terms of the contract and those arising out of the contract, including but not limited to the loan agreement, more review is needed before PCMH can adequately comment on the Draft, as PCMH has just recently retained Mr. Joe Bednar as legal counsel for representation of PCMH as to any issues arising out of or related to the Draft Auditor's Report.

In addition the Auditor's team alleges:

As a result of the Board's lack of oversight, the hospital was not in compliance with Section 432.070, RSMo, which requires contracts for political subdivisions to be in writing.

The Auditor's team fails to offer any legal support that the PCMH, or its Board is a political subdivision.

1.4 Questionable travel reimbursements and unreported compensation:

The Auditor's team alleges:



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Auditee Responses

The Board does not have adequate procedures in place to provide sufficient oversight and ensure all travel reimbursements are reasonable and proper. Additionally, the hospital does not properly report all employee's wages earned to the state and federal government.

As previously stated, Missouri statutes provide that the board of hospital trustees shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for its own guidance and for the government of the hospital *as may be deemed expedient for the economic and equitable conduct thereof*, not inconsistent with §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo, and the ordinances of the city or town wherein such public hospital is located. §205.190 RSMo. The Auditor's team has failed to identify how or to what extent the Board of PCMH is acting, or has acted, contrary to §205.160 to 205.340 RSMo.

Nor did the Auditor's team identify any Industry standards in regard to the duties of the Board of Trustees of a County Hospital in the State of Missouri, or any other private or public hospital industry standard.

In regard to the Hospital Partners contract, the issues and terms of the contract and those arising out of the contract, including but not limited to the compensation and travel reimbursements, more review is needed before PCMH can adequately comment on the Draft, as PCMH has just recently retained Mr. Joe Bednar as legal counsel for representation of PCMH as to any issues arising out of or related to the Draft Auditor's Report.



Putnam County Memorial Hospital
Auditee Responses

Auditor's Comment

The audit documents significant issues requiring the immediate action of the Board. However, the above responses primarily attempt to deflect the Board's responsibility and discount the areas of concern by attempting to discredit the audit work performed. The responses further show a lack of understanding of government auditing standards and demonstrate the Board's clear lack of understanding of its oversight responsibility regarding the hospital. The response states the audit fails to identify how the Board's actions were contrary to or inconsistent with state law, however, audit standards do not require auditors prove mismanagement is not in accordance with law; only that a condition is significant in relation to the subject matter. As required by government auditing standards, the audit provides sufficient, appropriate evidence of mismanagement, including the cause and effect of such action, and provides a reasonable basis to support its findings, conclusions, and recommendations.