

**Questions for the Trinity Memorial Hospital District Board – July 15, 2019 meeting**  
**Submitted by Claudette Loper**

1. *Where will the doctors, RN's lab technician and radiology personnel (be)coming from?*
2. *How far will they drive to get here?*
3. *What type of scheduling rotation will be in place for changing shifts?*

**The Emergency Department in Trinity will be a department of the CHI-St.Luke's Hospital in Livingston. It will be managed by that hospital and will conform to all the standards for quality care that the CHI-St.Luke's hospital system is known for.**

1. The personnel will be employed by/or contracted with CHI St. Luke's Livingston for the Trinity Emergency Department. They will be onsite in the ER at all times.
  2. They will be onsite in the ER at all times, 24/7.
  3. The scheduling will be made by CHI St. Luke's Livingston. It is anticipated that it will be standard hospital shifts (12 hour or 8 hour shifts).
4. *What will be the total cost to update all the necessary equipment?*  
The projected start up cost for equipment is \$101 K for radiology, \$203K for the lab and \$100K for IT. The Board is working with HealthPoint to obtain grants to cover some of this start up cost.
  5. *How many inspections do we have to pass before opening?*  
The lab, radiology and ER will need to be approved by the corresponding departments of Texas Health and Human Services.
  6. *What will be our financial gain with this partnership?*  
Partnering with CHI St. Luke's Livingston will allow Medicare and Medicaid billing as a hospital based ER, a significantly higher rate than a free standing ER. The Hospital licenses carry over to the hospital department located in Trinity and there will be no delay in payment for services. If the Board had chosen to look at the Free Standing Emergency Room, rather than the hospital based Emergency Room, the estimated cost would have been over \$5 Million/year instead of the projected \$1.6 Million in Year One.
  7. *What is the financial arrangement with HealthPoint?*  
TMHD has a Federally Qualified Health Center Support Agreement with HealthPoint in the amount of \$343,548 for the first year to operate the clinic and provide medical and clinic care. The Hospital District is required by law to provide support for indigent care in the district and a portion of this support meets that requirement.
  8. *Are we paying them or are they paying us?*  
HealthPoint pays TMHD rent and for clinic utilities. TMHD pays the support amount shown above.
  9. *Will our support of HealthPoint ever be ZERO DOLLARS?*  
It is anticipated that the TMHD support for HealthPoint will decrease and that at some point HealthPoint will be self-supporting.  
Note: Contracting with HealthPoint has greatly lowered the district support needed to maintain the clinic, because as a Federally Qualified Health Center it receives higher reimbursements from the federal government designated for poor and rural communities than either CHI or ETMC could.
  10. *How many exam rooms do you plan to have equipment available?*  
In the Emergency Department in Trinity there are 2 trauma rooms, two one bed procedure rooms, and one large 2-bed procedure room. These have been and remain fully equipped.

**11. *What equipment will need to be purchased?***

The radiology equipment already onsite will need to be digitalized. Some lab equipment that will need to be leased or purchased as will IT equipment. These needs have been and will continue to be reviewed by staff at CHI-St.Luke's and associated costs reviewed with the board. A preliminary estimate is included in response to question #4.

**12. *How much will the lab be able to process in house and how much will be sent out for test?***

Protocol for the lab work will be set by CHI-St.Luke's.

**13. *What networks will be accepted from this Emergency Room?***

CHI St. Luke's has third party contracts with a wide range of insurance companies. They accept Medicare and Medicaid, and do not turn patient's away. If the patient does not have an emergency condition, they will be referred to the clinic