



Ferry County Public Hospital District

Improving Health – Saving Lives

Board Duties and Responsibilities

With this article, we are returning to the “board duties and responsibilities” theme. Specifically this article will summarize the process for determining the guiding principles and allocation of resources of Ferry County Public Hospital District. This process is “Strategic Planning” and, since FCPHD is a public entity, involves the input of the district’s staff and administration, members of the community it serves, and board. The following is a summary of a typical strategic plan’s components.

The keystone upon which the plan is built is the “mission statement”, which is articulated in a broad statement of the unique purpose for which the organization exists and the specific function it performs. “Belief statements” establishes moral and ethical priorities that serve to guide all the district’s activities, its fundamental convictions, its value, its character. The “vision statement(s)” states, in a long term view, what the organization is to become in fulfilling its mission statement, while also being true to the beliefs, and after consideration of the environmental analysis. The environmental analysis encompasses identifying and analyzing competition; organizational structure, strengths and weaknesses; and outside forces over which the organization has little, if any, control such as political, socioeconomic, and technological changes, etc. The “vision statement” then serves to describe what is to be and set the direction of change to create the future organization.

The mission, vision and belief statements provide the framework from which the operational portion of the plan is developed and implement toward achieving those statements. The operational portion of the plan are “objectives”, “strategies” and “action plans”. “Objectives” are an expression of the desired, measurable end results for the organization and are practical, specific manifestations of the mission. “Strategies”, used here in a narrower sense of the word strategy, refers to the means used to achieve the objectives in the organization and its major parts. The objectives are the what; the strategies are the how. “Action Plans” insure that the strategies are implemented. They include specific assignments of tasks to individuals within the organization in implementing strategies; they provide a means and timeline for measuring both individual and organizational performance; and they provide an effective system of accountability.

Your board is currently in the process of updating our current plan and will be meeting in a workshop session on January 6th to receive and review the initial environmental analysis portion of the strategic planning process. By late winter we anticipate finalization of an updated plan for the operational portion of the plan. We will be sharing our progress and seeking your input by scheduling public involvement meetings during the process and thank you in advance for participating.

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