

Office of the Washington State Auditor Pat McCarthy

November 4, 2019

Board of Commissioners

Dayton General Hospital and Columbia County Health System

Dayton, Washington

Contracted CPA Firm's Audit Report on Financial Statements

We have reviewed the audit report issued by a certified public accounting (CPA) firm on the financial statements of Dayton General Hospital and Columbia County Health System for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017. The District contracted with the CPA firm for this audit and requested that we accept it in lieu of performing our own audit.

Based on this review, we have accepted this report in lieu of the audit required by RCW 43.09.260. The Office of the Washington State Auditor did not audit the accompanying financial statements and accordingly, we do not express an opinion on those financial statements.

This report is being published on the Office of the Washington State Auditor website as a matter of public record.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy

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State Auditor

Olympia, WA

Access Letter Requires Authorization before disclosure.

Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System

Basic Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Reports

December 31, 2018 and 2017



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Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System Table of Contents

	Page
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT	1-2
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:	
Statements of net position	3-4
Statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position	5
Statements of cash flows	6-7
Notes to basic financial statements	8-22
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS	23-24
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES	25-28
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS	29



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Commissioners Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System Dayton, Washington

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, and the changes in its financial position and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 5 to the financial statements, in 2018 the entity adopted new accounting guidance for irrevocable split-interest agreements. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Required Supplementary Information

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 8, 2019, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters for the year ended December 31, 2018. We issued a similar report for the year ended December 31, 2017, dated May 16, 2018, which has not been included with the 2018 financial and compliance report. The purpose of those reports is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing for each year, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. Those reports are an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Dingus, Zarecor & Associates PLLC

Spokane Valley, Washington April 8, 2019

Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System Statements of Net Position December 31, 2018 and 2017

ASSETS	2018	2017
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 642,280	\$ 1,184,733
Receivables:		
Patient accounts, net of estimated uncollectibles	3,830,330	3,067,385
Estimated third-party payor settlements	670,692	453,070
Taxes	9,996	9,784
Taxes receivable restricted for bond principal		
and interest payments	16,163	14,944
Other	28,800	-
Inventories	310,344	308,535
Prepaid expenses	120,928	135,027
Patient trust fund assets	6,582	6,853
Cash and cash equivalents restricted or limited as to use	926,840	681,411
Total current assets	6,562,955	5,861,742
Noncurrent assets		
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	8,246,114	9,193,047
Cash and cash equivalents restricted as to use	-	33,623
Beneficial interest in charitable trust	2,420,990	2,476,011
Total noncurrent assets	10,667,104	11,702,681
Total assets	\$ 17,230,059	\$ 17,564,423

Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System Statements of Net Position (Continued) December 31, 2018 and 2017

LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOW OF RESOURCES,

AND NET POSITION		2018		2017
Current liabilities				
Current maturities of long-term debt	\$	790,050	\$	720,446
Accounts payable	Ψ	1,750,420	Ψ	1,232,407
Accrued compensation and related liabilities		734,420		657,967
Accrued interest payable		34,975		37,093
Patient trust fund		6,582		6,853
Total current liabilities		3,316,447		2,654,766
Noncurrent liabilities				
Construction accounts payable		_		333,457
Long-term debt, less current maturities		9,419,730		10,046,135
Total noncurrent liabilities		9,419,730		10,379,592
Total liabilities		12,736,177		13,034,358
Deferred inflow of resources				
from beneficial interest				
in charitable trust		2,420,990		2,476,011
Net position				
Net investment in capital assets		(1,169,155)		(976,152)
Restricted for debt service		938,796		692,160
Unrestricted		2,303,251		2,338,046
Total net position		2,072,892		2,054,054
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position	\$	17,230,059	\$	17,564,423

Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
Operating revenues		
Net patient service revenue	\$ 18,252,296 \$	17,056,906
Grants	201,732	262,130
Other	246,005	161,179
Total operating revenues	18,700,033	17,480,215
Operating expenses		
Salaries and wages	8,733,794	7,842,576
Employee benefits	1,535,309	1,366,713
Purchased services	5,561,353	5,167,461
Supplies	1,789,389	1,540,152
Depreciation	1,187,551	1,048,897
Utilities	378,754	367,822
Insurance	144,655	138,076
Leases and rentals	194,164	139,803
Other	445,680	364,994
Total operating expenses	19,970,649	17,976,494
Operating loss	(1,270,616)	(496,279)
Nonoperating revenues (expenses)		
Taxation for maintenance and operations	647,966	592,502
Taxation for bond principal and interest	1,025,695	998,109
Contributions	63,806	65,894
Investment income	13,534	13,347
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	(20,837)
Interest expense	(461,547)	(362,659)
Total nonoperating revenues, net	1,289,454	1,286,356
Change in net position	18,838	790,077
Net position, beginning of year	2,054,054	1,263,977
Net position, end of year	\$ 2,072,892 \$	2,054,054

Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System Statements of Cash Flows Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from and on behalf of patients	\$ 17,271,729	\$ 16,102,955
Receipts from operating grants	172,932	262,130
Receipts from other revenue	246,005	161,179
Payments to and on behalf of employees	(10,192,650)	(9,161,274)
Payments to suppliers and contractors	(7,983,693)	(7,559,852)
Net cash used in operating activities	(485,677)	(194,862)
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities		
Taxation for maintenance and operations	647,754	593,534
Noncapital contributions	63,806	65,894
Principal paid on long-term debt	(44,814)	(42,429)
Interest paid on long-term debt	(33,120)	(34,936)
Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities	633,626	582,063
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities		
Taxation for bond principal and interest	1,024,476	999,152
Proceeds from issuance of debt	200,000	-
Purchase of capital assets	(574,075)	(2,402,508)
Principal paid on long-term debt	(711,987)	(636,934)
Interest paid on long-term debt	(430,544)	(329,774)
Net cash used in capital and related financing activities	(492,130)	(2,370,064)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	13,534	13,347
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(330,647)	(1,969,516)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	1,899,767	3,869,283
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 1,569,120	\$ 1,899,767

Noncash Investing, Capital, and Financing Activities

During 2017, the District issued a note payable to GE Government Finance, Inc., in the amount of \$315,649, for the purchase of a computer tomography machine, which is recorded in capital assets.

Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System Statements of Cash Flows (Continued) Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
Reconciliation of Cash and Cash Equivalents to the Statements of Net Position		
Cash and cash equivalents in current assets	\$ 642,280	\$ 1,184,733
Cash and cash equivalents in current assets restricted or limited as to use	926,840	681,411
Cash and cash equivalents in noncurrent assets restricted as to use	-	33,623
Total cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,569,120	\$ 1,899,767
Reconciliation of Operating Loss to Net Cash		
Used in Operating Activities		
Operating loss	\$ (1,270,616)	\$ (496,279)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash		
used in operating activities		
Provision for bad debts	961,836	557,109
Depreciation	1,187,551	1,048,897
Change in:		
Patient accounts receivable	(1,724,781)	(771,935
Estimated third-party payor settlements receivable	(217,622)	(305,070
Other receivable	(28,800)	-
Inventories	(1,810)	(97,498
Prepaid expenses	14,099	(86,499
Accounts payable	518,013	342,453
Patient refunds payable	-	(113,316)
Estimated third-party payor settlements payable	-	(320,739)
Accrued compensation and related liabilities	76,453	48,015
Net cash used in operating activities	\$ (485,677)	\$ (194,862)

1. Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

a. Reporting Entity

Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System (the District) owns and operates Dayton General Hospital, a critical access hospital; Booker Rest Home Annex, a nursing home facility; and Columbia Family Clinic; all in Dayton, Washington, and Waitsburg Clinic in Waitsburg, Washington. The District provides healthcare services to patients in the Columbia County and Waitsburg, Washington, areas. The services provided include an acute care hospital, long-term nursing care, emergency room, physicians' clinics, and the related ancillary procedures (laboratory, imaging, therapy, etc.).

The District operates under the laws of the state of Washington for Washington municipal corporations. As organized, the District is exempt from payment of federal income tax. The Board of Commissioners consists of five District residents elected to six-year terms.

b. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Use of estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Estimates also affect the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Enterprise fund accounting – The District's accounting policies conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applicable to proprietary funds of governments. The District uses enterprise fund accounting. Revenues and expenses are recognized on the accrual basis using the economic resources measurement focus.

Cash and cash equivalents – All cash receipts are deposited directly to the District's depository account at a bank. Periodically, such cash is transferred to the Columbia County Treasurer, and the warrants are paid by the County Treasurer from this cash fund. For purposes of the statements of cash flows, the District considers all cash and cash investments with original maturity dates less than 90 days as cash and cash equivalents.

Prepaid expenses – Prepaid expenses are expenses paid during the year relating to expenses incurred in future periods. Prepaid expenses are amortized over the expected benefit period of the related expense. Prepaid expenses include prepaid insurance and other expenses.

Inventories – Inventories are stated at cost on the first-in, first-out method. Inventories consist of pharmaceutical, medical-surgical, and other supplies used in the District's operation.

Assets limited as to use — Assets limited as to use include assets held under bond indenture agreements for debt repayment and assets set aside by the Board of Commissioners for specific purposes over which the Board retains control and could subsequently use for other purposes.

1. Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

b. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Capital assets – The District capitalizes assets whose costs exceed \$5,000 and have an estimated useful life of at least two years. Major expenses for capital assets, including repairs that increase the useful lives, are capitalized. Maintenance, repairs, and minor renewals are accounted for as expenses when incurred. Capital assets are reported at historical cost or their estimated fair value at the date of donation. Depreciation is provided over the estimated useful life of each class of depreciable asset and computed using the straight-line method. Useful lives have been estimated as follows:

Land improvements	10-20 years
Buildings	5-50 years
Fixed equipment	2-15 years
Major movable equipment	2-15 years

Accrued vacation – The District's policy is to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused paid time off and holiday benefits up to a maximum of 256 to 464 hours, depending on years of service. Upon termination, the unused paid time off accrual is cashed out at a rate of one-half earned days. The related liability is accrued during the period in which it is earned.

Net position – Net position of the District is classified into three components. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the current balances of any outstanding borrowings used to finance the purchase or construction of those assets. Restricted net position is noncapital net position that must be used for a particular purpose, as specified by creditors, grantors, or contributors external to the District. Unrestricted net position is remaining net position that does not meet the definition of net investment in capital assets or restricted.

Operating revenues and expenses – The District's statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position distinguish between operating and nonoperating revenues and expenses. Operating revenues result from exchange transactions, including grants for specific operating activities associated with providing healthcare services—the District's principal activity. Nonexchange revenues, including taxes and contributions received for purposes other than capital asset acquisition, are reported as nonoperating revenues. Operating expenses are all expenses incurred to provide healthcare services, other than financing costs.

Restricted resources — When the District has both restricted and unrestricted resources available to finance a particular program, it is the District's policy to use restricted resources before unrestricted resources.

Grants and contributions – From time to time, the District receives grants from the state of Washington and others as well as contributions from individuals and private organizations. Revenues from grants and contributions (including contributions of capital assets) are recognized when all eligibility requirements are met. Grants and contributions may be restricted for either specific operating purposes or for capital purposes. Amounts restricted to capital acquisitions are reported after nonoperating revenues and expenses. Grants that are for specific projects or purposes related to the District's operating activities are reported as operating revenue. Grants that are used to subsidize operating deficits are reported as nonoperating revenue. Contributions, except for capital contributions, are reported as nonoperating revenue.

1. Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

b. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Reclassifications – Certain reclassifications have been made to the 2017 financial statements to conform to the classifications used in the 2018 financial statements, with no effect on previously reported change in net position.

Subsequent events – The District has evaluated subsequent events through April 8, 2019, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.

Upcoming accounting standard pronouncements – In June 2017, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 87, Leases, which increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases previously classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible asset representing the lessee's right to use the leased asset, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities. The new guidance is effective for the District's year ending December 30, 2020, although earlier application is encouraged. The District has not elected to implement this statement early; however, management is still evaluating the impact, if any, of this statement in the year of adoption.

In March 2018, the GASB issued Statement No. 88, Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, Including Direct Borrowing and Direct Placements, to improve the information that is disclosed in governmental entity financial statements related to debt, including direct borrowing and direct placements. It also clarifies which liabilities government entities should include when disclosing information related to debt. The statement defines debt and requires additional essential information related to debt to be disclosed in the notes to financial statements, including unused lines of credit, assets pledged as collateral for the debt, and terms specified in debt agreements related to significant events of default with finance-related consequences, significant termination events with finance-related consequences, and significant subjective acceleration clauses. This statement also requires that existing and additional information be provided for direct borrowings and direct placement of debt separately from other debt. The new guidance is effective for the District's year ending December 31, 2019, although earlier application is encouraged. The District has not elected to implement this statement early; however, management is still evaluating the impact, if any, of this statement in the year of adoption.

In June 2018, the GASB issued Statement No. 89, *Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred Before the End of a Construction Period*. The objectives of this statement are (1) to enhance the relevance and comparability of information about capital assets and the cost borrowing for a reporting period and (2) to simplify accounting for interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period. The new guidance is effective for the year ending December 31, 2020. Management is currently evaluating the effect this statement will have on the financial statements and related disclosures.

2. Bank Deposits and Investments:

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the District's deposits may not be refunded to it.

The District's deposits are entirely covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or by collateral held in a multiple financial institution collateral pool administered by the Washington Public Deposit Protection Commission.

The Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 39, authorizes municipal governments to invest their funds in a variety of investments including federal, state, and local government certificates, notes, or bonds; the Washington State Local Government Investment Pool; savings accounts in qualified public depositories; and certain other investments.

3. Patient Accounts Receivable:

Patient accounts receivable are reduced by an allowance for uncollectible accounts. In evaluating the collectibility of patient accounts receivable, the District analyzes its past history and identifies trends for each of its major payor sources of revenue to estimate the appropriate allowance for uncollectible accounts and provision for bad debts. Management regularly reviews data about these major payor sources of revenue in evaluating the sufficiency of the allowance for uncollectible accounts. For receivables associated with services provided to patients who have third-party coverage, the District analyzes contractually due amounts and provides an allowance for uncollectible accounts and a provision for bad debts, if necessary (for example, for expected uncollectible deductibles and copayments on accounts for which the third-party payor has not yet paid, or for payors who are known to be having financial difficulties that make the realization of amounts due unlikely). For receivables associated with self-pay patients (which include both patients without insurance and patients with deductible and copayment balances due for which third-party coverage exists for part of the bill), the District records a significant provision for bad debts in the period of service on the basis of its past experience, which indicates that many patients are unable or unwilling to pay the portion of their bill for which they are financially responsible. The difference between the standard rates (or the discounted rates if negotiated) and the amounts actually collected after all reasonable collection efforts have been exhausted is charged off against the allowance for uncollectible accounts.

The District's allowance for uncollectible accounts for self-pay has not changed significantly from prior years. The District does not maintain a material allowance for uncollectible accounts from third-party payors, nor did it have significant writeoffs from third-party payors.

3. Patient Accounts Receivable (continued):

Patient accounts receivable reported as current assets by the District were as follows:

		2018		2017
Receivables from patients and their insurance carriers	\$	1,404,285	\$	2,048,547
Receivables from Medicare	-	1,966,367	,	1,345,559
Receivables from Medicaid		912,778		145,379
Total patient accounts receivable		4,283,430		3,539,485
Less allowance for uncollectible accounts		453,100		472,100
Patient accounts receivable, net	\$	3,830,330	\$	3,067,385

4. Assets Limited as to Use:

Assets limited as to use consisted of the following:

	2018	2017
Current assets		
Restricted under bond agreement for debt service	\$ 922,645	\$ 677,216
Internally designated by the Board for specific purposes	4,195	4,195
Total current assets	926,840	681,411
Noncurrent assets		
Restricted under bond agreement for capital project	-	33,623
Total assets limited as to use	\$ 926,840	\$ 715,034

5. Beneficial Interest in William W. and Jessie B. Day Charitable Trust:

The District records an asset and a corresponding deferred inflow of resources for its irrevocable beneficial interest in the William W. and Jessie B. Day Charitable Trust. The beneficial interest is reported at the fair value of the underlying investments. The District changed accounting policies related to irrevocable split interest agreements, by adopting Government Accounting Standard Board Statement No. 81 Irrevocable Split-Interest Agreements in 2018. Accordingly, the accounting change has been retrospectively applied to prior periods presented as if the policy had always been used. The trustee is Bank of America. Annual revenue of the beneficial interest is divided equally between the District and Dayton School District No. 2. The revenue can be spent at the discretion of each entity for its operations. The District's share of the revenue was approximately \$61,000 and \$60,000 for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

6. Capital Assets:

Capital assets additions, retirements, transfers, and balances were as follows:

	E	Balance							Balance
	Dec	ember 31,						D	ecember 31,
		2017		Additions		Retirements	Transfers		2018
Capital assets not being depreciated		201226	Φ.		•				20122
Land	\$	204,226	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$	204,226
Construction in progress		296,339		132,955		-	(417,481)		11,813
Total capital assets not									
being depreciated		500,565		132,955		-	(417,481)		216,039
Capital assets being depreciated									
Land improvements		452,954		-		-	17,993		470,947
Buildings		9,980,543		-		-	281,756		10,262,299
Fixed equipment		6,854,019		-		-	117,732		6,971,751
Major movable equipment		3,663,037		107,663		-	-		3,770,700
Total capital assets being									
depreciated		20,950,553		107,663		-	417,481		21,475,697
Less accumulated depreciation for									
Land improvements		286,160		22,819		_	_		308,979
Buildings		4,232,415		473,515		_	_		4,705,930
Fixed equipment		5,485,962		313,018		_	_		5,798,980
Major movable equipment		2,253,534		378,199		_	_		2,631,733
Total accumulated		,,							,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
depreciation		12,258,071		1,187,551		-	-		13,445,622
Total capital assets being									
depreciated, net		8,692,482		(1,079,888)			417,481		8,030,075
depreciated, net		0,072,702		(1,077,000)			717,701		0,030,073
Capital assets, net of									
accumulated depreciation	\$	9,193,047	\$	(946,933)	\$	-	\$ -	\$	8,246,114

Construction in progress at December 31, 2018, relates to a remodel of a bathroom tub. The project was placed in service in April 2019, with an insignificant amount of additional cost incurred.

Total interest costs incurred during the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, were \$461,547 and \$470,150, respectively, of which \$-0- and \$107,491, respectively, were capitalized.

6. Capital Assets (continued):

Capital assets additions, retirements, transfers, and balances were as follows:

		Balance					Balance
	De	ecember 31,				D	ecember 31,
		2016	Additions	Retirements	Transfers		2017
Capital assets not being depreciated							
Land	\$	204,226	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$	204,226
Construction in progress		2,294,121	2,254,110	-	(4,251,892)		296,339
Total capital assets not							
being depreciated		2,498,347	2,254,110	-	(4,251,892)		500,565
Capital assets being depreciated							
Land improvements		314,052	41,973	-	96,929		452,954
Buildings		6,386,786	-	(64,879)	3,658,636		9,980,543
Fixed equipment		6,457,920	-	-	396,099		6,854,019
Major movable equipment		3,286,110	421,097	(144,398)	100,228		3,663,037
Total capital assets being							
depreciated		16,444,868	463,070	(209,277)	4,251,892		20,950,553
Less accumulated depreciation for							
Land improvements		271,555	14,605	_	-		286,160
Buildings		3,890,671	375,978	(34,234)	-		4,232,415
Fixed equipment		5,193,679	292,283	-	-		5,485,962
Major movable equipment		1,989,351	366,031	(101,848)	-		2,253,534
Total accumulated							
depreciation		11,345,256	1,048,897	(136,082)	-		12,258,071
Total capital assets being							
depreciated, net		5,099,612	(585,827)	(73,195)	4,251,892		8,692,482
Capital assets, net of							
accumulated depreciation	\$	7,597,959	\$ 1,668,283	\$ (73,195)	\$ -	\$	9,193,047

7. Long-term Debt:

A schedule of changes in the District's long-term debt follows:

	D	Balance ecember 31, 2017	Additions	Reductions	D	Balance ecember 31, 2018]	Amounts Due Within One Year
Long-term debt								
2007 limited tax general								
obligation bonds	\$	554,426	\$ -	\$ (38,690)	\$	515,736	\$	40,689
2014 limited tax general								
obligation bonds		1,238,474	-	(83,453)		1,155,021		88,320
2015 limited tax general								
obligation bonds		216,000	-	(70,000)		146,000		72,000
2015 unlimited tax general								
obligation refunding bonds		3,405,000	-	(260,000)		3,145,000		265,000
2015 unlimited tax general								
obligation bonds		5,010,000	-	(175,000)		4,835,000		190,000
REA loan		-	200,000	(36,871)		163,129		38,373
GE Capital		66,123	-	(32,714)		33,409		33,409
GE Government Finance Inc.		276,558	-	(60,073)		216,485		62,259
Total long-term debt	\$	10,766,581	\$ 200,000	\$ (756,801)	\$	10,209,780	\$	790,050
	De	Balance ecember 31,			D	Balance ecember 31,	D	Amounts ue Within
		2016	Additions	Reductions		2017	•	One Year
Long-term debt								
2007 limited tax general								
obligation bonds	\$	591,216	\$ _	\$ (36,790)	\$	554,426	\$	38,690
2014 limited tax general								
obligation bonds		1,317,327	-	(78,853)		1,238,474		83,453
2015 limited tax general								
obligation bonds		285,000	-	(69,000)		216,000		70,000
obligation bonds		285,000	-	(69,000)		216,000		70,000
		285,000 3,655,000	-	(69,000) (250,000)		216,000 3,405,000		ŕ
obligation bonds 2015 unlimited tax general			-			ŕ		ŕ
obligation bonds 2015 unlimited tax general obligation refunding bonds			-			ŕ		260,000
obligation bonds 2015 unlimited tax general obligation refunding bonds 2015 unlimited tax general		3,655,000	- - -	(250,000)		3,405,000		260,000
obligation bonds 2015 unlimited tax general obligation refunding bonds 2015 unlimited tax general obligation bonds		3,655,000 5,175,000	- - - -	(250,000) (165,000) (6,524)		3,405,000 5,010,000		260,000 175,000
obligation bonds 2015 unlimited tax general obligation refunding bonds 2015 unlimited tax general obligation bonds REA loan		3,655,000 5,175,000 6,524	- - - - 315,649	(250,000) (165,000)		3,405,000 5,010,000 -		70,000 260,000 175,000 - 33,409 59,894

7. Long-term Debt (continued):

The terms and due dates of the District's long-term debt follows:

- Limited Tax General Obligation (LTGO) Bonds dated October 17, 2007, in the original amount of \$875,446, Series 2007A Bond (2007A). The 2007A is due in semiannual installments of \$33,239, including interest at 5.10 percent through December 2028. The District issued the 2007A for the purposes of paying for the construction of new healthcare facilities.
- Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds dated July 31, 2014, in the original amount of \$1,509,798 are due in semiannual installments of \$76,741, including interest at 5.75 percent through December 2028. The District issued the 2014 LTGO Bonds for the purposes of paying, redeeming, and refunding the 2007B Bond.
- Public Hospital District No. 1, Columbia and Walla Walla Counties Limited Tax General Obligation Bond, 2015 (2015 LTGO Bond), dated September 15, 2015, in the original amount of \$350,000. The 2015 LTGO Bond is due in varying annual principal installments from \$72,000 to \$74,000, plus semiannual interest at 2.5 percent through December 2020. The District issued the 2015 LTGO Bond to pay for new electronic health records and computer systems.

All LTGO Bonds are general obligations of the District and are secured by an irrevocable pledge of the District that it will have sufficient funds available to pay the bond principal and interest due by levying, each year, a maintenance and operations tax upon the taxable property within the District.

- Public Hospital District No. 1, Columbia and Walla Walla Counties, Washington, Unlimited Tax General Obligation Refunding Bonds 2015 (2015 Refunding Bonds), dated March 12, 2015, in the original amount of \$4,180,000. The bonds are due in varying annual principal installments from \$265,000 to \$370,000, plus semiannual interest at 3.6 percent through November 2028. The District issued the bonds to refund the Unlimited Tax General Obligation Bonds dated November 11, 2003.
- Public Hospital District No. 1, Columbia and Walla Walla Counties, Washington, Unlimited Tax General Obligation Refunding Bonds 2015 (2015 UTGO Bonds), dated January 13, 2015, in the original amount of \$5,500,000. The bonds are due in varying annual principal installments from \$190,000 to \$445,000, plus semiannual interest at 4.35 percent through December 2034. The District issued the bonds to finance the renovation of the hospital and nursing home buildings.

For the 2015 Refunding Bonds and the 2015 UTGO bonds, the District is required to levy and collect sufficient taxes each year to pay the bond principal and interest payments due. The 2015 Refunding Bonds and 2015 UTGO Bonds are direct and general obligations of the District and are secured by an irrevocable pledge of the District that it will have sufficient funds available to pay the bond principal and interest due by levying, each year, a tax upon the taxable property within the District. The voters of the District approved the 2015 Refunding Bonds, and the 2015 UTGO Bonds, and a special levy to pay the principal and interest for each. Tax receipts limited for bond redemption and interest are used to pay the principal and interest each year on the 2015 Refunding Bonds and the 2015 UTGO Bonds.

7. Long-term Debt (continued):

- Notes payable to Columbia Rural Electric Association (REA) dated January 19, 2018, in the original amount of \$200,000, payable in monthly installments of \$3,683 through December 19, 2022.
- Note payable to General Electric Capital dated December 13, 2016, in the original amount of \$100,228, payable in monthly installments of \$2,784 through December 1, 2019; secured by ultrasound equipment.
- Note payable to General Electric Capital dated May 8, 2017, in the original amount of \$315,649, payable in monthly installments of \$5,750 through May 1, 2022; secured by computed tomography equipment.

UTGO Bond debt is due as follows:

	UTGO Bonds				
		Principal		Interest	Total
2019	\$	455,000	\$	323,543	\$ 778,543
2020		475,000		305,738	780,738
2021		500,000		287,138	787,138
2022		520,000		267,525	787,525
2023		550,000		247,117	797,117
2024-2028		3,145,000		890,456	4,035,456
2029-2033		1,890,000		352,352	2,242,352
2034		445,000		19,353	464,353
	\$	7,980,000	\$	2,693,222	\$ 10,673,222

LTGO Bond debt is due as follows:

	LTGO Bonds				
		Principal		Interest	Total
2019	\$	201,009	\$	94,602	\$ 295,611
2020		210,262		85,550	295,812
2021		143,924		76,038	219,962
2022		152,018		67,943	219,961
2023		160,569		59,392	219,961
2024-2028		948,975		150,828	1,099,803
	\$	1,816,757	\$	534,353	\$ 2,351,110

7. Long-term Debt (continued):

Other scheduled debt service is as follows:

	Other Long-term Debt				
		Principal		Interest	Total
2019	\$	134,041	\$	12,562	\$ 146,603
2020		104,461		8,732	113,193
2021		108,436		4,757	113,193
2022		66,085		1,113	67,198
	\$	413,023	\$	27,164	\$ 440,187

8. Net Patient Service Revenue:

The District recognizes patient service revenue associated with services provided to patients who have third-party payor coverage on the basis of contractual rates for the services rendered. For uninsured patients who do not qualify for charity care, the District recognizes revenue on the basis of its standard rates for services provided (or on the basis of discounted rates, if negotiated or provided by policy). On the basis of historical experience, a significant portion of the District's uninsured patients will be unable or unwilling to pay for the services provided. Thus, the District records a significant provision for bad debts related to uninsured patients in the period the services are provided. The District has not changed its charity care or uninsured discount policies during 2018 or 2017. Patient service revenue, net of contractual adjustments and discounts (but before the provision for bad debts), recognized in the period from these major payor sources, is as follows:

	2018	2017
Patient service revenue (net of contractual		
adjustments and discounts):		
Medicare	\$ 12,480,459	\$ 11,335,504
Medicaid	4,446,529	1,361,754
Other third-party payors	277,457	3,048,422
Patients	1,252,156	1,019,420
ProShare	625,515	615,734
340b contract pharmacy	277,742	303,173
= :	19,359,858	17,684,007
Less:		
Charity care	145,726	69,992
Provision for bad debts	961,836	557,109
Net patient service revenue	\$ 18,252,296	\$ 17,056,906

8. Net Patient Service Revenue (continued):

The District has agreements with third-party payors that provide for payments at amounts different from its established rates. A summary of the payment arrangements with major third-party payors follows:

- Medicare The District has been designated as a critical access hospital and the clinics as rural health clinics by Medicare. The District is paid on a cost reimbursement method for substantially all services provided to Medicare beneficiaries. The District is reimbursed for cost reimbursable items at a tentative rate with final settlement determined after the submission of annual cost reports by the District and audits thereof by the Medicare administrative contractor. Physician services are reimbursed on a fee schedule.
- Medicaid Inpatient and outpatient services provided to Medicaid program beneficiaries are reimbursed under a cost reimbursement methodology. The District is reimbursed at a tentative rate with final settlement determined after submission of annual cost reports by the District and reviewed thereof by Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA). Medicaid swing-bed and nursing home services are reimbursed on a prospectively set rate per day. Medicaid rural health clinic services are paid on a prospectively set rate per visit. Nonrural health clinic physicians' services are paid under a fee schedule.
- Other The District also has entered into payment agreements with certain commercial insurance carriers, health maintenance organizations, and preferred provider organizations. The basis for payment to the District under these agreements includes prospectively determined rates per discharge, discounts from established charges, and prospectively determined daily rates.

Laws and regulations governing the Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs are extremely complex and subject to interpretation. As a result, there is at least a reasonable possibility that recorded estimates will change by a material amount in the near term. Net patient service revenue decreased by approximately \$197,000 in 2018 and increased by \$134,000 in 2017, due to differences between original estimates and final settlements.

The District provides charity care to patients who are financially unable to pay for the healthcare services they receive. The District's policy is not to pursue collection of amounts determined to qualify as charity care. Accordingly, the District does not report these amounts in net operating revenues or in the allowance for uncollectible accounts. The District determines the costs associated with providing charity care by aggregating the applicable direct and indirect costs, including salaries and wages, benefits, supplies, and other operating expenses, based on data from its costing system. The costs of caring for charity care patients were approximately \$117,000 and \$60,000 for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The District did not receive any gifts or grants to subsidize charity services during 2018 and 2017.

9. Property Taxes:

The County Treasurer acts as an agent to collect property taxes levied in the County for all taxing authorities. Taxes are levied annually on January 1 on property values listed as of the prior July 1. Assessed values are established by the County Assessor at 100 percent of fair market value. A revaluation of all property is required every four years.

Taxes are due in two equal installments on April 30 and October 31. Collections are distributed monthly to the District by the County Treasurer.

9. Property Taxes (continued):

The District is permitted by law to levy up to \$0.75 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for general District purposes. Washington State Constitution and Washington State Law, RCW 84.55.010, limit the rate. The District may also levy taxes at a lower rate. Further amounts of tax must be authorized by the vote of the people.

The District's regular tax levy was \$0.59202 and \$0.59182 per \$1,000 on a total assessed valuation of \$1,055,777,427 and \$997,977,819, for a total regular levy of \$625,041 and \$590,624 in 2018 and 2017, respectively. The District's 2003 UTGO bond levy was \$0.49152 and \$0.50958 per \$1,000 on a total assessed valuation of \$1,047,595,661 and \$990,338,004, for a total bond levy of \$514,918 and \$504,657 in 2018 and 2017, respectively. The District's 2015 UTGO bond levy was \$0.48675 and \$0.50453 per \$1,000 on a total assessed value of \$1,047,595,661 and \$990,338,004, for a total bond levy of \$509,919 and \$499,660 in 2018 and 2017, respectively.

Property taxes are recorded as receivables when levied. Since state law allows for sale of property for failure to pay taxes, no estimate of uncollectible taxes is made.

10. Retirement Plans:

The District has a 401(k) retirement plan and a 457(b) deferred compensation plan covering substantially all of its employees meeting certain eligibility requirements. The plans are defined-contribution plans whereby the District's contribution is based on the salaries of active participants in accordance with the formulas specified in the plans.

A defined-contribution pension plan provides pension benefits in return for services rendered, provides an individual account for each participant, and specifies how contributions to the individual's account are to be determined instead of specifying the amount of benefits the individual is to receive. Under a defined-contribution pension plan, the benefits a participant will receive depend solely on the amount contributed to the participant's account, the returns earned on investments of those contributions, and forfeitures of other participants' benefits that may be allocated to such participant's account.

As established by the Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan (the 401(k) Plan), any full-time employee who has attained age 21 and completed 12 months of service is eligible to participate in the plan. Contributions made by an employee vest immediately and contributions made by the District vest after five years of full-time employment. An employee who leaves the District's employment is entitled to his or her contributions and the District's contributions if vesting requirements are satisfied. As established by the plan, each participant must contribute at least 1 percent but may contribute up to 100 percent of his or her gross earnings to the pension plan; subject to an \$18,500 limitation set by law. Employees projected to attain age 50 before the end of a calendar year may defer an additional \$6,000 per year. Employees contributed approximately \$337,000 and \$307,000 for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The District may contributions. The District contributed approximately \$121,000 and \$120,000 for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

10. Retirement Plans (continued):

As established by the Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 457(b) Plan (the 457(b) Plan), any employee may become a participant by executing a participation agreement. Contributions made by an employee vest immediately. Employees contributed approximately \$34,000 and \$25,000 to the 457(b) Plan for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The District decides annually whether or not to contribute to this plan. The District contributed approximately \$-0- and \$10,000 to the plan in 2018 and 2017, respectively.

The plans are administered by the District. The District established the plan provisions and has the authority to amend the plan provisions.

11. Risk Management and Contingencies:

Risk management – The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; business interruption; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The District carries commercial insurance for these risks of loss. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded the commercial insurance coverage in any of the three preceding years.

Medical malpractice claims – The District has its professional liability insurance coverage with Physicians Insurance. The policy provides protection on a "claims made" basis whereby claims filed in the current year are covered by the current policy. If there are occurrences in the current year, these will only be covered in the year the claim is filed if claims-made coverage is obtained in that year or if the District purchases insurance to cover "prior acts." Current coverage is for \$1,000,000 per claim; subject to a \$5,000,000 annual limit, plus an additional \$4,000,000 of annual excess coverage. There is no deductible on this policy.

No liability has been accrued for future coverage for acts occurring in this or prior years. Also, it is possible that claims may exceed coverage obtained in any given year.

Risk transfer pools – The District has a self-insured workers' compensation plan for its employees. The District is a part of the Public Hospital District Workers' Compensation Trust, which is a risk transfer pool administered by the Washington State Hospital Association. The District pays its share of actual workers' compensation claims, maintenance of reserves, and administrative expenses. During 2018 and 2017, respectively, the District recognized dividends of approximately \$133,000 and \$127,000 from the Public Hospital District Workers' Compensation Fund, which were offset against workers' compensation expense. Workers' compensation expense, net of dividends, was approximately \$108,000 and \$48,000 in 2018 and 2017, respectively.

The District has a self-insured unemployment plan for its employees. The District is part of the Public Hospital District Unemployment Compensation Fund, which is a risk transfer pool administered by the Washington State Hospital Association. The District pays its share of actual unemployment claims, maintenance of reserves, and administrative expenses. During 2018 and 2017, respectively, the District received dividends of approximately \$42,000 and \$37,000 from the Public Hospital District Unemployment Compensation Fund, which was offset against unemployment expense. Unemployment expense was approximately (\$2,000) and \$23,000 in 2018 and 2017, respectively.

11. Risk Management and Contingencies (continued):

Industry regulations – The healthcare industry is subject to numerous laws and regulations of federal, state, and local governments. These laws and regulations include, but are not necessarily limited to, matters such as licensure, accreditations, government healthcare program participation requirements, reimbursement for patient services, and Medicare and Medicaid fraud and abuse. Government activity continues with respect to investigations and allegations concerning possible violations of fraud and abuse statutes and regulations by healthcare providers. Violations of these laws and regulations could result in expulsion from government healthcare programs together with the imposition of significant fines and penalties, as well as significant repayments for patient services previously billed. Management believes that the District is in compliance with fraud and abuse statutes, as well as other applicable government laws and regulations.

While no regulatory inquiries have been made, compliance with such laws and regulations can be subject to future government review and interpretation, as well as regulatory actions unknown or unasserted at this time.

12. Concentrations of Risk:

Patient accounts receivable – The District grants credit without collateral to its patients, most of whom are local residents and are insured under third-party payor agreements. The majority of these patients are geographically concentrated in and around Columbia County and Waitsburg, Washington.

The mix of receivables from patients was as follows:

	2018	2017
Medicare	49 %	40 %
Medicaid	21	7
Other third-party payors	17	36
Patients	13	17
	100 %	100 %

Physicians – The District is dependent on local physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants in its services area to provide admissions and utilize hospital services on an outpatient basis. A decrease in the number of providers providing these services or changes in their utilization patterns may have an adverse effect on hospital services.



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Board of Commissioners Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System Dayton, Washington

We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System (the District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents, and have issued our report thereon dated April 8, 2019.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. These deficiencies are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as findings 2018-001, 2018-002, and 2018-003, and 2018-004.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

The District's Responses to the Findings

The District's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. The District's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Dingus, Zarecor & Associates PLLC

Spokane Valley, Washington April 8, 2019

Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System Schedule of Findings and Responses Year Ended December 31, 2018

2018-001 Cash Reconciliation

Criteria [] Compliance Finding [] Significant Deficiency [X] Material Weakness

Cash accounts should be properly reconciled to bank and County Treasurer

statements.

Condition The reconciliations of bank and County Treasurer statements to the general ledger

were not being performed for all accounts.

Context This finding appears to be a *systemic* problem.

Effect The District is at risk of cash transactions being incorrectly recorded, resulting in

inaccurate financial reporting. Inaccurate financial reporting makes decision making by the Board of Commissioners and management difficult. The District is also at an

increased risk of fraud occurring and not being detected.

Cause The District did not reconcile all of the bank and County Treasurer accounts.

Recommendation The District should reconcile bank and County Treasurer accounts on a monthly basis

and resolve all variances.

Management's Response

We recognize the shortcomings in cash reconciliation. In 2017 and 2018, we directed internal auditors to seek out a streamlined process to reconcile the County Treasurer accounts. Positive strides have been achieved in gathering the information needed to do monthly reconciliations.

In the third quarter of 2018, our efforts were impacted when the billing service contract we had with an external billing service was terminated. Since then, we have focused our attention on an in-house billing solution. There has been a learning curve for all parties, especially in cash posting. Policies and processes are being formulated to have timely and accurate posing of cash, which will contribute to the better input in the cash reconciliation process.

A new development is the hiring of an accounting manager experienced in auditing and who is familiar with the books of the District. Improved processes and reporting are the goals of all the revenue cycle staff, and we look forward to a successful resolution of this finding during 2019.

Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System Schedule of Findings and Responses (Continued) Year Ended December 31, 2018

2018-002 Financial Close and Reporting Process

Criteria [] Compliance Finding [] Significant Deficiency [X] Material Weakness

Monthly financial statements should be completed timely and accurately.

Condition The District does not have complete processes in place to ensure monthly financial

reports are accurate.

Context This finding appears to be a *systemic* problem.

Effect The District is at risk of transactions being incorrectly recorded, resulting in

inaccurate financial reporting. Inaccurate financial reporting makes decision making by the Board of Commissioners and management difficult. The District is also at an

increased risk of fraud occurring and not being detected.

Cause The District does not have a systematic process in place to ensure all statement of net

position accounts are reconciled to their appropriate supporting records or external

reports on a monthly basis.

Recommendation We recommend the District develop policies and procedures for the monthly

financial statement closing process to ensure the accuracy of the information

presented.

Management's Response

The new addition of an experienced financial auditor to the finance staff will be very helpful in improving the policies and procedures for monthly financial statement closing and preparation. We will be striving to document the sources for all our statement of net position accounts, reconcile the District's books to reflect those balances, and make adjusting entries monthly as needed to reflect the impact of these corrections.

In addition, we will be documenting monthly review processes for all components of our financial reporting, as to source, posting corrections and cross-checked balances. The effect of these improvements will be more accurate and timely completion of the financial statements. Cross-training will be simplified with the improved

documenting of processes.

Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System Schedule of Findings and Responses (Continued) Year Ended December 31, 2018

2018-003 Auditor Detected Journal Entries

Criteria [] Compliance Finding [] Significant Deficiency [X] Material Weakness

The general ledger should be materially accurate prior to the start of audit

procedures.

Condition During the audit process, numerous adjusting journal entries were proposed by the

audit team to achieve accurate account balances. Material adjustments were made to

correct cash, inventories, accrued expenses, and patient accounts receivable.

Context This finding appears to be a *systemic* problem.

Effect The District is at risk of transactions being incorrectly recorded, resulting in

inaccurate financial reporting, which in turn makes decision making by the Board of Commissioners and management difficult. The District is also at an increased risk of

fraud occurring and not being detected.

Cause The District should develop processes to ensure that general ledger accounts are

reconciled and agree to supporting documents on a monthly basis.

Recommendation The District should develop policies and procedures to reconcile its accounts to

ensure all transactions are properly recorded.

Management's Response

This finding is directly related to Finding 2018-002. In response to the auditors finding that several account adjustments are needed to correctly reflect the District's books, systematic reviews of all external and internal sources of account balances

and activity will occur each month for accuracy.

The finance staff will be putting reviews in place to prove account balances to the source after the correcting adjustments have been made monthly. Suitable checklists for all accounts needing to be adjusted monthly will be prepared and documented

monthly, ensuring balances match the source documents.

Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System Schedule of Findings and Responses (Continued) Year Ended December 31, 2018

2018-004 Patient Accounts Receivable and Unapplied Payments

Criteria [] Compliance Finding [] Significant Deficiency [X] Material Weakness

All unapplied payment accounts should be cleared on a timely basis.

Condition During the audit process, there were 15 accounts labeled unapplied on the accounts

receivable aging and numerous patient accounts that needed to be resolved and

cleared by the end of the year.

Context This finding appears to be a *systemic* problem.

Effect The District is at risk of transactions being incorrectly recorded, resulting in

inaccurate financial reporting, which in turn makes decision making by the Board of Commissioners and management difficult. The District is also at an increased risk of

fraud occurring and not being detected.

Cause The District did not have a consistent process to monitor and resolve unapplied

payment accounts.

Recommendation The District should develop procedures to ensure that all unapplied payment accounts

and other clearing accounts are resolved and cleared on a timely basis.

Management's Response Along with many other issues in accounts receivable management tied to the external billing office, unapplied payment accounts were a continuous problem. With our internal billing and posting staff having less than six months hands-on with our accounts receivable, they had to learn processes previously in place with the external billing office as well as effect changes in processes which had previously been inappropriately handled. They also had to learn the correct way to track and post nonroutine receipts. The learning curve has been steep. Process improvement for the whole revenue cycle team has been a constant focus.

The District has some new policies and processes to support decision making and posting for the unapplied payment accounts, and will continue to define the steps to follow when unapplied accounts are on our books in accounts receivable. It is recognized that unposted accounts can affect customers' individual account balances in addition to our corporate receivable balances when held up in unapplied accounts.

Columbia County Public Hospital District No. 1 doing business as Columbia County Health System Summary Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings Year Ended December 31, 2018

 $\textbf{2013-001 Auditor Detected Journal Entries} - Repeated as 2014-001, 2015-003, 2016-004, 2017-003 \\ and 2018-003$

2014-004 Bank Reconciliations – Repeated as 2015-003, 2016-001, 2017-001 and 2018-001

2016-002 – Financial Close and Reporting Process – Repeated as 2017-002 and 2018-002