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Efird have not spoken with Gowder or Dr. Heaton since their arrests.

There have been several called board meetings since the Feb. 4 arrests, in which Efird and Williams have updated the board concerning the goings-on of the hospital, as the two have

been on the ground playing an active role in making sure Union General Inc. maintains course.

“We are working, as we speak, on a communication plan that will be ongoing as a means to better communicate internally, as well as with the community,” said Williams. “Keep in mind the fact that we have a health care system

that operates 24/7, 365, and has multiple facilities. We are constantly looking at better means and vehicles to communicate with them.”

In a called meeting on Friday, Feb. 12, Williams and Efird met with the remaining board members to bring them up to speed and talk about plans moving forward – Paris and Rowe were unable to attend



**Board and key employees hold a called meeting on Friday, Feb. 12, to discuss hospital happenings in the wake of CEO's arrest**

in person, but conferenced in with a phone call.

Two compliance organizations, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and DNV GL, have been looking into hospital affairs, and DNV's report came back favorable, while the GDCA report is expected in a couple of weeks.

The board has also retained Morris, Manning & Martin out of Atlanta to help them navigate through the legal concerns stemming from the recent occurrences, and the board has also hired Bill Crane of CSI Crane to assist them in public relations matters.

Furthermore, the board is in the process of creating a committee called the Operational Improvement Team.

“They will be meeting on a regular basis to come up with suggestions in areas where we need to maybe have enhanced communication, areas where we need to improve upon, so they can give the board further directions in things that we need to do going forward,” said Williams.

Other committees in the works will be dealing with personnel, finance and compliance.

Board meetings

are open to the public, and regular meetings are always the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., in conference room adjacent to the cafeteria inside Union General Hospital. Members of public in attendance who wish to speak in the meetings must be added to the agenda ahead of time.

“At regular board meetings, we get reports from the chief nursing officer, from (UGH Chief Financial Officer) Tim Henry on the financials – we get reports from several employees,” said Efird, citing examples of what one might find in a typical meeting.

**Shooting...from Page 1**

Farley arrived at the residence, interrupting dinner, according to UCSO spokesperson Lt. Daren Osborn, and Farley's arrival marked a violation of bond conditions stemming from previous aggravated assault charges involving a gun against the same woman in the early morning hours of New Year's Eve.

“He was out on bond and had bond conditions not to go back to her residence, but alcohol leads you in a different way most of the time, and it did this time,” said Lt. Osborn.

Intoxicated, Farley entered the home with a rifle and proceeded to threaten the woman and her grandchildren, both verbally and with the rifle, according to Lt. Osborn.

“Actually at one point, he shoved (the rifle) in her mouth,” said Lt. Osborn. “She attempted to call 911, and he used the gun to knock the phone out of her hand. At some point during the confrontation, her daughter-in-law rang the

phone. He evidently let her answer the phone, even though he was holding them against their will.”

Using verbal clues, the woman was able to communicate with her daughter-in-law that Farley was there, even though Farley had threatened her to keep his presence unknown, according to Lt. Osborn.

“Before long, the daughter-in-law and her son showed up at the house, and they came in the door,” said Lt. Osborn. “The mother was able to get the kids out, and the father began trying to take the gun away from him. They got into a confrontation, struggling over the rifle, and at that point in time, Farley shot the dad in the right leg, and the dad was still able to get the rifle from him.”

After he got the rifle, the father struck Farley in the head with the butt of the gun in an attempt to keep Farley from pursuing him, though Farley continued fighting.

“At this point, the victim shot Farley in the right leg to try to slow him down – both of them had wounds in the right leg,” said Lt. Osborn, indicating that this had occurred in the kitchen area.

In the meantime, the kids and their mother were outside in the family van, waiting for the father and grandmother to come out of the home, according to Lt. Osborn.

The father exited and put the rifle in the van, then instructed his wife to pull out into the street while he went back into the home to retrieve his mother, according to Lt. Osborn.

As the father and his mother – the grandmother of the three children – made their way to the van out in the street, Farley exited the home after them and jumped on top of the grandmother, according to Lt. Osborn.

“Farley has a knife, and he stabs her in the right arm,” said Lt. Osborn. “He cut her arm pretty seriously with a knife about 9 inches long.”

The father, already wounded, jumped on top of Farley and began beating him to keep him off of his mother, before Farley brought the knife up and stabbed the father in

the right hand, according to Lt. Osborn.

Fortunately, the father was able to get the knife away from Farley, throwing it into the woods, and he continued to beat Farley until the sound of sirens could be heard – while in the vehicle, the mother of the three children had called 911, according to Lt. Osborn.

“Farley hears sirens coming, and he runs back into the mobile home,” said Lt. Osborn. “He barricades himself in, we call out the SERT team (Sheriff's Emergency Response Team), and we're all out there. Sgt. Adam Deyton makes communication with him on the phone, and basically talks him out, gets him out of the mobile home without incident, without anybody else getting hurt, or killed.”

According to the sheriff's office, charges against Farley include: seven felony counts of aggravated assault with a weapon, one felony count of aggravated stalking (for violating bond conditions), three felony counts of cruelty to children in the third degree, four felony counts of false imprisonment, and one count of interference with a 911 call.

At the end of the day, for a double shooting, double stabbing, the outcome was a positive one – the kids were okay and nobody died, including Farley himself, who had barricaded himself indoors and was talked into turning himself in by Sgt. Deyton.

According to Lt. Osborn, Farley, originally from North Carolina, has a similar record in Robbinsville.

Farley was also arrested in Union County in 2014 for pointing a pistol at his coworkers, according to Lt. Osborn, pointing to a history of gun violence.

**Narcotics Anonymous**

A new NA group called “One Is Too Many” has started meeting in Young Harris at Sharp Memorial Methodist Church. Meetings are being held every Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. The church is on campus and the meeting entrance is through the back door.

For further questions about Narcotics Anonymous please call the NA Help Line at 706-974-9990.