



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

HEALTH CARE CENTER COMMITTEE

PORTAGE COUNTY ANNEX
CONFERENCE ROOMS 1 & 2
1462 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

5:00 PM

REMOTE ATTENDANCE & COMMENT

To attend this meeting by telephone : dial 1-608-338-1399, after dialing the number you will then be asked to enter in a meeting number. Use the following meeting number: 477 420 574, then press #

To attend this meeting by video: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Due to COVID-19 and the potential risk to members of the public who attend meetings in-person, any person who plans to attend the meeting remotely, but wishes to comment on an agenda item can send their comments via email to lingforl@co.portage.wi.us. The deadline for sending comments by email is 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Emailed comments will be delivered to committee members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Remote comment by the public during the meeting will be at the discretion of the Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members attending in person: V. Miresse, D. Jankowski, L. Weaver

Members attending on-line: G. Hakala, S. Przybylski

Members absent: None

Members excused: None

PUBLIC NOTICE

Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. August 31, 2022

A motion was made by L. Weaver, seconded by S. Przybylski to approve the minutes from August 31, 2022. The motion carried on a voice vote with no negative votes.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

2. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Regarding Special Meeting Attendance (Portage County Ordinance 3.1.47 & 3.1.48)
 - Request for special meeting attendance
 - Approval of attendance of special meetings
 - Special meeting attendance reports

V. Miresse and L. Weaver attended a meeting on September 12, 2022. The meeting was with the Finance Director, Human Resource Director, Procurement Director, County Executive, L. Raikowski and some Health Care Center staff. The meeting was to discuss the referendum, what it means, how to proceed, staffing concerns, census, and the building project. A motion was made by D. Jankowski, seconded by S. Przybylski to approve the attendance of the special meeting. The motion carried on a voice vote with no negative votes. V. Miresse will be submitting a special meeting attendance form to L. Lingford for the construction manager at risk (C-MAR)

interviews that were held on September 13, 2022.

3. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Regarding Budget Amendment/Transfer Request and Grant Acceptance

L. Lingford reported that PCHCC was awarded a \$17,520 matching fund grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The funds would be used to purchase personal protective equipment and telemedicine equipment. A motion was made by D. Jankowski, seconded by L. Weaver to accept the grant funds and approve the budget amendment/transfer request. The motion carried on a voice vote with no negative votes.

4. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Regarding Staff Recommendation To Look At Past, Present and Future Trends for Skilled Nursing Facility Care

V. Miresse has asked PCHCC staff to gather information on the trends for skilled nursing care. The data may be helpful to the Committee to show past, present and future trends. Studies were prepared in the past by Clifton Larsen Allen (CLA), and Schenck. M. McDonald stated that the studies were prepared prior to the full effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. D. Jankowski would like to have data on staffing trends. V. Miresse would like to have information on the types of referrals, acceptance or denial of the referrals and census numbers. V. Miresse asked L. Belanger-Tess for staffing trend data. L. Belanger-Tess asked what data the Committee needed. D. Jankowski asked where the denied referrals are going. M. McDonald said many are directly discharged to home or assisted living facilities or other appropriate care facilities. The information will be available for the next meeting. L. Lingford provided information on prior years' census and on the referrals from August. V. Miresse asked if CLA could give updated trends/predictions. J. Jossie said that CLA has completed the project scope. A new engagement would be needed. V. Miresse asked what the census trend is at other facilities. L. Weaver asked what is the "sweet spot" for the census in a new building. M. McDonald said 32 skilled nursing beds would be the minimum size. V. Miresse asked if the CLA data has future trends on market needs. V. Miresse asked if we were asking the right questions. L. Weaver asked if we could get external guidance. M. McDonald said we could contact some industry experts to gather data. Then we can decide what questions we need to answer.

L. Belanger-Tess asked if Human Resources should be recruiting differently. How many dollars should be put into recruiting? Should we create non-benefit positions with higher wages? Should we offer sign-on bonuses? Should we create weekend-only positions? We increased the second shift differential and we didn't get outside candidates. The results of the McGrath study will be available on Friday. V. Miresse asked if HR could give us some solid recruitment options to try. L. Belanger-Tess said we have this prepared already. She would like a road map with data points for when to move to the next step. L. Weaver said this information will take time. We need to move forward as contemplated or we will need to pause what is in place. C. Schultz said there is a meeting on September 27th. At that point, PCHCC is committed to approximately \$300,000 in expenses through December 2022 for schematic phase 1. Phase 2 would cost approximately \$600,000. V. Miresse said we need to throw real money at Certified Nursing Assistants. If we offer \$17-\$18 per hour and still have no applicants, then we have our answer. D. Jankowski asked if we were competitive with our wages. L. Belanger-Tess said we are hiring at step 5. What is the ripple effect on the LPN and RN positions with a bump in CNA wages? V. Miresse said we need to continue as planned until we absolutely know it's not viable. L. Belanger-Tess asks how we determine when it's not viable to continue. V. Miresse said he would leave that to PCHCC staff to determine. L. Weaver said maybe the public and other committees could help determine the benchmarks and the definition of not viable.

Executive J. Pavelski said why should we have C. Schultz continue with the request for proposal when we have all these unanswered questions. There is no disadvantage in waiting two or three months. We should get our questions answered and then make the decision. V. Miresse said we need to focus on getting the data from healthcare industry professionals, setting benchmarks and timelines.

REPORTS

5. Chairperson

None.

6. Administrator

M. McDonald said the occupancy for August was 24.2. She said we need to offer higher wages. In the last nine months, we have recruited two part-time employees. M. McDonald said that we are currently operating only one unit, Timber Trail. On Friday, we closed Hillside Meadow. This closure allows us to continue to operate with our current staff. We had the resignation of our Director of Nursing. An internal candidate, Gail Lankford, has accepted the position of Director of Nursing. The state has new regulations effective October 1st. We are preparing for our next state survey with the new state guidance. We continue to ensure our residents feel a quality of life and comfortable living.

7. Business Manager

- Vendor Invoice List
 - First Supply- condensate pump

- Financial Report

L. Lingford provided an update on the 2023 budget. The budget has been reviewed by the Finance Department. The estimated deficit is \$2.4 million. This is a slight change from the department level estimate of \$2.7 million. Some of the federal grant funds were not included in the first version. There were also changes made to insurance and workers' compensation expenses.

8. County Executive

Executive J. Pavelski said he has visited the Health Care Center on two occasions. He said the care that is provided is amazing. He said he has a report of Wisconsin nursing home closures since 2016. He could provide that report for additional data.

NEXT MEETING DATE**9. October 19, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in Annex Conference Room 1 & 2**

The next meeting date has not been determined. It will be set when we have a date that industry professionals can attend.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by D. Jankowski, seconded by L. Weaver to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. The motion carried on a voice vote with no negative votes.

NOTICES

Notice: Any person who has special needs and plans on attending this meeting in-person or remotely should contact the Facilities Office at 715-346-1598 as soon as possible to ensure that reasonable accommodations can be made.

Notice: A quorum of the Portage County Board of Supervisors, or any committee thereof, may be present at this meeting.