

Houghton County DHHS Board Meeting Minutes (MCF Portion) December 19, 2024

The regular meeting of the Houghton County Department of Health and Human Services Board (Medical Care Facility Portion) was held at the DHHS offices in Houghton, MI on December 19, 2024 beginning at 09:17 a.m.

Present: Ed Jenich, Chairman
Christy Hilgers, Vice Chair
James Tervo, Board Member
Tom Tikkanen, County Commissioner Liaison
Roy Britz, County Commissioner Liaison
Adam Laplander, CEO/Administrator - Secretary
Ashley Kuru, Chief Financial Officer
Kara Destrampe, Director of Operations
Jeff Lehtola, Director of Facilities

Absent: Jodi Nuttall, Director of Nursing

The agenda was adopted and the minutes from the November 2024 meeting of the Houghton County Department of Health and Human Services Board (Medical Care Facility portion) were reviewed and approved as written.

Public comment: None

The November 2024 MCF Vouchers were reviewed and approved.

The CEO/Administrator updated the Board as to the Facility's current occupancy status and average occupancy rates for November 2024. The CEO/Administrator updated the Board on the current inquiry list numbers.

The CEO/Administrator updated the Board on the Parcel C Property that could be divided up and that Parcel C2 could be sold to Moyle. This would still allow enough room for Canal View ~ Houghton County to build a garage when appropriate. The CEO/Administrator will reach out to Moyle to discuss options moving forward. Motion made by Christy Hilgers and supported by Jim Tervo. Motion passed.

The CEO/Administrator updated the Board that Otis was on-site and that both Elevators 1 and 2 are operational. The Director of Facilities updated the Board that the December 5th meeting regarding Modernization with Otis and all sub-contractors was postponed until January 2025.

The CEO/Administrator updated the Board that Mediation with the Independent Nurses Union and the Wage Reopener with the TPOAM Union was held on December 18th, 2024. There is a tentative agreement with the TPOAM unit and their membership will vote next week on the tentative agreement. If accepted/approved, both parties will need to sign and it will go into effect the first full pay period after ratification. There was no agreement made between Canal View ~ Houghton County and the Independent Nurses Union. Mediation is scheduled for January 27th, 2025.

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The CEO/Administrator updated the Board that the facility Medicaid Rate increased to \$458.73 for an effective date of 10/01/2024 and that the facility Private Pay Rate is still above that amount. There is no need to increase the Private Pay Rate at this time.

The CEO/Administrator updated the Board that the facility canceled the ServSafe and CDP training approved in November because the State took back the Workforce Stabilization Grant funding. The CEO/Administrator suggested that we re-visit the trainings in the Spring of 2025. It will be added to the March Agenda. Motion made by Christy Hilgers and supported by Jim Tervo. Motion passed.

The CEO/Administrator updated the Board on the final invoice amount for Jefferson Health Plan. The final invoice amount is \$1,028,663.35 as of 11/30/2024. The amount is invoiced through June 30, 2024 and includes estimated claims for December, the reserve for run-out claims, TPA fees and the member deficit as of 11/30/2024. The facility will pay three separate monthly installments starting in December 2024 through February 2025. Motion made by Jim Tervo and supported by Christy Hilgers. Motion passed.

The CEO/Administrator provided an update to the Board on the Annual and Life Safety Surveys. All education is complete except for those out on a leave of absence or out sick. Education and sign in sheets will be submitted for desk review for the Annual survey and will be kept in the Life Safety Survey binder for the re-visit.

The CEO/Administrator updated the Board that an email was received this morning from the OIG office requesting the name, title and email address of the CEO/Administrator and CFO. There is a Notice of Preliminary Findings that should arrive via email from the OIG office in reference to the MDHHS OIG Post Payment Review. The CEO/Administrator will keep the Board updated as information comes in.

The CFO distributed the November financial statements to the Board and they were reviewed. A motion was made by Jim Tervo and supported by Christy Hilgers to accept the financial reports. Motion passed. The CFO also updated the Board on the current A/R aging.

The Board was updated that a quote was received by Wuebben Construction for the Water Service Line Proposal. The cost came in at \$384,980. The other quote came in at \$561,318.00 from MJO. The Board agreed to proceed with the quote from Wuebben Construction. Motion made by Jim Tervo and supported by Christy Hilgers. Motion passed.

The Board approved moving forward with the IT Support Contract from Karhu Cyber in the amount of \$7,500 per month to meet the IT support needs of the facility. Motion made by Jim Tervo and supported by Christy Hilgers. Motion passed.

The Board approved the purchase of a sander for the truck. The cost of the sander is \$4,462.00. The cost of the sander is equivalent to what the facility is contracted out at for approximately a 10-14 day period. Motion made by Jim Tervo and supported by Christy Hilgers. Motion passed.


The Board approved the renewal of the Waste Management Contract for five years. The first year rates will be the same as the current rates and the max increase in per year will not exceed 5%. Motion made by Christy Hilgers and supported by Jim Tervo. Motion passed.

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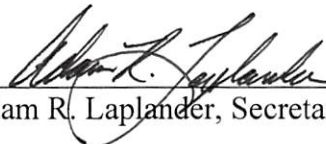
The Board was updated on various cost savings initiatives. The first savings will be in eliminating six days a week therapy and moving to five days a week. The facility will no longer be paying staff in Therapy to work and/or be on call on Saturdays. The next initiative will be to pull all credit cards for three months to see any impact that may have. The facility will continue to watch overtime and apply for any grants available. The facility is working on an IT Cyber Security grant through FEMA and will be looking at grants to help with the elevator modernization proposal.

The Board approved the purchase of a used sweeper from the Village of Laurium in the amount of \$2,000. Motion made by Christy Hilgers and supported by Jim Tervo. Motion passed.

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



Ed Jenich, Chairman



Adam R. Laplander, Secretary