

**MINUTES FOR:
CASS COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FACILITY BOARD MEETING**

January 26th, 2026

In attendance: Dr. James Wierman (Board Chairperson), Jeff Carmen (Board Co-Chair), Vicki Vaughn (Board Member), (Mercedes Schirripa (Administrator), Jenna Badner (Controller), Jennifer Bennett (Recording Minutes).

Meeting called to order: Dr. James Wierman called the meeting to order, Jeff Carmen seconds, meeting called to order at 9:44am.

Guests: Rie Shimada (Director of Rehabilitation), Lynda Newton (DON), Ambrosia Neldon (Cass County Marketing and Communications Manager)

No Public Comment.

Additions/deletions to Agenda:

Jeff Carmen moves to accept the agenda, Dr. James Wierman seconds. All are in favor and the motion passed.

Jeff Carmen made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Vicki Vaughn seconded, the motion carried.

Lynda Newton reported her story.

Lynda Newton states that she is receiving a lot of positive feedback from residents and family members that communication from Nursing has been wonderful. They feel informed and updated about changing circumstances.

Per QAPI, we did recently have another fall resulting in a fracture. This resident was resistant to assistance to the point of being combative with staff. Lynda Newton states that the facility continues to address each fall intervention regarding the resident involved and what unique factors can be adjusted to help prevent.

For Poly pharmacy, medication reduction continues to be a goal, the facility is currently at 35% of residents taking 8 or less medications daily, which is unfortunately trending down for December. Lynda Newton states that with the recent hire of an Education Nurse she hopes for nursing staff to be better educated on prescriptions and when they are necessary to limit overprescribing.

Lynda Newton states that she looks at poly pharmacy numbers in short windows as opposed to months at a time to get her percentages. She does not include PRN medications, only prescribed medications. She does make note of the fact that PCC logs any medication ordered as a prescribed medication though.

The check register was reviewed.

Jenna Badner states that in addition to the check register she has included the more detailed listing as she stated she would be doing. And asks if there are any questions.

Vicki Vaughn asks if payment for the recent special election is based on townships. Jenna Badner states that yes, it is. This is payment for the labor involved in the millage vote, and each township was paid accordingly.

Covid/Influenza update.

Lynda Newton states that there have been positive cases of covid in December, with 10 being residents and 13 staff members. She states that family visiting as well as taking residents out of the facility may be contributing to the positive cases. Masks have been worn in the building during this outbreak.

Jeff Carmen asks if there is a way to notify family and staff of positive cases or masks being worn. Mercedes Schirripa states that, yes there is a program that will send a mass text to family and staff with information like this as needed and that signs are also posted at entrances. Lynda Newton adds that staff and residents have been testing twice weekly while the facility is in active outbreak.

Mercedes Schirripa provided an administrator's report:

Mercedes Schirripa states that a ground level fall resulting in a fracture occurred on Christmas Eve, which was then desk reviewed by State and cleared. Any fall resulting in a fracture is voluntarily reported to the State.

CCMCF has signed up for the EPCS system through Point Click Care that will assist nursing in medication orders. It will allow nurses to request an order, have it signed by the doctor, and send it to the pharmacy all through PCC, which will streamline that entire process. This system goes live today. Each nurse will have a token with their own code to track and allow medication orders.

Mercedes Schirripa states that there was not a maintenance report in the agenda as nothing major is currently happening. Residents have stated displeasure at the current availability of watching tv as the tv room can become crowded and in room tv's can become competitive with roommates. All three parlors now also have a tv in them to offer a third option for viewing for residents.

The new blind installation is going well. The blinds are aiding by keeping heat in the rooms better without blocking the vents as expected.

Mercedes Schirripa states that Cass County Medical Care Facility is currently in our State Survey window and she as well as the whole facility are taking steps to make sure all is prepared for when they do begin their survey.

Census:

Jenna Badner states that average census for the month of December was 72%.

Relevant attachments:

Mercedes Schirripa states that there is a Plante Moran power point print out included in the board packet that she will discuss further in the work session.

Questions per the employee roster.

Dr. James Wierman asks if employees are still needed, Mercedes Schirripa states that yes, RNs are still in demand at the facility.

Resident council minutes:

Vicki Vaughn has a question about resident wait times, as it is noted in the resident council minutes that residents have complained about waiting in the bathroom for help. Lynda Newton states those complaints stem from 2 specific residents, 1 of which was complaining for a room mate and not themselves. She states this has been addressed with the staff but that also perception is relevant. A few minutes can feel much longer than they are. Reports can be pulled from the call light system to track how long they go unanswered, as well as the cameras can be replayed to have a visual on wait times.

It is also the policy of the facility that while 2 people are needed for lift transfers, only one needs to be nursing staff and the other can be an observer. This aids in more timely transfers so residents are not waiting on 2 nursing staff members for help in this regard.

There are no questions on the newsletter, Jeff Carmen as always expresses his approval of the newsletter itself.

Public comment:

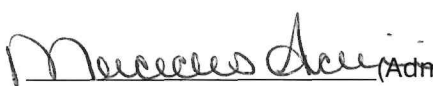
Vicki Vaughn states that while at the facility for the recent special meeting she noted the skylight that is leaking. Mercedes Schirripa states that has been addressed in house, it was a condensation and seal issue that has since been remedied.

Jeff Carmen makes the motion to recess, all in agreement.

Recess started at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Bennett

 (Board Chairperson) ^{Vice}  (Administrator)