

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

April 27th, 2026

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

Meeting called to order: Dr. James Wierman called the meeting to order, with Board agreement.
Meeting called to order at 9:55am.

Guests: Rie Shimada (Director of Rehabilitation), Lynda Newton (DON), Jennifer Rentfrow (County Administrator)

No Public Comment.

Additions/deletions to Agenda:

Vicki Vaughn moves to accept the agenda; Jeff Carmen supports the motion. All are in favor and the motion passed.

Vicki Vaughn made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor, the motion carried.

Lynda Newton reported her story.

Speaking of residents who have extreme behaviors, currently at the facility family has expressed the desire for their family member to remain at the facility please. Lynda Newton explained that in these cases there is much that can be done such as one-on-one care for the resident, addressing behaviors as they happen and mitigating causes. CCMCF does everything possible to safely keep any residents with behaviors and it is rare that we are unable to.

Per QAPI, falls are the main focus. Lynda Newton states fall percentage for the facility is at 5% currently, which is within expectation.

Per Poly pharmacy, percentages are unfortunately higher, with 62% of residents being administered 8 or more medications. Lynda Newton states that this is a constant effort to keep those numbers down. Antibiotics are a current culprit. Hospitals are prescribing them often, which needs to be evaluated at admission or re-admission to the facility. The CCMCF in house doctor as well is still adjusting to administering medications in a nursing home setting versus the clinical setting she is used to. Dr. James Wierman suggests possibly she should attend a geriatric conference for education on proper medications.

Dr. James Wierman moves to approve the cost of sending Dr. Wetzel to a geriatric conference. Vicki Vaughn seconds the motion and the motion passes.

The check register was reviewed.

Mercedes Schirripa states that CCMCF financial Director Jenna Badner is no longer employed at the facility. There have been interviews for a replacement, and one candidate in particular looks to be promising.

There are no questions on the check register.

Census:

Mercedes Schirripa states the census averaged 71.5% for March.

Cash position:

Mercedes Schirripa states the cash position is currently 4.1 million.

Administrator's report.

Mercedes Schirripa states she would like to schedule a Special Meeting at CCMCF for a presentation of the completed market study results done by Plante Moran and then shift into a closed session for her quarterly administrative review.

Jeff Carmen agrees with this proposal and after Board discussion a special meeting is decided on May 12 at 9am at Cass County Medical Care Facility.

Mercedes Schirripa states that we are still awaiting the State survey at the facility. It is believed that due to government shutdowns they are running behind schedule. She states we are prepared for their visit.

Mercedes Schirripa states that employees, specifically CNA's, have voted for a uniform shift schedule and agreed on 12 hour shifts instead of 8. CNA's will be scheduled 12 hour shifts only moving forward.

The communication company has begun installing cameras and card readers.

CCMCF has a new partnership with the village floral flower shop in Cassopolis to send small flower arrangements to residents during hospital stays.

Mercedes Schirripa presents a quote from the communications company to expand their services and replacement of the fire panel as well as all smoke detectors in the building. This is at a cost of \$90,479.45.

Dr. James Wierman asks for all in favor of this proposal, all ayes from the Board. Proposal approved.

Mercedes Schirripa also presents the Board with a quote to expand the installation of card readers to all doors, not only the original 2 that lead to administration. This would prevent residents and

employees from getting locked out of the facility if they exited other than through main doors. This would also allow tracking of who is using which doors and when. The cost for this is quoted at \$92,5340.99.

Dr. James Wierman asks for all in favor, all ayes from the Board, the proposal is approved.

Mercedes Schirripa then presents regarding flooring replacement, replacement of carpeted areas has already been approved, but in light of other areas of the facility with flooring damage and to have uniformity in the building, she has received quotes for an expansion of that project.

The original quote of \$38,500.12 for replacement of the carpeted areas had previously been approved by the board. A quote of \$219,461.99 would replace all flooring in the building but not resident rooms or parlors. And a quote of \$369,059.96 would replace all flooring in the building. The new flooring would be slip resistant and easier to replace should sections become damaged in the future. Mercedes Schirripa had asked staff and residents for opinions on the style of tiles offered with one collectively chosen.

Jeff Carmen asks if the quotes include removal and disposal of old flooring, Mercedes Schirripa states that they all do.

Board is in agreement to approve full floor replacement quote.

Mercedes Schirripa states that there will be rooms left available to move residents in and out of while the project is underway.

Mercedes Schirripa has a final quote to present for repaving the facility parking lot. Vicki Vaughn asks if she has received a quote from the county road commission and Mercedes Schirripa states this is that quote. Current quote is for \$183,800, this does not include the walking path around the building, though the road commission is coming to quote for that to be included as it needs repaving as well.

Jeff Carmen moves to approve the unseen quote for repaving the parking lot as well as the walking path. Vicki Vaughn seconds, motion passed.

Mercedes Schirripa states that after the Board meeting today she will be in Lansing, MI for a conference. She will be back on Wednesday.

Questions per the employee roster.

Rie Shimada states that there are 2 open positions in the therapy department, with Mercedes Schirripa adding that there are multiple open positions in nursing as well. CNA, RN, and LPN positions, 4-5 of which being full time and 9-10 part time.

Jeff Carmen asks what EVS positions are. Mercedes Schirripa states that is environment services, which include laundry and housekeeping positions.

Mercedes Schirripa states there is difficulty in retaining RN positions as opposed to CNA positions which are easily filled. Lynda Newton adds that most travel nurses do not want to hire into the facility as they choose to stay in their travel position.

Mercedes Schirripa adds that a wage study was conducted at the facility recently and that those results should be expected in 2 months. This will provide accuracy in current employee wage expectations as well as a wage scale to utilize going forward.

Resident council minutes:

No questions about the resident council minutes.

Resident newsletter:

Jeff Carmen states he greatly appreciates the newsletter.

Public comment:

Vicki Vaughn asks how the facility handles residents that do not follow policies or are verbally or physically abusive towards staff.

Mercedes Schirripa states residents can be combative, but it depends on the resident's mental acuity and that the facility regularly works with the resident as well as their family on such issues. Lynda Newton states employees can work in 2's as well when a resident is combative. Mercedes Schirripa states that there is currently no set law on how to address such a situation, but no resident has been discharged from the facility at this point.

Dr. James Wierman moves to recess. All in favor.

Recess started at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Bennett

 (Board Chairperson)  (Administrator)