

Winnebago County Board
River Bluff Board of Directors Meeting
River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation
4401 North Main Street, Finch Room
Rockford, IL 61103

Tuesday, March 18, 2025
3:00 PM

Present:

Frank Perrecone, **Chairperson**
John Butitta
Tim Delany
Jay Ferraro
Teresa Gobeli
Jim Knutson
Bernice Marinelli
Bob Nieman

Others Present:

Steve Schultz, Winnebago County Chief Financial Officer
Lafakeria Vaughn, Civil Bureau Chief, State's Attorney's Office
Kimberly Kovanda, Assistant State's Attorney, State's Attorney's Office
Laura Schaffer, Administrator, River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation
Laura Doise, Asst. Administrator, River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation
Maggie Lewis, HR Representative, River Bluff Human Resources

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of January 21, 2025 Minutes
- D. Public Comment– This is the time we invite the public to address the River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation Board with issues and concerns. We ask you to limit your comments to three minutes. Personal attacks or inappropriate language of any sort will not be tolerated. We will allow a maximum of five speakers on a first come basis with sign-up at the meeting. Speakers may not address zoning matters which are pending before the ZBA, the Zoning Committee, or the County Board. Personnel matters or pending or threatened litigation may not be addressed in open session. An individual may speak a maximum of three times per calendar year on the same topic. This prohibition shall include the repetition of the same topic in a statement on what is purported to be a different topic. After acknowledgment by the Chairman, please stand and state your name. Thank you.
- E. Discussion Item – Administrators Report (Laura Schaffer)
 1. Census
- F. Discussion Item – Financial Report (Steve Schultz)
 1. Financial Statements (see attachment)
- G. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
- H. Closed Session to Discuss Pending Litigation
- I. Other Matters
- J. Adjournment

Call to Order

Chairperson Perrecone called the River Bluff Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Chairperson Perrecone yes, Mr. Knutson yes, Mr. Butitta yes, Mr. Ferraro yes, Ms. Gobeli yes, Ms. Marinelli yes, Mr. Nieman yes, Mr. Delany yes.

A quorum is present.

Approval of January 21, 2025 Minutes

Chairperson Perrecone called for a motion to approve the January 21, 2025, minutes.

Motion: Mr. Butitta. Second: Mr. Nieman.

Chairperson Perrecone called for any discussion, corrections, or additions.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

Chairperson Perrecone omitted reading the Public Comment Section of the Agenda due to there being no one present to speak.

Discussion Item – Administrators Report (Laura Schaffer)

IDPH/CMS Updates

Ms. Schaffer gave an IDPH and CMS update and advised that River Bluff is now in the survey window for the annual IDPH survey. IDPH has delayed surveys because it has implemented a new set of regulations. The Policy Committee meets weekly, and staff is working on updating policies and other documentation to comply with the latest regulations. The survey has been moved to April.

- Discussion followed.

Quality Committee

Every hot item has a subcommittee. All factors negatively impacting the Star Rating have been identified for improvement, and the subcommittees are working on improving these measures. An Assistant Director of Nursing certified in wound care was hired to work with the particular population at risk for pressure ulcers.

- Discussion followed.

Staffing

Ms. Lewis shared there were ten new hires in February and five terminations for various reasons, including retirement and voluntary resignations. Cord-fill staff positions were 238, and the lowest monthly turnover rate was 2.1%. A successful Job Fair was held in January, and quite a few positions were filled.

- Discussion followed.

Census

The average daily census is 141 individuals, currently at 140. Medicaid residents make up the majority of residents: 7 are on Medicare Part A, 16 are private, 28 are hospice, and 30 are managed care replacements. The January Medicaid reimbursement rates were reviewed.

- Discussion followed.

Referrals

There were 18 referrals, six of which were admitted to the facility. The other referrals were not accepted for various reasons. The admission task force met last week.

- Discussion followed.
- The Board requested Ms. Schaffer to provide the renewal of the contract for the Medical Director at next month's board meeting.

CMS Star Rating

The Star Rating has impacted referral sources. It has been identified for improvement, and several sub-committees are working on improving these measures.

- Discussion followed.

Monthly Operations

Ms. Schaffer reported filling the Assistant Director of Nursing and the Restorative Supervisor positions. An annual Skills Fair for staff for competencies was held February 9-15, 2025. The staff is looking into additional hospice and restorative care for residents. At the January meeting, Ms. Schaffer reported that an IDPH Prevalence Study on Infection was scheduled for February 2025. There was a very low participation rate because of the type of testing. Ms. Schaffer has been working with Dr. Martell and IDPH and will provide more information later.

Call Light Replacement Update

Bids for the Call Light Replacement were sent out and bids have been received. A meeting to review the bids and proceed with the process is scheduled for Thursday, March 20.

Cost Reports

Cost Reports for 2024 were completed and submitted for Medicare and Medicaid.

As the weather has improved, more resident outings have occurred.

Chairperson Perrecone called for any questions regarding the Administrator's report.

Board member Mr. Butitta recommended moving to Item H. Closed Session to Discuss Pending Litigation, as the State's Attorney's office was waiting.

Chairperson Perrecone stated that Items F. and G. would be skipped and moved to Item H., a Closed Session to Discuss Pending Litigation.

Closed Session to Discuss Pending Litigation

Chairperson Perrecone called for a motion to enter a Closed Session.

Motion: Mr. Nieman. Second: Mr. Butitta.

Chairperson Perrecone yes, Mr. Knutson yes, Mr. Butitta yes, Mr. Ferraro yes, Ms. Gobeli yes, Ms. Marinelli yes, Mr. Nieman yes, Mr. Delany yes.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The Board reconvened in an Open Session.

Chairperson Perrecone reported no action was taken in Closed Session.

Discussion Item – Financial Report (Steve Schultz)

1. Financial Statements (see attachment)

The January 2025 budget was reviewed, with the first page as the focal point. The financials are off to a good start for the year. At the last meeting, Mr. Knutson asked to define the balance sheet figures that Mr. Schultz reviewed.

- Discussion followed.

Chairperson Perrecone called for any other questions or comments.

Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Chairman Perrecone turned the Item over to Mr. Butitta. Mr. Butitta said he hadn't followed up on this, so he asked to move to layover this item to the next board meeting. The board did not object

to moving the Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to the next meeting. Chairperson Perrecone stated that the minutes should reflect that this item be added to next month's Agenda, Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Other Matters

- Mr. Butitta attended the funeral of a friend's mother, a recent resident of River Bluff. The family praised River Bluff for their care.
- Mr. Butitta noted the new board member was voted in at the County Board meeting on Thursday, March 13, and the meeting notice for the River Board meeting was sent on Friday, March 14, 2025. The new board member, Mr. Lowell Ingram, will be included in the notice to attend the next meeting.
- Mr. Knutson reported Chairman Perrecone introduced Ms. Schaffer at the County Board meeting in January 2025. Ms. Schaffer presented on River Bluff at the meeting, for which the County Board found the presentation meaningful and informative. Mr. Knutson commended both Ms. Schaffer and Chairman Perrecone.
- Mr. Nieman shared receiving the Statement of Economic Interests in the mail. He cautioned board members to complete and return their SEI statements to the County Clerk's office, or they could be relieved of their positions.
- Mr. Nieman inquired about the process for electing the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.
- Ms. Gobeli asked about IDPH, whether there should be more board involvement, and whether an attorney and Medical Director should be present. Ms. Schaffer is working with Dr. Martell to have more information soon. The State's Attorney is also reviewing documentation and hopes to have an answer by the end of the month and receive more support going forward.

Adjournment

Chairperson Perrecone called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Mr. Nieman. Second: Ms. Marinelli.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Bleile
Executive Assistant