

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

Tuesday, October 21, 2025
3:00 PM

Present:

Frank Perrecone, Chairperson
Bernice Marinelli, Vice Chairperson
John Butitta
Tim Delany
Jay Ferraro
Lowell Ingram
Jim Knutson (arrived at 3:02 pm)
Bob Nieman

Others Present:

Patrick Thompson, Winnebago County Administrator
Steve Schultz, Winnebago County Chief Financial Officer
Laura Schaffer, Administrator, River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation
Laura Doise, Asst. Administrator, River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation
Maggie Lewis, HR Representative, River Bluff Human Resources
Mike Palmer, River Bluff Resident

Absent:

Teresa Gobeli

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of September 16, 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. Discuss Best Practices and Security for Staff and Residents – Laura Schaffer
- F. Discussion Item – Administrators Report (Laura Schaffer)
 1. Census
- G. Discussion Item – Financial Report (Steve Schultz)
 1. Financial Statements (see attachment)
- H. Other Matters
- I. 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. Butitta, yes; Mr. Ferraro, yes; Ms. Marinelli, yes; Mr. Nieman, yes; Mr. Delany, yes; Mr. Ingram, yes.

A quorum is present.

Approval of September 16, 2025 Minutes

Chairperson Perrecone called for a motion to approve the minutes of September 16, 2025.

Motion: Mr. Ferraro. Second: Mr. Nieman.

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

Chairperson Perrecone called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

Chairperson Perrecone read the Public Comment Section of the Agenda due to a speaker being present.

Mr. Knutson arrived at 3:02 pm.

Mr. Palmer, a resident of River Bluff, addressed the River Bluff Board of Directors concerning Call Light wait times and cameras. He requested a written statement.

Discuss Best Practices and Security for Staff and Residents – Laura Schaffer

Ms. Schaffer stated there are no updates at this time and is awaiting Maintenance's cost estimates on securing the doors for each neighborhood wing. The item will stay on the agenda for a future report as more information becomes available.

Discussion Item – Administrators Report (Laura Schaffer)

1. Census

Ms. Doise reported that the census currently shows 152 residents, including 120 on Medicaid (79%), eight on Medicare Part A (5%), 22 on private pay (14%), 25 in hospice care (16%), and 22 on Medicaid and three on private pay. In September, there were two discharges to the home, four deaths, and eight residents were admitted.

Referrals

There is one admission pending. There were 26 referrals in September, of which eight were admitted and 17 were denied. Ms. Doise reviewed the denials.

Quality Measures

Ms. Schaffer reviewed the facility's quality measures. Management provided staff training and the McGeer criteria, and with these measures, a downward trend continues.

- A discussion followed.

Staffing

Ms. Lewis reported that 13 new hires occurred in September, along with 13 terminations, and reviewed the positions filled by new hires and the terminations. There is always a need for RNs, and there is one CNA opening. There are openings for housekeeping and dietary staff, an Admissions Coordinator, and a Reimbursement Specialist.

- A discussion followed.

IDPH

Several IDPH complaint surveys were conducted in September with no findings or violations; seven resident grievances were filed, five of which originated from a single resident. Clinics were held for COVID-19 and Flu vaccines for staff and residents.

Computer Upgrades

Many computers were upgraded.

Call Light Project

Ms. Schaffer advised that the call light replacement project is going well and is slightly ahead of schedule.

Tree Removal

The tree removal should be completed before November 1, 2025. Several companies submitted bids for the project. The oak tree at the end of the driveway will be removed, and branches on four other trees will be trimmed.

- A discussion followed.

Bed Tax

The bed tax is \$7 per day for each Medicaid bed. Based on the current census, last month's total collection was \$32,000, which applies only to Medicaid beds and is calculated based on the number of occupied Medicaid beds. Although the facility is licensed for 304 beds, the charge applies only to occupied beds.

- A discussion followed.

Cost Savings

Ms. Schaffer reported exploring ways to cut costs. Rental equipment expenses were lowered, and a local oxygen delivery company has been contracted as a new vendor, eliminating the third-party process. River Bluff has had a contract with Navigator, a group purchasing organization, since 2014. It is estimated that using Navigator could save about \$70,000 annually on items already in use. Food costs have also increased significantly over the past year. The current food supplier is GFS. Ms. Schaffer will provide information on daily meal costs. Ms. Schaffer contacted other county nursing homes to see if they participate in any group purchasing organizations. Three of them are part of a group called HPSI, which they recommend. Ms. Schaffer will reach out to HPSI.

- A discussion followed.

Agency Usage

As of October 1, there has been minimal shift coverage with agency staff, and these changes should meet the budget. There has been no CNA coverage since April. Agency use is limited to filling positions for staff who are on vacation or for other reasons.

Resident Activities

Halloween trick-or-treating is scheduled for Friday, October 31, 2025. Candy donations are being accepted. Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday meals are planned for residents and family members.

Medicaid Rates

New Medicaid rates were shared with the board members.

Commonwealth Edison Facility Assessment

ComEd provided information for the facility assessment. This is currently being reviewed, and a report will be forthcoming. The ComEd Facility Assessment will be placed on the November agenda.

- A discussion followed.

Chairman Perrecone asked if there were any questions or follow-up regarding Ms. Schaffer's Administrator's Report.

Discussion Item – Financial Report (Steve Schultz)

1. Financial Statements (see attachment)

Mr. Schultz directed the board members to the first page (summary page) of the August financial report, which showed substantial improvement from July to August. Mr. Schultz reviewed the August report.

- A discussion followed.

Chairman Perrecone called for any further questions on the financial report.

Other Matters

- January-March 2026 Meetings

Chairperson Perrecone called for a motion to approve moving the River Bluff board meetings from January to March 2026 to 1:30 p.m. in the Winnebago County Administration building, Room 510, and provide Zoom access for members unable to attend.

Motion: Mr. Delany. Second: Mr. Nieman.

Chairperson Perrecone called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

- Future agendas to include the next meeting date, time, and location.

Adjournment

Chairman Perrecone called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Mr. Ferraro. Second: Ms. Marinelli.

Chairperson Perrecone called for a vote to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Bleile
Executive Assistant