

Winnebago County Board
River Bluff Board of Directors Meeting
River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation
Winnebago County Administration Building
404 Elm Street, Room 510
Rockford, IL 61101

Tuesday, January 20, 2026
1:30 PM

Present:

Frank Perrecone, **Chairperson**
Bernice Marinelli, Vice Chairperson
John Butitta
Jay Ferraro
Teresa Gobeli
Bob Nieman via Zoom

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

Absent:

Tim Delany
Lowell Ingram
Jim Knutson

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of December 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 that 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
- G. Discussion Item – Financial Report (Steve Schultz)
 1. Financial Statements (see attachment)
- H. Other Matters
- I. Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 1:30 pm, Winnebago County Administration Building, 404 Elm Street, Room 303, Rockford, Illinois 61101
- J. Adjournment

Call to Order

Chairperson Perrecone called the River Bluff Board of Directors meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Chairperson Perrecone, yes; Mr. Butitta, yes; Mr. Ferraro, yes; Ms. Gobeli, yes; Ms. Marinelli, yes.

A quorum is present.

Chairperson Perrecone called for a motion to include board members Mr. Nieman and Mr. Delany in the meeting via Zoom.

Motion: Mr. Butitta. Second: Ms. Gobeli.

Chairperson Perrecone called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Nieman was welcomed to the board meeting. If and when Mr. Delany is active on Zoom, Chairperson Perrecone will acknowledge his presence at the meeting.

Approval of December 16, 2025 Minutes

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

Motion: Mr. Butitta. Second: Mr. Ferraro.

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 omitted reading the Public Comment Section of the Agenda because no one was present to speak.

Discussion Item – Administrators Report (Laura Schaffer)

1. Census

Ms. Doise reported that the current average daily census is 153 residents, with a peak of 161. There were 10 new admissions, and the census will be 157 today. There are 122 on Medicaid, six on Medicare Part A, 24 on private pay, and 28 in hospice care (3 private and 25 Medicaid).

Admission and Referrals

Three admissions are open. There were 13 admissions; 4 were lost, and ten were denied. Ms. Doise reviewed the denials and losses.

Discharges/Grievances

Ms. Doise reviewed the 17 discharges in December, 10 of which were due to deaths.

Ms. Schaffer reviewed the census versus resident days for December. The average daily census was 153, totaling 4,737 resident-paid days. Medicaid remains the largest payer for 80 percent or more of the population. There were 6 Medicare Part A residents, and the census for Medicare Part A was lower in September. Private pay and one managed care remain static. The census goal is 175 residents.

There were no new IDPH complaint surveys since last month's meeting. There was one grievance in December regarding a resident's walking program, for which there were no findings on the IDPH grievance survey.

- A discussion followed.

Quality Measures

Ms. Schaffer reviewed the facility's quality measures. There were 24 falls in December, down 9 from November. There were two major injuries, neither of which required surgery. Both residents returned to the facility. Ms. Schaffer also reviewed four pressure ulcers and twelve UTIs. Clinical staff are working to improve the quality measures.

On December 26, 2025, the State of Illinois, CDC, and IDPH issued a health alert to facilities, directing them to implement preventive measures, including mandatory masking, social distancing, and limiting some visitations, due to a rise in respiratory illnesses. Families and residents were notified of the measures being implemented. There have been 10 COVID-19 cases: 6 staff and 4 residents. Influenza A has resulted in 4 cases: 2 staff and 2 residents. Currently, only 1 staff member is out with illness, and everyone else has returned to work. The Dove unit has been on isolation precautions for exposure testing for 14 days and is due to come off outbreak testing on January 28, provided there are no new cases.

Staffing

Ms. Lewis reported that 3 new hires were added in December and that 7 employees were terminated for retirement or performance reasons. There are two nurse vacancies; there should be only one by next week. There are also two CNAs and a PM Cook. All other departments are fully staffed. Annual staff raises were processed as of January 1, 2026.

Call Light Project

Ms. Schaffer advised that the call light replacement project is going well and ahead of schedule. On January 12, 2026, work began on the Cardinal unit.

Agency Usage

Agency utilization increased in December due to FMLA leave, with the expectation that usage will decrease in the coming months and remain within the agency's budgetary limits.

Navigator Group Purchasing

A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2026, with the Navigator Group Purchasing to review vendors and identify additional rebates to reduce costs by the end of the year.

Admissions Team

The Admissions team has been building relationships with Assisted Living, resulting in several referrals.

IDPH Annual Survey

The facility is in the IDPH annual survey window, with their arrival expected at any time.

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

- A discussion followed.

Chairman Perrecone noted Mr. Delany was not participating via Zoom.

Discussion Item – Financial Report (Steve Schultz)

1. Financial Statements (see attachment)

Mr. Schultz reviewed page one (the summary page) of the November 2025 financial report and advised that final unaudited numbers are available, that the audit began today, and that final fieldwork for the County's audit is in progress. Mr. Schultz discussed the net operating loss from last year to the current year, showing substantial improvement. Annualized revenue is close to budget, and expenses are slightly below budget. Mr. Schultz noted that temporary help utilization is low, that the evaluation of private pay rates is still pending, and that understaffing is impacting the project. Receivables are up, and payables are down; this is temporary and expected to change. Chairman Perrecone called for any questions on the financial report.

- A discussion followed.

Other Matters

- Extend an invitation to Mr. Franks, Facilities Director, to attend the February meeting to discuss the ComEd Feasibility Study incentives.
- Invite an Energy Consultant to provide options for energy solutions.
- The Illinois Healthcare Association will be contacted to find an expert on energy needs and how they relate to nursing home care, and to learn what the industry has done as a whole. Contact the Illinois Healthcare Association for Long-Term Care to find out what the Life Safety Codes are.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026**, at **1:30 pm** in **Room 303** of the Winnebago County Administration Building, 404 Elm Street, Rockford, Illinois 61101. The Zoom link will be provided to board members who cannot attend in person. The February and March meetings are scheduled at 1:30 pm in the Winnebago County Administration Building.

Adjournment

Chairman Perrecone called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Mr. Ferraro. Second: Mr. Butitta.

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