

**NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM BOARD
NURSING HOME OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

August 24, 2021

3:00 PM

NCHC Wausau Board Room

Present: X Kurt Gibbs X Paul Gilk ABS Cindy Rider
X Pat Voermans X_(WebEx) Bob Weaver X_(WebEx) Cate Wylie

Staff: Jill Meschke, Jaime Bracken, Jarret Nickel, Zach Ziesemer, Ryan Hanson, Kristin Woller

Others: Dejan Adzic

Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Gibbs.

Public Comment for Matters Appearing on the Agenda

- None

Approval of March 23, 2021 Nursing Home Operations Committee Minutes

- **Motion**/second, Voermans/Gilk, to approve March 23, 2021 Nursing Home Operations Committee Minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report – J. Meschke

- For the month of July there was a loss of \$126,000 compared to budget. Loss of budget was \$186,000. From net revenue we are \$1.3 million short of what we had anticipated at this time of year partly due to census not fully recovering. However, we received two other sources of revenue in the form of supplemental payments, which were budgeted for, but significantly higher than estimated. Also received was the Certified Public Expenditure (CPE) payment, which is not budgeted for. With those two payments, it brings us close to the budget forecast.
- MVCC census was around 125 per day. Medicare census has been consistently staying around 10 and the Vent census at 9. Shortage relates to the mix of volume and rate.
- Drug expense has shown a significant increase and we are working on how we account for pharmacy revenues. Traditionally, they have stayed within Marathon County, however, over the last few months we have right sized to account for pharmacy in the counties where services are being provided. Financial statements will be refined to reflect this change.
- Vacancy rate is favorable over the last couple of months.
- Pine Crest losses are slightly higher than anticipated but have plans to improve those numbers. There is a good payer mix so far but still short from net patient revenue perspective. Pine Crest also received the two payments that Mount View received. Census is holding consistent around 92/day with Medicare census consistent at 8. Pine Crest is currently experiencing challenges to retain staff to operate effectively.
- Question was asked about where each county's reserves are at as reserves have had to be used to cover operating losses. Currently NCHC has about 56 days cash available in total investments and cash. Additional detail will be provided to the full board including reserves for each county and a reliable forecast for the 2022 budget.

- The federal government, possibly through CMS, may impose a requirement of vaccinations for all employees in the nursing home. Currently NCHC does not mandate vaccinations but requires all employees to participating in the vaccination program by either receiving the vaccination or signing a declination. Should the mandate be imposed, there is speculation that some staff will refuse the vaccination and leave. NCHC is implementing an incentive program for employees who voluntarily receive the vaccination prior to the potential mandate. If it is a choice of parting ways with staff who refuse the vaccination or engaging with CMS, NCHC has no option but to side with CMS. Currently about 40% of staff at Pine Crest and 56-60% of staff at Mount View are vaccinated. Residents have higher percentage of vaccination rates. With positivity rates increasing in both counties NCHC is preparing to implement restrictions when necessary.

Committee Education

- Wisconsin State Budget Impact – J. Nickel & J. Meschke
 - Highlights of presentation included:
 - Nursing Home Reimbursement Rates
 - Nursing Home & CBRF Rate Methodology
 - Direct Care Workforce Funding
- Wisconsin Skilled Nursing Bed Licensing – J. Nickel
 - Highlights of presentation included:
 - Wisconsin Licensed Bed Fee
 - \$170/month per bed
 - MVCC – 188 licensed beds / current census 126
 - Pine Crest – 160 licensed beds / current census 92
 - Fee Credit & Use
 - Selling and removal of licensed beds, and requesting new licensed beds
 - Next Steps
 - Review options with NCHC Executive Committee
 - Present proposal(s) to appropriate Boards and Counties
 - New Assessments in 2022 Budget
- Leading Age Overview & Board Involvement Opportunities – Z. Ziesemer
 - Conference currently scheduled for Oct. 6-8 in Green Bay with Wednesday tailored to Board topics. More information will be provided as it becomes available.
 - Leading Age also works with us at the State level, as does the Wisconsin Health Care Association, on increasing the Medicaid rate. An increase was 12% overall but varies nursing home to nursing home. Hopefully we will see 15% but will want to forecast as 12%. Should know more in a few weeks. Also working at the state and national levels to see if vaccine mandates include others, beyond nursing homes, who also take Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement. Will need to adhere to ADA compliance or medical reasons with some staff who have exemptions to vaccinations i.e., religious, etc.
- Mount View Care Center Survey Results & Survey Process – K. Woller
 - Every year the nursing home has an annual State survey which is broken into three parts 1) resident sample of 70% (completed off site), 2) quality of care investigation i.e., interviews with families, residents, and employees, and 3) observation of cares and reviewing medical records.
 - Our survey was conducted in March, and we received just two recommendations (average for nursing homes is eight). The recommendations identified pertained to non-pressure related skin injury and nutrition. All recommendations have been fixed, plans of corrections completed, and are in compliance.
 - Committee members complimented staff for their great work.

- Nursing Home Reporting Change – J. Nickel & J. Bracken
 - Oversight of nursing operations of Mount View and Pine Crest have moved from J. Nickel to J. Bracken. In the past there was combined oversight between them, and it is felt there will be greater efficiency with this move.

Nursing Home Operations Reports

- Mount View Care Center – K. Woller
 - Overview of the report provided in the meeting packet was provided.
 - Committee asked for additional information i.e., percent of falls to number of patients and how it compares to last year.
 - As of July 23, the Nursing Tower is in substantial compliance; continue to prepare for occupancy.
- Pine Crest Nursing Home – Z. Zieseemer
 - Overview of the report provided in the meeting packet was provided.
 - CNA class will continue as a recruitment tool.
 - Star rating will have potential to improve after the next annual survey.
 - Lincoln County Board gave the approval for Pine Crest to work with ANI; beginning to work with that process and anticipate converting 3-5 referrals because of it.

MVCC and PC Construction Update – J. Nickel

- Move in date for Tower is being pushed out as there have been completion delays due to Covid i.e., CCIT has not received switches to install for the Wi-Fi which affects the electronic medical record system. Larger delay is due to the structural issue on D & F Wing with egress from Tower. Issue must be mitigated prior to occupancy. Meeting with Facilities Maintenance and Miron Construction have occurred; the time constraint should not have a financial impact.

Board Discussion

- Right sizing Pine Crest will not be without costs associated with it; will present to Lincoln County for final approval.
- The Board agenda includes a discussion of having two Nursing Home Operations Committees. Two counties each run a nursing home, but NCHC is the Management Company that all agreed will run the operations.
 - Would like NCHC staff to bring forward options and recommendations for right sizing Pine Crest and utilizing vacant areas of the building. Recommendations would be reviewed and approved by Lincoln County as the owner of the building.
 - K. Gibbs and P. Gilk felt there should not be two oversight committees; it is beneficial to compare what is occurring in each nursing home.
 - P. Voermans suggested Ad Hoc Committees could be established when appropriate.

Adjourn

- **Motion**/second, Gilk/Voermans, to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 p.m. Motion carried.