

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

November 24, 2020

3:00 PM

Conference Call

Present:	X	Jeff Zriny	X	Kurt Gibbs	X	Paul Gilk
	X	Cindy Rider	X	Pat Voermans	X	Bob Weaver

Staff: Michael Loy, Jarret Nickel, Jill Meschke, Zach Ziesemer, Ryan Hanson, Kristin Woller, Dejan Adzic

Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 3:02

Public Comment for Matters Appearing on the Agenda

- None

ACTION: Approval of September 22, 2020 Nursing Home Operations Committee Minutes

- **Motion**/second, Gilk/Weaver, to approve the September 22, 2020 Nursing Home Operations Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report – J. Meschke

- Financial highlights for October for Mount View Care Center and Pine Crest were reviewed. We are waiting to hear about our application for additional federal funding. Gov. Evers has announced targeted nursing home specific funding that we're waiting to hear about also.

Nursing Home Operations Reports

- Mount View Care Center Operations Report – K. Woller
 - Even with the number of staff who left the nursing department, we have not had as much of a challenge staffing due to a lower census and when shifts need to be covered we ask staff to pick up additional shifts rather than having mandatory overtime.
 - When units are on enhanced precautions, patient experience scores are being negatively affected with residents having limited activities and socialization, no family visits, and needing to stay in their room; however, year to date scores remain above target.
 - Readmission rate for October is related to one resident who returned to the hospital 3 times during the first week who was very ill with heart issues; only 1 resident went to hospital with issues related to COVID-19 in October.
 - The State is in building today on an infection prevention focused visit; they should be exiting today.

- When residents are taken off enhanced precautions, we will be moving some of them from Lake View Heights to Southern Reflections to reduce the number of beds on that unit from 40 to 20. This is in relation to the nursing home renovation plans.
- We are admitting residents to the dementia program and needing to manage placement of residents carefully due to uncertainties with COVID-19 and during the phases of renovation.
 - C. Rider noted that from the hospital perspective, there is a shortage of dementia beds and they are struggling to get them into the community from the hospital.
- Pine Crest Nursing Home Operations Report – Z. Ziesemer
 - State is also at Pine Crest today for an infection control focused survey. No concerns or citations issued.
 - Uptick in falls was mainly attributed to staff call-ins due to COVID-19 and unfamiliar staff of residents.
 - Averaging 20-25 contracted staff at a time due to open positions and COVID-19-related absences but we are working to reduce use of contracted staff.
 - Established 400 Unit as COVID-19 unit which we move residents who test positive to the unit for the 14-day infectious period.

COVID Response – M. Loy

- Emphasized an appreciation for our teams in the nursing home. Demands of leadership in skilled nursing is incredible. Our teams have been working long hours every day and troubleshooting continually for months taking care of our residents, keeping them safe and well. They have done this without supports they normally have with volunteers and activity staff and we appreciate everything they are doing.
- Without Cares Act funding, Mount View would have lost about a half million dollars and Pine Crest a quarter million operationally. Our census has taken a huge hit and it's difficult for nursing homes in general to be able to adjust expenses quickly, but our teams have done a great job to mitigate expenses relative to these changes.
- There is positive news on a vaccine and anticipate it arriving mid-December. Nursing homes will be top priority along with inpatient acute care hospitals. We will be able to administer the vaccine first to our residents and staff in direct care who have not had COVID-19. Vaccinations will be required of our staff or required to wear full PPE.
- In short term, once the vaccine is available, we can more readily open for admissions and possibly accommodate a potential surge at the hospitals.
- Long term, we will see the impact of people's orientation of nursing homes in our census and we'll be relooking at the size and scope of our nursing homes as we move forward. We have seen impacts predominantly in our Medicare and self-pay numbers with people electing to care for family members at home. Feel there will be demand eventually for care in the nursing home. Given Cares Act money and vaccine we should be able to weather this operationally and financially.

- In the State budget there is a huge request for funding for nursing homes. A number of closures have been delayed due to Cares Act funding but without additional funding they will eventually be at risk again. Long term implications to the long-term care industry will be one of access and regulatory whiplash will be substantial due to infection prevention practices i.e., multi-resident rooms will be impossible in the future.
- Current push from both federal and state is to keep individuals out of the nursing homes, however, there isn't a local community-based provider adequate to capture those individuals. Since August, those going into home care rather than a skilled nursing home has risen tremendously which also means a higher acuity level for those in the home.
- Wisconsin had been one of the worst in the nation for reimbursement, but work is being done in addressing this to get reimbursement more in line with actual cost of care.

Future Agenda Items and Meeting Schedule

- Meetings will occur every other month in 2021 starting in January
- COVID-19 will remain on agenda including an update on the vaccine
- Strategy moving forward and decisions to be made based on industry
- Portage County discussions

Adjourn

- **Motion**/second, Gilk/Rider, to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Debbie Osowski, Executive Assistant to CEO