

PIATT COUNTY NURSING HOME
NURSING HOME COMMITTEE MEETING
PIATT COUNTY BOARD

Date: 1/27/2022

Time: 8:00 am

Place: Piatt County Nursing Home—Conference Room

Members Present: Gail Jones, Shannon Carroll, and Ray Spencer

Absent Members: None

Other Attendees: Scott Porter, Executive Director
Suzanna Brock, Administrative Assistant
Tom Corbin, PCNH Family Member
Steve Hoffman, Piatt County Journal

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Gail Jones, at 8:00 am.

Approval of Minutes: Carroll made a motion, seconded by Spencer to approve the 1/13/22 minutes.
Motion approved

Payroll Approval: Spencer made a motion, seconded by Carroll to approve Piatt County Nursing Home payroll approval of \$195,970.30. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Spencer, Carroll, and Jones. Nays-None; Motion carried.

Carroll made a motion, seconded by Spencer to approve Maple Point payroll amount of \$25,369.24. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Spencer, Carroll, and Jones. Nays-None; Motion carried.

Old Business: Executive Director gave an update to the committee on the status of the facility's Covid-19 testing and positive cases. The committee was informed that testing was still being done twice a week and that currently there were no residents who are positive and that the covid unit had been closed for now. There were three employees from last week who were positive.

New Business: The Executive Director presented to the committee his plan to raise the base hourly wage for the Cna's to \$18 an hour. He stated that after implementing the change for the Cnas that the facility would then look at the nurse's wages as well. The Executive Director presented the ads of other SLF's to show the incredible competition for staff around the area. The E.D. stated that the relative isolation of the facility's location away from larger urban centers plays a huge role in the wage that must be offered to attract staff to the facility. At this point, the facility needs to hire approximately 12 Cna's to meet the facility's standards. The facility also needs about 5 nurses. This is a huge deficit that is extremely difficult to overcome with such a small population of people living in the surrounding area. The facility also must compete with Kirby Hospital for healthcare workers, which is only three miles away. Ray Spencer stated that this is why he keeps bringing up a long term plan. The E.D. stated that he has mentioned many times that the true solution is to down scale the operation considering three factors. The first is the one being discussed today with staffing. In the next 10 years, the population isn't likely to increase much in the Piatt County. The second is that

the face of long-term care is changing. With the opening of other “less skilled” options like assisted livings, this means fewer people are going to nursing homes, and those who are, have much more serious health and care needs. This means more equipment to assist them, which means closer quarters for staff to work in with two people in a room. The last influence is changing focus even more to county service. At present, the facility cannot fill all the beds with county residents, so several residents have no connection to the county at all. Though that will never completely go away, with down sizing, the facility can focus on the community that supports it nearly 100% of the time. What is left will go to out of county residents. That is not always the case based on staffing as bed availability at the time of request under the current needs for maintaining census.

The E.D. laid out for the group how this downsizing would occur. Currently the facility is licensed for 100 beds. However, the facility doesn't, and has never owned 100 physical beds during the E.D.s time at the facility. With an average census of 78 for the last four years, this means the facility pays a tax to the state for each of the beds not utilized every year. This tax costs the facility several thousand dollars in needless expense. The goal would be to reduce the facility to 80 beds, and the rise in income from the unpaid tax would then go to staffing and other infrastructure projects.

Public Comment:

Tom Corbin asked what the E.D.'s opinion was about the future of wearing masks and screening for Covid would be. He asked if he thought it would continue much longer. The E.D. stated that with all the variants that seem to pop up, there couldn't be a definitive answer; however, if things stayed as they were the E.D. stated that from his observations within the facility from last year which was a disaster without vaccines compared to this year when there were some cases of Covid, but there was little in the way of spread relatively speaking. Also those residents who did test positive for the virus were not ill or had symptoms so mild as to not even rise to the level of a common cold. However, this is a very small sample of the population, but if it holds to the general population, then the regulations would ease considerably because the vaccines have worked. The E.D. did not believe that the wearing of mask would ever stop of healthcare workers. He based this on the fact that the flu has been all but unseen these past two years with all the staff wearing masks. This will not be lost on IDPH and regulations will most likely come out requiring them for staff, at least seasonally.

The last question Mr. Corbin asked was what level of threat to the overall operation of the nursing home was the current staffing crisis? The E.D. stated that he felt it was significant up to a point. Staffing has long been the bane of every administrator at the facility from its inception. Things have not changed, but the current administration would like to change the scope of the operation to keep the level of care at acceptable levels, and meet the needs of the residents with fewer, more skilled individuals instead of trying to staff higher, with less motivated or skilled individuals to make staffing ratios that are unsustainable over time.

Executive Session: Executive Session: Carroll made the motion to enter closed session, seconded by Spencer at 8:44 am. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Spencer, Carroll, and Jones. Nays-None; Motion carried.

Motion made to come out of closed session at 9:10 am was made by Carroll and seconded by Spencer. Roll Call Vote Ayes – Spencer, Carroll, and Jones. Nays – None; Motion carried.

The next meeting date is February 7, 2022, at 8:00 am for January claims approval.

Carroll made a motion, seconded by Spencer to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 am. Motion approved

Gail Jones, Chairwoman
Nursing Home Committee
Piatt County Board

Suzanna Brock
Executive Assistant
Piatt County Nursing Home