

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Lakeland Health Care Center Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 24, 2019
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114
100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

Chair Ken Monroe called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Roll call was conducted. All members were present: Chair Ken Monroe, Vice Chair Tim Brellenthin, and Supervisors Kathy Ingersoll, William Norem and Charlene Staples.

Others in attendance:

County Board members: County Board Chair Nancy Russell

County staff: County Administrator David Bretl; Lakeland Health Care Center (LHCC) Administrator Timothy Peek; LHCC Assistant Administrator Taya Walk; LHCC Social Worker Mel Davis; Deputy County Administrator-Finance Nicki Andersen

Members of the public: Gary Wagner, Lake Geneva, WI

Supervisor Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Ingersoll, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

On motion by Supervisor Norem, seconded by Supervisor Staples, the minutes of the February 20, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting were approved by voice vote.

Public Comment – There was none.

New Business

- **Triad Presentation** – Mel Davis, LHCC Social Services
Social Worker Mel Davis works in Memory Care at LHCC. Triad is a partnership of organizations, including law enforcement, first responders, older adults and community groups. The purpose of the group is to promote senior safety and reduce the fear of crime older adults often experience. Triad exists nationwide, and Walworth County established the partnership this year. Triad goals include reducing criminal victimization of older adults, improving quality of life in our communities, increasing community involvement by implementing solutions to problems created by crime, focusing attention on safety and crime-related needs of older adults, and enhancing delivery of law enforcement and first responder services to the older population. Walworth, Kenosha and Racine Counties have partnered to form a Tri-County Triad. Each County has its own executive committee. The Tri-County Triad will collaborate on events and presentations to promote community awareness and education. Davis said 2040 projections estimate that 33% of the total population of 18 Wisconsin counties will be age 65 or older. Davis emphasized the importance of proactive planning and enhanced service provision to our rapidly increasing senior population. The Triad has overwhelming support from officials in law enforcement. On April 22, a ceremony was held for Triad members to sign an agreement to work cooperatively to reduce the criminalization of seniors in Walworth County. Davis presented a list of upcoming events, and goals for future programming to promote safety and well-being. LHCC Administrator Timothy Peek announced Davis will receive a Public Service Award in May from the Sheriff's Department for her efforts in implementing Triad in Walworth County.

- Correspondence from Supervisor Staples regarding 2019 Assembly Bill 76 relative to licensing requirements for Certified Nursing Assistants
- The CNA Training Bill

Peek reported 120 hours of training for Certified Nursing Assistants is required at Lakeland Health Care Center (LHCC). Other states' regulations vary. If training requirements are reduced by law to 75 hours

(the federal standard), LHCC will have to increase internal training to meet its 120-hour requirement. Supervisor Staples expressed her concern with safety and the quality of care if the training requirements are lowered. Cutting clinical training to 16 hours of floor time is inadequate. An e-mail from Wendy S. Kujawa, RN, was distributed before the meeting. Ms. Kujawa, who is a former Director of Nursing at LHCC, urged the Board to oppose the lowering of the standard, which can lead to decreased productivity, increased patient complaints and self-reporting to the State. She added that decreasing the training hours will further deplete the number of qualified Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) applicants. Supervisor Staples noted the wage scale for CNAs has not kept up with the mental and physical stresses of the position. Reducing the training requirements will adversely affect the quality of care provided to residents. She suggested the Board urge the legislature to consider Medicaid expansion reimbursement be used to raise wages. **Supervisor Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Ingersoll, to direct the County Administrator draft an Advisory Resolution opposing the reduction in licensing requirements for Certified Nursing Assistants. Motion carried 5-0.**

- Budget Amendments

- 1) LH02 – Additional Pathway Consulting Services

Peek said additional services from Pathway Consulting are for the interim Director of Nursing position. Recent candidates have not met the qualification requirements. The salary savings from the unfilled position will be allocated to pay Pathway Consulting.

- 2) LH03 – Agency Nursing Services

Due to recruitment difficulties, additional Registered Nurse coverage is needed for second shift. Funding for the agency services will come from vacancies in two other positions. **Supervisor Norem made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Ingersoll, to approve Budget Amendments LH02 and LH03. Motion carried 5-0.**

- Quarterly Write-Offs

Assistant LHCC Administrator Taya Walk presented the write-offs, most of which were from 2016 and 2017 dates of service. Peek said most of the write-offs were due to residents coming to LHCC with Medicaid pending; approval was subsequently denied, and they did not have private funds. In some cases, residents cannot be discharged safely, they have no Family Care contract, and have to stay for a longer term. Walk reported LHCC can now piggyback with Health and Human Services for Community Care. **Supervisor Norem made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Brellenthin, to accept the quarterly write-offs report. Motion carried 5-0.**

Reports

- Summary of “Day at the Capitol” Legislative Visits

Peek gave a presentation on the highlights from the legislative visits in Madison. The Governor issued a Proclamation designating March 3-9, 2019 “Careers in Aging Week.” A report showed that one in five direct caregiver positions in Wisconsin’s nursing and assisted living facilities is vacant. Recruiting experienced nurses and nursing assistants is becoming a critical issue statewide. In the year 2040, projections estimate 70% of county residents over the age of 65 will need some type of long-term care. Several potential solutions to the shortage were proposed/discussed at the “Day at the Capitol,” including the reduction in training hours for CNAs. LHCC is consistently experiencing 10-20 open positions. Although the County offers a generous benefit package and wages for CNAs at our facility are slightly higher than the region, the health care profession is not growing with increased demand for services. Peek said the current private pay rate is \$320 per day, which equates to \$116,800 per year. That amount is not sustainable for residents. If one considers the daily Medicaid rate of \$165.55/day and compute the difference, LHCC is currently losing \$56,375 in revenue per year. Governor Evers’ Budget proposes an

annual Medicaid increase of 2.5%, 1.5% for direct care and 1% for acuity care. The Budget also includes a \$2.9 million funding proposal to increase dementia care specialists. Peek said Medicaid reimbursement funds budgeted differ from the actual funds expended. For the past several years, the actual number of nursing facility residents served has fallen far below the estimate used by the Department of Health Services to set overall rates. Peek said the federal government needs to become more involved to increase Medicaid funding for Wisconsin. In 2019, ten nursing facilities have closed. Just yesterday, three in Milwaukee went into receivership. Supervisor Ingersoll asked what Peek believes the highest priority is to resolve funding issues. He replied that LHCC may have to change its model for sustainable operations. Lack of staffing and the Medicaid reimbursement rates have to be resolved. Peek will communicate with other nursing home administrators regarding any successes in recruiting/retaining staff and remaining solvent. Discussion/action regarding the issue of Medicaid reimbursement rates will be placed on next month's meeting agenda.

- **CMS 5 Star Rating Update**

LHCC has been upgraded to a 5 Star Facility! Peek will provide more information on the designation at the next meeting.

- **Report of Department Head concerning February and March 2019 Business Activities**
Peek reported that statistics remain static. The census has increased to 107.

Correspondence – There was none.

Announcements – There were none.

Upcoming Events – The list of upcoming events at LHCC was included with the agenda packet. Walk reported that National Nursing Home Week is May 13-18. The “Live Soulfully” activities will include meditation, a quilt show and a speaker from Iowa.

Confirmation of next meeting: The next regular business meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by Vice Chair Brellenthin, seconded by Supervisor Staples, Chair Monroe adjourned the meeting at 2:03 p.m.