

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
1000 Pavilions Circle, Traverse City, MI 49684

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 26, 2025 MEETING

PRESENT:	Mary Marois, Carol Crawford Dave Hautamaki, Kory Hansen, Darcey Gratton TJ Andrews	Board Staff Commission
ABESENT:	Karen Griggs	
GUESTS:	None	

The regular meeting of the Grand Traverse County Department of Health and Human Services Board was called to order at 9:00am by Board Chair Mary Marois at Garfield Township Hall.

Roll Call - Marois - yes, Crawford – yes, Griggs – excused

First Public Comment – None.

County Liaison Report – County Liaison Andrews provided an update on recent discussions from the County Board of Commissioners (BOC) meetings. She reported that the BOC has approved the settlement agreement with PACE North. Additionally, Andrews addressed recent media coverage, clarifying that contrary to reports in the local newspaper, there is no support to relocate the county jail to Lafranier Road. She stated that the most likely location remains on the same campus as the Governmental Center.

Approval of Agenda – Marois shared the need to add Closed Session as #12 to the to discuss trial or settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation, specifically DHHS and the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation Board v. PACE North.

Motion was made by Crawford to approve the Agenda with additions as presented, seconded by Marois. Motion carried.

The purpose of the Consent Calendar is to expedite business by grouping items to be dealt with by one Board motion without discussion. Any member of the Board or staff may ask that any item on the Consent Calendar be removed and placed elsewhere on the agenda for discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected.

REVIEW AND FILE

- (1) Draft Minutes of the 5/29/25 Board Meeting
- (2) Closed Minutes of the 5/29/25 Board Meeting
- (3) Draft Minutes of the 5/29/25 Special Board Meeting
- (4) Draft Minutes of the 6/3/25 Special Board Meeting
- (5) Draft Minutes of the 6/4/25 Special Board Meeting
- (6) Closed Minutes of the 6/4/25 Board Meeting
- (7) Draft Minutes of the 6/5/25 Special Board Meeting
- (8) Draft Minutes of the 6/11/25 Special Board Meeting
- (9) Draft Minutes of the 6/16/25 Special Board Meeting
- (10) Draft Minutes of the 6/20/25 Special Board Meeting
- (11) Closed Minutes of the 6/20/25 Board Meeting
- (12) May Resident Council Minutes

Motion was made by Crawford to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion seconded by Marois. Motion carried.

Items Removed From Consent Calendar – None.

Chairman Report – Marois provided a detailed overview of the process undertaken to identify and recruit the organization's next Chief Executive Officer. Following a comprehensive search and careful consideration, the board unanimously agreed to appoint Darrell Lavendar as the new CEO. Mr. Lavendar will officially begin his role on July 21, 2025.

Marois also reported that the board is close to finalizing an agreement with PACE North and emphasized the board's continued support for the program and expressed sincere best wishes for its success.

Service Excellence Awards – Marois reviewed May's Service Excellence Awards and also recognized Christina Wagatha the Assistant Director of Nursing, for receiving statewide recognition from Leading Age Michigan with the Emerging Leader Award.

Staff Presentation – Levi Petrone, Human Resources Director – Petrone delivered a presentation outlining the roles and responsibilities of each member of the HR team. He provided updates on current recruitment and retention initiatives, discussed employee recognition efforts, and responded to questions from board members.

Agenda Update – Marois reported that she received notice from legal counsel indicating that a closed session is no longer necessary to discuss the settlement agreement with PACE North. As such, the board will move forward with its original motion to approve the proposed settlement agreement, as presented during the June 20, 2025 special board meeting. Marois noted details of the agreement will be disclosed once it has been signed by all parties.

2024 OPEB Accounting Report – Hansen reviewed the updated year-end 2024 Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) report prepared by the actuarial firm, Watkin Ross. Discussed.

Chief Executive Officer Report – Hautamaki presented the May monthly report and responded to questions from board members. Key highlights included the results of the mock survey conducted during the week of June 3. Hautamaki noted that immediately following the mock survey, state surveyors completed their annual survey from June 10–12. Additionally, the Life Safety annual survey was conducted during the same week. Hautamaki also shared updates on facility census, progress at Aspen and the Cottages, and ongoing efforts to strengthen leadership responsibilities. Marois requested that the results of the mock survey be shared with the full Board.

BUSINESS

- (1) **Financial Report** – Hansen presented the financial operations report for May 2025 and answered board members' questions.

Motion made by Marois to accept the financial operations report as presented. Seconded by Crawford. Motion carried. Roll call Marois – yes, Crawford – yes, Griggs – excused.

Grand Traverse Pavilions Announcements

- (1) Next Regular Board Meeting – July 31, 2025 @ 9:00am
- (2) Upcoming Concerts
- June 26 – All About Buffett – Doc Probes and the Rip Tides
 - July 10 – Scottville Clown Band
 - July 17 – Petoskey Steel Drum Band
 - July 24 – Some Like It Yacht Featuring Judy Harrison

Second Public Comment

McKenzie Beeman

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 am

Signatures:

Mary Marois – Chair
Grand Traverse County Department of Health and Human Services Board

Date: July 31, 2025 Approved _____
 _____ Corrected and Approved _____