

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

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 29, 2026 MEETING

PRESENT: Carol Crawford, Mary Marois, Karen Griggs Board
Darrell Lavender, Dave Hautamaki, Kory Hansen, Darcey Gratton Staff
TJ Andrews Commission

ABESENT:

GUESTS:

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 Carol Crawford at Garfield Township Hall.

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

First Public Comment – None.

County Liaison Report – County Liaison Andrews provided an update on recent discussions from the County Board of Commissioners (BOC) meetings.

Approval of Agenda – Chair Crawford asked if there were additions, changes or corrections to the agenda.

Motion was made by Marois to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Griggs and carried unanimously.

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 12/10/25 Board Meeting
- (2) Draft Minutes of the 12/10/25 Special Board Meeting
- (3) December Resident Council Minutes

Motion was made by Griggs to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Seconded by Marois and carried unanimously.

Items Removed From Consent Calendar – None.

Chairman Report – None

Foundation Board Report – Marios stated next Board meeting February 4, 2026. No report at this time.

PACE North Board Report – Crawford stated next Board meeting in February. No report at this time.

Service Excellence Awards – Crawford reviewed December's Service Excellence Awards.

Chief Executive Officer Report – The CEO marked his six-month milestone with Grand Traverse Pavilions, expressing gratitude for the Board's support and emphasizing the ongoing work to strengthen the organization. Lavender shared he and Holly Edmondson, Director of Nursing had a productive meeting with Northern Michigan College leadership about rebuilding clinical training partnerships that were impacted by COVID-19. The CEO also announced the appointment of Kim Weckesser as the new HR Director, starting February 23rd, and thanked former HR Director Diane Mallory, for stepping in as Interim Director.

Lavender reviewed a new Organizational Scorecard aimed at setting and tracking goals in key areas: Residents First, the Healthcare Team, Quality & Safety, and Operational Performance. Department-level scorecards are nearly complete, with over 100 aligned goals. The Organizational Scorecard will be presented to the Board monthly to monitor progress.

On the financial front, Lavender shared the favorable trend of the average census being at 189 for SNF and 60 for the Cottages. He also noted an elevated accounts receivable (AR) balance of \$9M, contributing to cash flow challenges. A financial recovery plan has been launched, focusing on improving cash flow, reducing expenses, and enhancing financial resilience. Several initiatives have been introduced, including working with Citrin Cooperman on AR and implementing better tracking of key department expenses. The CEO recommended establishing a cash reserve threshold to reduce risk, with further discussions planned before the next Board meeting.

The wellness and operational statistics for December showed a favorable census trend and steady growth in skilled nursing and outpatient therapy units. Additionally, staffing for December included 6 new hires, bringing the total to 358 employees. The CEO requested that the decision on Cottages' discounts be tabled until February. To date there have been no discounts granted.

Following the CEO's report, Hautamaki provided the Administrator's Management Report, highlighting a partnership with healthcare consultant Vickie Burlew. Burlew will support maintaining quality systems and preparing for upcoming surveys, with a mock survey scheduled for late February.

Director Presentation – Financial Services – Kory Hansen, CFO – Kory Hansen, CFO, provided an overview of the Financial Services department, detailing the current staff and their respective roles. He presented a handout of his department's scorecard, highlighting key areas of focus, with a particular emphasis on improving accounts receivable processes. Hansen reviewed the department's ongoing priorities and initiatives aimed at enhancing financial efficiency. He concluded by addressing questions from board members. Crawford requested that all monthly department scorecards be included in future board packets.

Media Coverage – Lavender provided a copy of recent media coverage stemming from the presentation he delivered to the County in December.

BUSINESS

(1) **November Financial Report** – Hansen presented the financial operations report for November 2025. Crawford explained that the November financials were not included in the December 10th board packet due to the earlier timing of the meeting, which did not allow sufficient time for the report to be completed.

Hansen addressed questions from board members regarding the financial details. Specifically, the board discussed the decline in cash and the increase in accounts receivable. Hansen provided further clarification on these trends and outlined factors contributing to these changes.

Motion made by Griggs to accept the financial operations report for November as presented. Seconded by Marois and carried unanimously. Roll Call - Crawford – yes, Marois - yes, Griggs – yes

- (2) **December Financial Report** – Hansen presented the financial operations report for December 2025, highlighting key items including the decreased Medicaid reimbursement rate, a retention bonus payout, and the provider tax. The board discussed the implications of these changes and the overall impact on financial operations.

Motion made by Marois to accept the financial operations report for December as presented. Seconded by Griggs and carried unanimously. Roll Call - Crawford – yes, Marois - yes, Griggs – yes

- (3) **Purchase Request – Freezer Compressor Replacement** – Lavender reviewed the request to replace the Walk-in Freezer Compressor in the kitchen. Due to the emergency nature of the repair, only one bid was solicited, which was awarded to Grand Traverse Refrigeration, Inc.

Motion made by Marois to approve the bid from Grand Traverse Refrigeration for \$12,055.47 for Walk-in Freezer Compressor in the kitchen as presented. Motion was seconded by Griggs and carried unanimously. Roll Call - Crawford – yes, Marois - yes, Griggs – yes

- (4) **Purchase Request – Kubota Tractor Repair** – Lavender reviewed the request to repair the Kubota Tractor. Due to the emergency nature of the repair, only one bid was solicited, which was awarded to Ginop Sales.

Motion made by Crawford to approve the bid for \$9,055.90 from Ginop Sales Inc as presented. Motion was seconded by Griggs and carried unanimously. Roll Call - Crawford – yes, Marois - yes, Griggs – yes

- (5) **Michigan Arts and Cultural Council (MACC) Grant Submission Resolution 2026 - 1** - Lavender reviewed the Resolution to submit the grant application in the amount of \$20,000 from the MACC for funding towards the 2026 Concert on the Lawn concert series.

Motion made by Griggs to approve the grant application to be submitted in the amount of \$20,000 from the MACC for funding towards the 2026 Concert on the Lawn concert series. Motion was seconded by Marois and carried unanimously.

Inclement Weather – Crawford discussed the option of developing a Resolution to cancel board meetings in the event of inclement weather, proposing to follow the lead of the public school district (TCAPS) school closings. After discussion, the board agreed that the Board Chair and CEO have the authority to make this decision independently, in compliance with the parameters of the Open Meetings Act, without needing a formal resolution. If the situation arises, the Board Chair will decide whether to reschedule the meeting. No motion was needed.

