

Health and Social Services Committee Meeting Report
Wednesday, January 14, 2026 5:00p.m Hillcrest Conference Room

Members present: Dave Dobbels (arrived 4 p.m.), Jim Thompson, Mark Burton, Kathy Nelson, Bob Wachtel, Kippy Breeden, and Jan May
Members absent: Shannon Bumann and Marshall Jones
Others present: Erin Knackstedt, Ray Elliott, Jeremy Brune

Chair May called the meeting to order.

Member Breeden moved to approve agenda with the addition of a closed session under item 9. Member Burton seconded, all were in favor and motion carried

Member Burton moved to approve the January 14, 2026 Health and Social Services committee minutes. Member Wachtel seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

There were no presentations.

Under public comment, Chair May read two letters of support for Hillcrest from county residents.

Administrator Knackstedt read over the report provided by Administrator Powell which gave an overview of the facility updates which included staffing, employee issues, and a brief discussion of incidents. Administrator Knackstedt reviewed the goals and gains document that she prepared to help organize and provide positive reporting for the facility.

The claims report for the month of December were reviewed. Jeremy Brune, the consultant from Plymouth, gave an overview of the financials and his background. He explained to the committee the breakdown of medicare, medicare MCO, VA, and private pay income. The committee asked several questions relating to Mr. Brune's findings on the facility year to date which included shifting the focus to admitting medicare mco certified residents because that is the category that the facility will break even with for cost.

Under old business, the committee briefly discussed a room rate increase strategy and will bring it back for formal discussion at the March meeting.

Under New Business,

Member Wachtel moved to approve a non-union wage increase policy. Member May seconded, there was a roll call vote and the motion carried. Administrator Knackstedt explained the policy which will establish annual increases for non-union employees at the beginning of each fiscal year, December 1, upon completion of an annual performance review.

Member Nelson moved to approve a Director of Nursing salary increase. Member Wachtel seconded, there was a roll call vote and the motion carried. Administrator Knackstedt reviewed the proposal.

Member May moved to approve the lagoon engineering proposal, Member Thompson seconded, Member Nelson moved to amend the original motion to accept the proposal from Baxter and Woodman in the amount of \$15,800, Member Dobbels seconded, there was a roll call vote and the amended motion carried, there was another roll call vote and the original motion carried. Administrator Knackstedt reviewed the proposals and discussed the pros and cons of each.

Member Nelson moved to approve the Agreement of Cooperation between Hillcrest Home and Black Hawk College District 503 Physical Therapy Assistant Program, Member Wachtel seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Member Nelson moved to approve the Plymouth Billing Consultant Addendum in an amount not to exceed \$1,000, Member Wachtel seconded, there was a roll call vote and the motion carried.

Member Nelson moved to enter closed session at 5:26 p.m. for personnel, Member May seconded, there was a roll call vote, all were in favor and the committee entered closed session.

Member Dobbels moved to exit closed session at 5:55 p.m., Member Wachtel seconded, there was a roll call vote, all were in favor and the committee entered open session.

The next regular Health and Social Services Committee meeting is set for Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, Member Breeden moved adjourned the meeting, Member May seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Erin Knackstedt, County Administrator