

Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., Chairperson Patti Peretto called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioner's Room and was a joint meeting with the Human Services Board of the Iron County Medical Care Facility. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Chairperson Patti Peretto, Commissioners Jeff Ofsdahl, Jacob Conery, and Mark Stauber. Absent: Commissioner Mike Stafford.

Also present: Administrative Assistants Lynette Lorenz, Mary Dalpra, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

Also present from the Human Services Board: Joe Shubat, Board Chair; Board Members Chester Pintarelli and John Archocosky, and Interim Administrator Rob Possanza.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, to approve the agenda. Voice vote, motion carried.

Peretto called for Public Comment.

Jessica Schram spoke in support of Interim Administrator Rob Possanza.

Lynn Oman was next to speak. She had concerns about Chester Pintarelli, who was the prior Administrator at the Iron County Medical Care Facility, being on the board. She wondered if it was ethical. She also said she feels like an outsider because she lives in Felch and felt that may have been the reason she had been passed up for promotions and/or other jobs at the facility. She said she likes her job.

Peretto called for public comment two more times, with no further comments voiced.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the operating procedures and performance of the Iron County Medical Care Facility. The Human Services Board then introduced themselves and introduced Rob Possanza as the Interim Administrator. Mr. Possanza has been at the facility for approximately two weeks but has been an Administrator for 36 years prior, having owned a private nursing home facility in the past. He said he is learning about a "county-owned" facility.

Mr. Possanza explained the rating system and how it's rated. He also explained how the Covid Pandemic has affected the facility and went over the financial projections for year-end 2021.

Peretto had questions about the census. Shubat stated that Possanza hopes to improve the census. Possanza said the census will help but also said we need more staffing, especially certified nursing assistants. Archocosky said everyone is talking about staffing issues. Having enough staff per resident. There was also talk about what would happen if the federal government mandates vaccines, then what.

Possanza reported that we have 112 out of 200 beds filled at the facility and 17 out of 25 at the assisted living. If you bring in more census, do we have enough staff? Another factor is quarantines. If an employee is exposed or has Covid, they are off for 7-10 days, so staff fluctuates. He said life has changed. The days are done with full staff/full census and having a "waiting list".

Conery had questions about the financial status without the PPE money. Possanza said that's my job to figure that out. Tinti said it's a struggle to balance the revenue and expenses. Tinti said the information at the meeting tonight is helpful and appreciated.

Possanza also wanted to say that the facility has so many good staff members that he's met so far and that they are hard-working, caring, loving people. Shubat thanked Possanza and the employees and said that it's been a tough time working through the pandemic.

Ofsdahl asked how often the facility is surveyed. Possanza said typically every 9-15 months, but they never know. Any complaint or incident could result in a survey and he explained the process. Ofsdahl asked how often are the ratings updated? Possanza stated that they are supposed to be updated quarterly. Possanza also said he would gladly give the board members a tour.

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Peretto said that there was a woman at last month's meeting who was quite upset with the rating at the facility and concerns over the Human Services Board. Ofsdahl said that when you have a constituent that has concerns, you have to address it and find out the truth to figure it out.

Conery was impressed that Possanza had so many answers. Possanza said he's here to help and to call him with any questions and that he would be more than happy to give them a tour or attend a county board meeting.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Chairperson Patti Peretto

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle