Morton County Health System
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes of January 27, 2026

1. **Call to Order:** Troy Barnett, Chairman of the board, called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

   Attendees:
   Richard Adams, CEO
   Dr. Matthew Bowles, CMO
   Braden Anderson, CFO
   Jennifer Pearlstein, Administrative Assistant / Credentials
   Troy Barnett, Board Chairman
   Karen Gates, Board Vice Chairman
   Ronn Martin, Board Secretary
   Sharmilla Hall, Lab Director
   Shaina Peacock, Respiratory Therapy Director
   Jackie Gullett, Nursing Director
   Rita Granados, Pharmacy Director
   Gail Horner, HIM Director
   Todd Overpeck, Radiology Director
   Michele Reust, Finance
   Dr. Chris Forrer (Zoom)
   Mariana Gonzales, Nursing Assistant

2. **Approve Agenda:** Troy asked for motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. Karen made a motion to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Ronn M., motion carried.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Board members read the December 23, 2025, regular meeting minutes and January 14, 2026 special board meeting minutes. Troy asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Karen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ronn M., motion carried.

4. **CEO Report Richard:**
   - Hosting a healthcare career day for area (Elkhart, Rolla, Yarbrough) junior and senior students on Feb 18th
   - Wins
     - All billing operations have officially transitioned to in-house processing as of 12/31/2025
     - Radiology – MCHS implemented QR code driven, cloud hosted image sharing
     - Nursing – fully staffed with area nurses. No contract or agency staffing nurses are currently required.
   - Losses
     - Sorting QueueLogix (former billing provider) unpaid billing backlog
     - Respiratory and Radiology overall decrease in utilization
   - Priorities
     - Respiratory – evaluate possibility of adding cardiac rehabilitation
     - Radiology – beginning search for candidate to fill opening for retiring staff
     - Lab – reevaluate equipment maintenance cadence
     - Nursing – Director of Nursing community visibility
   - Opportunities

- Cardiac rehabilitation programs
- Reinvigorate pain management program
- Continued community outreach

5. **CMO Report Dr. Bowles**
   - New ER ultrasound equipment yielding significant benefits from both patient safety and finance perspectives

6. **CFO Report Braden:**
   - Books closed through November 2025
   - 2025 patient visit trends
     - ER visits up 14%
     - Inpatient and swing bed down year-over-year but stabilizing
     - Clinic visits down substantially year-over-year (-21%) with corresponding lab utilization decrease
     - Since September overall admission trends improving
   - Clinic improvement plan
     - Implemented same-day visits, flexible hours
     - Improved charting timeliness and made other incremental operational improvements
   - Attrition
     - Roughly similar patterns year-over-year. Improvement needed
     - Core team stable
     - Across the board raises are planned for 2026
   - Finance
     - 2026 budget finalized
       - Modest operating surplus projected
         - Assumptions
           - 10% inpatient growth
           - 10% clinic decline
           - Improved Medicare reimbursement with better collections process
         - Projected gross revenue increase from 2025 / $8.5 million to $9.5 million / 2026
     - Reviewing pricing models for cost competitiveness

7. **Old Business:**

8. **Public Comments:**
   - None

9. **New Business**:
   - Credentialing
     - Defer appointment of Robin Shelton per voluntary separation
     - Appointments – Judith Wolfstein and Dr. Rachel Nelson / Real Radiology, Dr. Hamilton Lam and Dr. Muhammad Tarar / Beam Healthcare
     - Ronn motion / Karen seconded. Motion passed
   - Policies and Procedures
     - Respiratory, risk management, maintenance, staff, signature and various policy updates
     - Karen motion / Ronn M. seconded. Motion passed
   - Jackie Gullett / Sharmilla Hall

- Infection Report
    - 14 pathologies 2025
    - No reportable incidents
    - No reportable infections
    - Appoint Jackie Gullett to infection prevention responsibilities
        - Karen motion / Ronn M. seconded. Motion passed

10. **Executive Session:** Troy asked for a motion to enter executive session at 1:23 with the board, Richard and Braden for 45 minutes. Ronn M. made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Karen, motion passed. Executive session ended at 1:53 pm.
    - Action taken - approved sick leave policy changes

11. **Adjournment:** Troy asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ronn M., motion carried.

2-25-26

Ronn Martin, Secretary **Date**