Morton County Health System
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes of March 24, 2026

1. **Call to Order:** Troy Barnett, Chairman of the board, called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

   Attendees:
   Richard Adams, CEO
   Dr. Matthew Bowles, CMO
   Braden Anderson, CFO (remote)
   Jennifer Pearlstein, Administrative Assistant / Credentials
   Troy Barnett, Board Chairman
   Karen Gates, Board Vice Chairman
   Ronn Martin, Board Secretary
   Dr. Greg Esparza
   Rita Granados, Pharmacy Director
   Gail Horner, HIM Director
   Michele Reust, Finance
   Sharmilla Hall, Lab Director

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 February 25, 2026, regular meeting minutes and October 14, 2025 and December 9, 2025 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**
   - Positive county commissioner's meeting
     - Highlighted community hospital endorsements
   - Grant program applications submissions
     - Rural Health Transformation
       - $1.4 million requested for pharmacy acquisition funding
       - Partial amount possible
     - Senator Moran's office grant
       - $1 million requested for infrastructure upgrades
     - Regional Partnership Grant (also part of Rural Health Transformation)
       - Filing next Wednesday. Amount to be determined ($2-5 million range)
     - Evidence-based Grant
       - Briefing on Friday 3/27
       - Quality monitoring funding for clinic and hospital
       - $100,000 initially
     - Approximately $4 million aggregate grant potential

5. **CMO Report Dr. Bowles**
   - Hospital volumes improving
     - Inpatient ticking up
     - Wound care, pain management positively contributing

6. **CFO Report Braden**
    - Operations through February
        - Hospital visit trends
            - ER
                - 3.8 visits / day 2025 vs. 2.2 visits / day 2026 (projected 4.4)
            - Observation, inpatient
                - 23 days total / 2025 vs. 30 total days / 2026
            - Swing bed
                - 28 days total / 2025 vs. 60 total days / 2026
        - Clinic
            - 23 visits / day average 2025, down 50% in 2026
            - Projected 13 / day for 2026
        - Overall inpatient services out-performing expectations
        - Revenue trending slight above projections. Modestly cash flow positive
        - Attrition – roughly flat. Team foundation seems strong
    - Financials
        - Wins
            - Should exceed revenue forecasts for Q1
            - As of 3/24 already met revenue projections for quarter
            - Internalizing coding and billing yielding substantial benefits
            - Operating expenses down 33% year over year
            - $1.4 million cash on hand (41.3 operating days)
        - Priorities
            - Closing February books
            - Preparing for April audit
            - Employee Retention Credit appeal
        - Losses
            - 340b program stalled
        - DNFB
            - 13.7 days currently which exceeds target however higher patient volumes may be negatively impacting outstanding billing
7. **Old Business:**
    - Sharmilla Hall
        - May community cancer screening
            - Masons promoting
                - Flyers
                - Radio
            - Ministerial alliance church announcements
            - Tentative Seaboard Foods sponsored lunch

8. **Public Comments:**
    - None

9. **New Business:**
    - Credentialling
        - Real Radiology Dr. Casey Shumberger initial appointment of privileges
        - Ronn motion / Karen seconded. Motion passed
    - Policies and Procedures
        - Laboratory – All personnel, administration, job descriptions per CLIA recommendations, EMR changes and added Vitros 5600 chemistry machine added and updated signatures

    - Blood Bank – Updates signatures, Updated qc procedure about fluid levels on gel cards, Removed outdated forms, Updated EMR information
    - Quality – updates signatures, changed CNO to DON, updated dates, updated QAPI self-assessment tool
    - IT – New Cybersecurity policy
    - Administration – Grant reporting updated signatures
    - Karen motion / Ronn seconded. Motion passed
- Infection Report (Sharmilla Hall)
    - Flush program (sinks, toilets) initiated
    - Reviewing infection policies
        - Annual wood flooring sealing
            - Consider allocating grant funds for effort

10. **Executive Session:** Troy asked for a motion to enter executive session at 12:48 with the board, Richard and Braden for 10 minutes. Ronn made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Karen, motion passed. Executive session ended at 12:55 pm.
    - No action taken

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

4-28-26

Ronn Martin, Secretary

Date