



ISLAND NURSING HOME

AND CARE CENTER

587 North Deer Isle Road • Deer Isle, Maine 04627

REMARKS BY THE ISLAND NURSING HOME
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023 6 PM

When we last had a public meeting in March to announce receiving a state license to operate a 32 bed residential care facility, we were asked when we would make a decision about reopening. We did not have an answer at that time, but subsequently decided that we would make a decision by September 1, 2023. That deadline is just one month away. The purpose of this meeting is to update you with our status as we approach that deadline.

Despite the fact that we received a state license to operate a 32 bed residential care facility, we are still faced with two major challenges.

- 1. Can we hire enough staff to care for 32 residents?**
- 2. Can we raise sufficient funds to cover three years potential losses since the Maine legislature and Governor Mills did not add sufficient additional revenue to offset potential losses.**

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE SET THESE GOALS SO THAT WE WILL NEVER HAVE TO MAKE THE PAINFUL DECISION AGAIN TO SHUT DOWN AND FIND ALTERNATIVE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR RESIDENTS.

STAFFING

On July 16 we had a nice reunion gathering of 21 employees. They renewed friendships and shared stories. Some shared with board members past frustrations and concerns. We heard them, and we thanked them for their honesty. We heard the concerns about lack

of communication centered around the board members, and how past administrators have not always treated staff as they should. Some staff members didn't feel supported. When we reopen, there will be a structure set up to ensure clear lines of communication between administration, the board, and staff so that the staff feels respected and has the support they need and deserve as they care for our loved ones and community members. There will be a resident-staff committee which will have a direct and regular line of communication with the board of directors.

FINANCES

Our goal is to raise \$1.5 million to cover three years of potential losses. To date, we have received \$227,151. We have pledges of \$300,000 if we make the decision to reopen. We are still \$1 million short of our goal. The contributions we have received come from a wide array of 349 year round and seasonal residents. As promised, we have not spent any of these funds, and in fact will offer to reimburse the contributions if we do not open as a residential care facility.

While we are grateful for those who have made contributions, we are very disappointed that more residents with the means to make a significant contribution have not stepped forward to support our effort at reopening. By comparison, we raised \$600,000 from local and seasonal residents in 1980 and 1981 to match a \$600,000 loan from Farmer's Home administration to build the nursing home. The dream of a nursing home was only a vision, but people stepped forward to make it a reality. The largest donation at that time was only \$21,000. I would venture a guess that there is far more wealth on the island and reach communities in 2023 than there was in 1980 and 1981. What community joy there was to be able to raise enough money to build our facility. What has happened to that community joy after 39 years of remarkable care for our residents by a very caring staff?

Please be advised that the number of nursing homes beds in the State of Maine, according to Maine Monitor, have decreased by 3600 since 1998 from a high of over 10,000 beds. Our state government is purposely reducing the number of nursing care beds in the State because of the cost considerations in lieu of home health care. While we can all agree that it would be preferable to care for our senior citizens in their homes, most families do not have the expertise to care for family at home not to mention the time when both adults in many families are working to make ends meet. Not only has our government reduced the amount of money for nursing care, but they do not provide sufficient funding for home health care services.

We believe that we are the only nursing home in the State of Maine of more than 30 nursing homes that have closed since 2014 that is trying to reopen. Not long ago, there were 6 nursing homes in Hancock County. NOW THERE IS ONE- SEAPORT IN ELLSWORTH. As we have reported previously, the State of Maine is 2700 nurses short for the next two years. Two nursing care facilities in both Belfast and Ellsworth have recently closed. Maine has the oldest per capita population of senior citizens, and we are closing nursing homes because of lack of staffing and finances. Why isn't the press and all of us screaming about the lack of care for our senior citizens with our state government?

MOVING FORWARD

So we need your help to raise \$1 million in the next month to even consider reopening. We have published a flyer which lists a number of opportunities for individuals, businesses, or corporations to have a part of the facility named in their honor in exchange for a specific contribution. We urge you all to consider this offer.

What suggestions do you have for helping us raise these funds? Who is willing to help us solicit contributions? Are you willing to contribute to INH to keep it open? Contributions may be mailed to Island Nursing Home, 587 North Deer Isle Road, Deer Isle, Me. 04627

OUR THANKS TO 5 PEOPLE

The Board wishes to express our heartfelt appreciation to two INH employees who have played important and sustaining effort at supporting the board since the facility closed.

Lori Morey has worked at the INH almost since it opened. Lori has been the eyes and ears inside the building five days a week since it closed. Sometimes it required her presence after hours when alarms went off. Lori has been a faithful employee and guided the board in what we needed to do keep the building in good repair. She meets with the board every Thursday at our board meetings.

Deb Adkins is our comptroller-our finance guru. She keeps our books and reports about our finances on a monthly basis. Deb has a wealth of knowledge about the operation and finances of the nursing home. She shares that information with the board and makes recommendations for expenditures of funds. Deb also meets with the board every Thursday.

Eddie Faulkingham and Matt Betts, two former maintenance INH employees, are member of the Building and Grounds Committee. Their knowledge and expertise of the building are invaluable. They are helping us make decisions about maintenance issues and even doing some of the work.

We hired Dan Cashman as a public relations consultant one year ago. Dan has been invaluable asset in helping us convey our message to the press. Dan meets with the board also every Thursday.