McDonough District Hospital
Board of Directors Education
Special Meeting
Third Floor Boardroom
October 19, 2026

The Board of Directors of McDonough District Hospital (MDH) met in special session, on October 19th, 2026 in the Third-Floor Board Room for education regarding compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The education session began at 4:30 p.m. and concluded at 5:11 p.m.

Board members present: Kathy Neumann, Dan O'Neill, JoEllen Pensinger, Seth Minter, and Jere Greuel. Dan O'Neill arrived at 4:45 p.m.

Board members excused: Dr. Curt Farr, Dave Garner, and Ryan Riggins.

Also present: Wanda Foster, Interim President/CEO
Melissa Onion, Interim CNO
Bill Corbin, VP/Chief Human Resources Officer
Gloria Bamforth, VP of MDH Medical Group
Patrick Osterman, VP of Business Strategy
Brittany Doll, VP of Ancillary Services & Revenue Integrity
Dr. Mary Kathleen Lockard, Medical Staff President
Sydney Boston, Administrative Assistant
Kim Thorman, Administrative Assistant

Guests attending the education session included Shane Miller, Director of MDH Community Pharmacy and Lynne Campbell, Community News Brief.

Educational Presentation given by: Gayle Tronvig Carper, Esq., retired attorney, and former Western Illinois University professor.

The Open Meetings Act (OMA): Government Action, Citizen Duty and Media Role *"Let the Sunshine In"*

The educational presentation and subsequent board discussions covered a high-level overview of the following statutory requirements for public bodies and governance practices:

- **Public Body Jurisdiction:** Confirmation that MDH is a public body and subject to the OMA and FOIA laws. Reviewed the history of the OMA noting that "sunshine laws" are designed to promote accountability, have been studied at length and proven to be beneficial for society.
- **Procedural and Statutory Mandates:** Overview of mandatory public access to business of the public body/MDH, strict 48-hour agenda notice requirements, mandatory training for OMA officers and trustees, and the strict requirement that all final actions occur transparently in open session.
- **Open and Closed Session Protocols:** Discussion on the precise mechanics required to enter closed session, the necessity of citing specific statutory exceptions (such as litigation or specific personnel matters), the requirement for verbatim audio recordings, and the legal mandate to conduct a semi-annual review of closed session minutes.
- **Enforcement:** The Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor investigates OMA and FOIA complaints, may mediate disputes or issue binding opinions, and offers electronic and webinar training. Violations may result in the members of the public body facing criminal or civil penalties, including the voiding of actions and assessment of attorney fees and costs.

- **Governance and Operational Disclosures:** Discussions of hospital business among three or more members of the MDH Board would be considered a majority of a quorum, and may constitute an improperly noticed meeting, whether in person, by text, or by email. Administrative notices sent electronically, such as scheduling updates, generally do not raise the same concern, while even one-way updates on substantive Board business may fall into a gray area. Ms. Carper noted the lack of a general closed-session exception for strategic planning and offered to review relevant rulings and provide follow-up guidance. The discussion also covered the narrow circumstances which would permit external audit presentations to occur in closed sessions.

Ms. Carper commended the body for their public posting of schedules, agenda formatting, and roll-call procedures. She emphasized her appreciation for MDH, the services offered, and that maximizing operational transparency regarding MDH is critical to maintaining the community's trust.

No board actions were taken, and the educational session concluded at 5:11.

Ryan Riggins
Secretary/Treasurer MDH Board of Directors