

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board
Board Meeting
January 13, 2022**

I. Call to Order

Chair Eric Lawson called the meeting to order in the Board Room at 3:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Present: Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Terry Small

Absent: Robert Adrian (excused), Geyer Balog (excused), Pat Przeslawski (excused)

Staff & Guests: Lisa Anderson, Carolyn Bruning, Jill Buscia, Mary Crittenden, Rebekah, Duhaime, Erin Fletcher, Mariah Giese, Mary Myers, Larry Patterson, Nena Sork, Jen Whyte, Connie Cadarette via Uber

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

IV. Appointment of Evaluator

Roger Frye was appointed as evaluator for this meeting.

The Board observed a moment of silence for Roger Boston, an advocate for recovery and mental health instrumental in the development of Bay View Center, and Richard Anderson, previous Board member.

V. Acknowledgement of Conflict of Interest

There was no conflict of interest declared.

VI. Information and/or Comments from the Public

Eric Lawson reported Board member, Roger Frye, presented Bay View Center with a check for \$462.99 just prior to this meeting as a result from the tootsie roll drive conducted by the Montmorency County Knights of Columbus. The proceeds of the drive were distributed to Special Olympics, Pied Piper Opportunity Center and Bay view Center.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Terry Small, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

VIII. Educational Session – Adult Case Management

Mariah Giese, Adult Case Management Supervisor, reports case management services provided to individuals 18-55 years old with serious mental illness and those with co-occurring disorders include assistance with developing a plan of service through person-centered planning, linking, coordinating and monitoring services and supports. The program connects individuals to community resources they may need such as housing, employment, NEMSCA and often work with court ordered individuals. Psychoeducation is provided to individuals receiving services. Case Managers will provide medication information so the individual can understand the need to take their medicine.

Case Management staff is diverse with a mixture of staff with a BSW and staff with a nursing degree. There is the medical side of treatment along with the social work side of treatment so the nursing skills are broadly utilized. Crisis services are also provided to the individual in case management services.

Case Management services can be provided to individuals in AFC settings. The case manager will assist in linking and coordinating and advocating for the individual. For those individuals in foster

care settings, the case manager will work with individuals to transition to potential independent living opportunities.

Case managers must think outside the box to get the individual the best service available for them. Five nurses to three social workers will be fully staffed next week. Typically, nursing staff will carry a caseload of 25-30 as they traditionally have individuals with more medical needs. Social workers in this program will have a caseload of 35-40. The nursing staff in this program will provide administration of injectable medication for individuals receiving services in case management.

Mariah noted case management staff provide at least two hours of face-to-face contacts with various individuals enrolled in the program each day. She noted with COVID staff were allowed to use telemedicine; however, those times are sometimes shorter. There are individuals seen more frequently and others can be successful with a visit biweekly.

IX. Consent Agenda

A. Blue Horizons Management Agreement

B. Assistance to Independence Home Care Services LLC

Moved by Roger Frye, supported by Gary Nowak, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Bob Adrian, Geyer Balog, Pat Przeslawski. Motion carried.

X. January Monitoring Report

1. Emergency Executive Succession 01-006

The monitoring report related to this policy provides the Board with options for two scenarios: 1) the temporary assumption of the Executive Director's responsibilities during a brief period of illness and 2) the assumption of the Executive Director's responsibilities in the event the position was suddenly vacated.

Moved by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, supported by Les Buza, to accept the January Monitoring Reports as presented. Motion carried.

XI. Board Policies Review & Self-Evaluation

1. Emergency Executive Succession 01-006

There were no revisions or comments provided related to this policy.

2. Executive Director Role 03-001

There were no revisions or recommendations for revisions. Eric Lawson requested input as to how the Board is operating as related to this policy. Terry Small indicated he believes Board members operate according to this policy.

XII. Linkage Reports

1. Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHAM)

a. Winter Board Conference [Feb 8 & 9]

The Winter Conference is one this Board traditionally does not attend. The conference has been changed to a fully virtual conference due to the spike in COVID.

2. Northern Michigan Regional Entity (NMRE)

a. Board Meeting December 22 and November 24

The November minutes were included in the mailing. The December minutes were distributed during this meeting. Roger Frye reported there was a lot of discussion. Eric Lawson noted Bills 597 and 598 seem to continue to be a topic. Gary Nowak noted the NMRE just provided dollars to the Board Association to advocate on behalf of community mental health. Nena Sork reported there is a link on our Facebook page related to the impact of the bills as well.

XIII. Operations Report

Mary Crittenden reviewed the data from the December report. She reported there were 57 routine access services, 1 urgent, 101 crisis contacts and 49 prescreens. She noted there were 10 hospital admissions during the month. She informed Board members of staffing shortages in the children services program which will result in lower numbers over the next couple of months; however, the children are still receiving services through case management.

Pat Przeslawski arrived at 3:17 p.m.

Overall, there were 990 individuals receiving services during the month of December

XIV. Chair's Report

1. By-Law Review

The suggestions for revision made at the December meeting are incorporated into the document reviewed for this meeting. The revisions are on numbered pages 21 and 24.

Moved by Les Buza, supported by Gary Nowak, to approve revisions to the By-Laws as presented. Motion carried.

2. Authorization to VISA Card

Eric Lawson reported there is a need to remove Lee Ann Bushey from the Agency credit card and put Rebekah Duhaime on the card. The VISA card is used in making hotel reservations and conference registrations.

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Terry Small, to revise the cardholder names on the VISA card of the Agency as requested. Motion carried.

XV. Director's Report

1. Director Update

Nena Sork reported she had participated in various meetings with MDHHS. She and Mary Crittenden met with MidMichigan to collaborate services to address the increase in ER visits due to Covid. We noted we could conduct prescreens for those presenting for Behavioral Health issues at this office if that would lessen the demand and burden they are facing in the ER.

Nena Sork reported she participated in the Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium meeting.

In December, the Agency hosted a training in conjunction with the Christmas brunch for the staff with 100+ attending.

She attended the December NMRE Board meeting.

Management staff continues with recruitment and updating job descriptions. In addition, reappointment of some duties are shifted to address staff shortages.

Earbuds and flash drives were distributed to all school children in the four county area to help children with their chrome books. Thank you cards were received from children. Thank you cards were also received from Hope Shores Alliance for donations made by staff as part of the Christmas brunch/training and support of the Suicide Walk in Presque Isle County.

She reported a new Children's Supervisor has been hired and will begin February 14th; this was a difficult recruitment. Some of the difficulty in recruitment hinges on housing especially when the prospect comes with pets. She noted a psychologist was also recruited and one in-house individual recently passed the state exam and is now licensed as a psychologist.

Dr. Thibault, psychiatrist, finalized her contract and will graduate in June to begin working at the Agency in August. Dr. Thibault will have office hours in Montmorency County. Dr. Hoffman has

assumed the role of Medical Director for the Agency. Nena noted the Agency has also been successful in recruiting nursing staff.

Nena Sork reported revenues are down somewhat during the first two months of the fiscal year by approximately \$71,000 but, overall, the Agency is to the good. Nena Sork reported the recruitment success is due to getting our salaries to at least average of the market.

Nena Sork reported the Supreme Court voted down the OSHA mandate; however, the CMS order was upheld 5 – 4. This will apply to us as we receive Medicare and Medicaid dollars. Nena Sork noted the CMS mandate does not allow for weekly testing. The only medical exemption was if the individual had a severe reaction to the first injection. Nena Sork reported the mandate has been the most challenging task management has had to face.

Nena Sork reported Northern Lakes announced their new CEO and the Macomb CMH CEO, Dave Pankotai was awarded the position.

XVI. Information and/or Comments from the Public

There was no information presented.

XVII. Information and/or Comments for the Good of the Board

Lynette Grzeskowiak was wished a happy birthday. Terry Larson thanked staff for handling this difficult situation with the COVID challenges. Bonnie Cornelius believes all workers need to be thanked for their continued efforts and working during this pandemic. Nena Sork reported her Friday communication to staff includes messages from the Board.

Diane Hayka reported the mileage from the last meeting has met a snag and will be processed. Board members will most likely receive December and January mileage in the same check.

XVIII. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board will be held Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

1. Set February Agenda

The February agenda items were reviewed.

XIX. Evaluation of Meeting

Roger Frye noted the educational session was well explained by Mariah. The meeting began on time. He thanked staff and noted he really appreciates all the efforts of staff.

XX. Adjournment

Moved by Pat Przeslawski, supported by Terry Small, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

[electronically signed on 02/10/2022]

Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[signed by Eric Lawson on 02/10/2022]

Eric Lawson, Chair

Diane Hayka
Recorder