

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board  
Board/Advisory Council Meeting – June 13, 2024**

**I. Call to Order**

Vice Chair Lloyd Peltier called the meeting to order in the Board Room at 3:00 p.m.

**II. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**

Present (Board): Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Judy Jones, Dana Labar, Kara Bauer LeMonds (3:07 p.m.), Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small

Present (Advisory Council): Kathleen Destromp, Anne Ryan, Rebecca Stockford

Absent (Board): Bob Adrian, Eric Lawson (excused)

Absent (Advisory Council): Janet Freeman (excused), Angela Lane, Heather Miller

Staff & Guests: Carolyn Bruning, Mary Crittenden, Vicky DeRoven, Erin Fletcher, Nena Sork, Brenda Stanton, Jen Walburn

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

**IV. Appointment of Evaluator**

Bonnie Cornelius was appointed as evaluator of the meeting.

**V. Acknowledgement of Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were acknowledged.

**VI. Information and/or Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

**VII. Approval of Minutes**

***Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Terry Small, to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2024, Board meeting, as presented.*** Motion carried.

**VIII. Conflict-Free Access and Planning (CFAP) Resolution**

Lloyd pointed Board members to the informational flyer on CFAP from the CMHA. Nena reported these changes would have to come directly from the Governor to MDHHS. She asked that Board members who are inclined to support the CMHA position on this issue reach out to the Governor's office to show opposition. The CMHA PAC is not well funded enough to provide the necessary advocacy to individuals at this time, and these changes would be harmful to the public mental health system.

***Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Les Buza, to draft and file a resolution in opposition to CFAP.*** Motion carried.

Kara Bauer LeMonds entered at 3:07.

**IX. June Monitoring Reports**

**1. Budgeting 01-004**

Brenda Stanton reviewed the Statement of Expense and Change in Net Position as of April 30, 2024, with 58.33% of the year elapsed. Line items with negative variances will be reviewed at the end of June for necessary budget adjustments in July. The Agency received \$330,756.66 in incentive revenue, which is more

than budgeted for. General Funds are currently overspent by \$312,531. The overage would be covered by local funds or a transfer from another board. Staff are working to get individuals back on Medicaid and have services retroactively covered. Brenda reviewed expenses with a variance higher than 63%, indicating which may require a budget adjustment. Medicaid funds are currently underspent by \$679,979 and Healthy Michigan funds are overspent by \$52,748, for a total underspent amount of \$627,231. The Agency has 39 days of unrestricted cash.

## **2. Ends 04-001**

Nena reviewed the Sub-Ends for Services for Children. Correcting the percentage of home-based services being provided in a home or community setting, which is actually at 72%. The Sub-End for two individuals moving from a dependent setting to an independent setting has been met. Nena thinks this Sub-End could be extended to include a goal timeframe for the individuals to be living independently. The employment teams are well on their way to meeting their goals. A successful closure for IPS employment means the individual is working independently and no longer requires a job coach to work alongside them. The Sub-Ends for co-occurring disorders are either met or there is only one individual as an outlier.

***Moved by Kara Bauer LeMonds, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to approve the June Monitoring Reports.*** Motion carried.

## **X. Linkage Reports**

### **1. NMRE Board Meeting – May 22**

Gary reported the largest topic they covered was CFAP. They also reviewed the Rehmann assessment of Northern Lakes.

### **2. CMHA Summer Conference**

Nena, Lloyd, Bonnie Cornelius, Judy Jones, and Dana Labar attended the conference this week. All agreed that everyone should try to attend a conference because there is so much to learn. Dana thought it was apparent that Nena is a highly regarded individual throughout the CMHA. He said an overall important message was about staff taking care of themselves. They spend so much time taking care of others and they need to remember to take time for themselves.

### **3. NMRE Day of Education**

Rebecca Stockford, Kathleen Destromp, and Lloyd attended the event. Rebecca enjoyed speaking and Kathleen hopes to tell her story at the October Day of Education. Lloyd found the many testimonies very moving.

## **XI. Operations Report**

Mary Crittenden reported on operations for the month of May. Access had 57 routine requests for services, 36 crisis contacts, and 58 hospital preadmission screens. There were 14 private hospital admissions – four children and ten adults. NeMCMHA operated residential services served 49 individuals living in group homes. Overall, 1,055 individuals were served by the Agency in May.

## **XII. Board Chair's Report**

### **1. Strategic Plan Review**

Nena said the goal for home-based seeing children in a home or community setting is so the workers can support the whole family, not just the child while they are at school. Nena thinks 72% of services being provided in a home or community setting can be improved upon. The children's services department has been severely short-staffed for years after losing many staff to the schools, but they now have a great leader to support them. The goals for co-occurring disorders are doing very well, with only one person missing their baseline A1C. BHH has almost doubled their enrollment numbers from last year. The Sub-End for two individuals moving from a dependent setting to an independent setting could be extended to include a goal

timeframe for the individuals to be living independently. The Sub-Ends for financial outcomes and community education are doing well. Mary thinks the goal of 95% of home-based services happening in a home or community setting may be too high for current staffing, and 90% may be more attainable. The Board discussed the pros and cons of making it a goal to reach 100% perfection. It could be something to strive for, but it may be bad for morale to never be able to achieve it. The Board and Advisory Council would like input on Ends from staff.

***Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Les Buza, to table the discussion of Ends until July when staff input can be brought it.*** Motion carried.

### XIII. **Executive Director's Report**

Nena reported the Agency's second annual Mental Health Movement Run/Walk was a great success, with 207 attendees from 17 counties across Michigan. Mary reported many community partners were present and had the opportunity to share their services with the community. Lloyd attended the event, and even pushed himself to complete the 5K, instead of the 2K he signed up for, in support of the individuals he heard speak at the Day of Education. To finish up Mental Health Awareness Month, the Agency held a blood drive at the Aplex to partner physical and mental health.

Board members received a handout from Nena on three contract proposals from Rehmann. The first would be for Rehmann to manage HR and recruitment for the Agency. Rehmann proposed either a three-year or five-year contract, with the addition of four months to take the Agency to the end of the fiscal year. The contract would include three staff members, a Chief Human resource Officer, a Human Resource Director, and a recruiter. Nena reviewed the scope of work and the cost of the contracts, while also providing a cost comparison of current Agency HR expenses.

The second contract is for the Agency's annual employee engagement survey. The cost is very similar to last year's, and utilizing the same survey will allow management to see what has improved and what still needs attention. The third contract is for an assessment of the IS/IT department. The current IS Director, Dennis Bannon, will be retiring in January, and Nena would like Rehmann to assess the department and see where changes need to be made for planning for the future and what needs to be done for succession planning.

Board members discussed the benefits of a three-year contract for HR versus a five-year contract, and the contract can always be extended. Kara said the three-year model has worked well in her experience.

***Moved by Terry Small, supported by Gary Nowak, to enter a three-year and four-month contract with Rehmann for the management of Human Resources and recruitment.*** Roll Call: Ayes: Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Judy Jones, Dana Labar, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Bob Adrian, Eric Lawson. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

***Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Terry Small, to enter a contract with Rehmann for the 2024 staff engagement survey.*** Roll Call: Ayes: Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Judy Jones, Dana Labar, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Bob Adrian, Eric Lawson. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

***Moved by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, supported by Kara Bauer LeMonds, to enter a contract with Rehmann to perform an IS/IT assessment.*** Roll Call: Ayes: Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte

Helman, Judy Jones, Dana Labar, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Bob Adrian, Eric Lawson. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Nena appreciates the Board’s support and thinks these contracts will help move the Agency in the right direction. Terry asked for a meet and greet with Rehmann at the next Board meeting.

**XIV. Information and/or Comments from the Public**

None were presented.

**XV. Information and/or Comments for the Good of the Organization**

None were presented.

**XVI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, July 11 at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Consumer Advisory Council will be held on Monday, August 5 at 5:00 p.m.

**1. July Agenda Items**

The proposed July agenda items were reviewed.

**XVII. Meeting Evaluation**

Bonnie reported Board members came well prepared. She thinks everyone had an opportunity to say what they needed to say, and she was very satisfied with what they accomplished. Bonnie still likes being on the Board and she enjoys going to conferences to get to know other Board members on a different level.

Kathleen informed the Board that Bayview will be having their LGBTQ BBQ on June 20 and it is open to the public. They want to get LGBTQ allies to come to the center to get a better understanding of what they do.

Lloyd wanted to thank each and every staff member for all they do, stating they do a fabulous job and the Agency wouldn’t be at the level it is at without them.

**XVIII. Adjournment**

***Moved by Les Buza, supported by Terry Small, to adjourn the meeting.*** Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

*[signed by Bonnie Cornelius July 11, 2024]*  
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

Rebekah Duhaime  
Recorder

*[signed by Eric Lawson July 11, 2024]*  
Eric Lawson, Chair