

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority (NeMCMHA)
Board Meeting – March 14, 2024**

I. Call to Order

Chair Eric Lawson called the meeting to order in the Board Room at 3:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Present: Les Buza, Bob Adrian, Bonnie Cornelius, Charlotte Helman, Judy Jones, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Patricia Przeslawski, Terry Small

Absent: Lynnette Grzeskowiak (Excused)

Staff & Guests: Lisa Anderson, Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Mary Crittenden, Vicky DeRoven, Erin Fletcher, Michael Gonzalez, Kingsli Kraft, Brooke Paczkowski, Abbey Podbielski, Nena Sork, Jen Walburn

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

IV. Appointment of Evaluator

Lloyd Peltier 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 Patricia Przeslawski, to approve the revised minutes of the February 8, 2024 Board meeting with two spelling errors corrected. Motion carried.

VIII. Consent Agenda

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Charlotte Helman, to approve the March Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

IX. March Monitoring Reports

1. Budgeting 01-004

Connie Cadarette reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expense and Change in Net Position for the month ending January 31, 2024, with 33.33% of the year elapsed. Revenues are holding steady, and trends for the NMRE and the Agency look good with a slight increase. The change in net position is still negative as a large portion of local funds haven't yet been received. Healthy Michigan and Medicaid funds are underspent by \$912,495. Medicaid redeterminations have pushed General Funds into the negative, with an overspent amount of \$204,560. Staff are working to assist individuals to get back on the correct type of Medicaid, and the Agency should be retroactively reimbursed for expenses.

2. Treatment of Individuals Served 01-002

The annual Customer Satisfaction Survey was reviewed by Board members. Recipients or their guardians complete the survey. The sample size was smaller than last year, though it more closely resembles pre-COVID response numbers. Nena would like to do a stronger push to have more surveys completed.

Moved by Patricia Przeslawski, supported by Judy Jones, to approve the March Monitoring Reports.
Motion carried.

X. **Board Policy Review and Self-Evaluation**

1. Asset Protection 01-007

At the February meeting, Board members requested that the dollar thresholds be increased to more accurately reflect the current economy. Nena and Connie reviewed purchases to see what numbers would be more feasible, and suggested an increase from \$500/\$5,000 to \$2,000/\$10,000.

Moved by Bob Adrian, supported by Terry Small, to approve the revisions to the Asset Protection Policy.

Roll Call: Ayes: Bob Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Charlotte Helman, Judy Jones, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Patricia Przeslawski, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Lynnette Grzeskowiak. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

2. Budgeting 01-004

The Board reviewed the suggested grammar and punctuation revisions.

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Patricia Przeslawski, to approve the revisions to the Budgeting Policy. Motion carried.

3. Board Members' Ethical Code of Conduct 02-008

The Board reviewed the policy for any necessary revisions. Les and Pat both think the Board is following the policy, and Eric thinks the Board does a good job following their ethical code of conduct. The Board accepted the policy as-is and signed their codes of conduct.

XI. **Board Member Recognition**

Gary received a certificate for 25 years of service, and Pat received a certificate for 24 years of service, as this will be her last Board meeting. Nena introduced Kara Bauer LeMonds to the Board. She will be taking over Pat's seat at the April meeting.

Recess at 3:30 p.m.

Resume at 3:43 p.m.

XII. **Linkage Reports**

1. NMRE Board

Eric and Nena reported the Board is considering drafting a resolution concerning Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). There was also discussion about performance incentive payments. Nena said the NMRE was one of only two regions in the State that met the criteria for the performance indicators.

XIII. **Operations Report**

Mary Crittenden reported on operations for February 2024. There were 59 routine requests for service, 38 crisis contacts, and 42 prescreens. She highlighted Children's Services, which has worked hard to rebuild over the last year. It is one department, but the level of intensity changes. Home Based Children's Services, which is more intensive, served 35 children and MI Children's Services served 96. Nena said Children's Services serves the whole family, so the numbers can also be looked at as households served. Overall, the Agency served 1,039 individuals in the month of February.

XIV. Board Chair's Report

1. CMH PAC Campaign

Eric pointed the Board to the flyer for PAC donations. A typical donation equals a per diem.

2. Board Committee Per Diem Payments

Board committee per diem payments for attending Consumer Advisory Council and Recipient Rights Advisory Council will now go through normal payroll, per IRS guidelines.

3. Schedule Nominations Committee Meeting

Judy will fill the Alpena County spot on the committee. They will meet at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 11.

4. CCBHCs

Nena has been asked about the Agency's position on CCBHCs. The CCBHC model was developed in urban settings, and in Michigan they are mostly all south of M-55. They are being piloted in Michigan, with the University of Michigan studying them. Senator Debbie Stabenow is the force behind the movement to turn to CCBHCs as centers to treat physical and mental health at all levels, from mild to severe. There is some concern that in a rural setting this model will create competition for the same funding, and will limit the number of organizations that can provide necessary services. The five CMHSPs in the NMRE and all of the upper peninsula do not want to move to the CCBHC model. A resolution from the NMRE Board of Directors is being worked on to state why that is, including wanting to see the research from U of M on the outcome measures for the pilot programs in Michigan. Moving to the CCBHC model would put the Agency in direct competition with other small providers, including increased competition for qualified clinicians. The Mental Health Code requires CMHSPs to serve those with a severe mental illness, a serious emotional disturbance, and intellectual/developmental disabilities. The Agency has a "no wrong door" policy, so those that do not qualify for services are given a warm handoff to an agency that can serve them. The demands of the CCBHC would be impossible to meet in a rural setting. Nena feels that the intent of the CCBHC model is already being met, but it has to be done in a different way in a rural setting.

XV. Executive Director's Report

Nena provided a report of her activities over the last month. During the weeks of February 4 and 12, she attended the local NAMI meeting, held a quarterly meeting with Partners in Prevention, attended the NMRE Finance meeting, the regional NMORC meeting, and participated in the Rural and Frontier Caucus. She also attended the NMRE Operations meeting during the week of February 19. The following week, Mary and Nena met with the Alpena Chief of Police and the Alpena County Sheriff to review transports and draft a new Letter of Understanding.

Partners in Prevention has trained 186 individuals between ASIST, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, and SafeTALK. Of those attending trainings, 34 sought referrals for services after attending. Four new people have been trained as trainers, and will become new presenters for Partners in Prevention, including two Agency employees. Partners in Prevention is starting to hold trainings in smaller communities. They have held one in Metz and have upcoming trainings in Hillman, Lincoln, and Greenbush.

Nena provided the Board with a handout of the requested information on employee turnover and exit interviews. She briefly reviewed the reasons for staff resignations. There were seven dismissals for Recipient Rights issues and 14 terminations due to performance.

Nena provided a few other Agency updates. The Agency's first employee handbook was rolled out in February. The Sunset Project, which serves the same four counties as the Agency, is holding its largest annual fundraiser on April 6. Registration for the Mental Health Movement 2K | 5K | 10K has launched. The new Greenhaven home is waiting on the arrival and installation of new smoke detectors before being ready for

licensing. Nena introduced Vicky DeRoven, the new Quality Improvement Coordinator. She comes to the Agency with a lot of experience and knowledge.

XVI. Information and/or Comments from the Public

Abbey Podbielski, Program Director at Light of Hope Clubhouse, said they can help members complete Customer Satisfaction Surveys.

Kara Bauer LeMonds offered an overview of the grant Partners in Prevention was awarded. It is a three-part grant. The first part is for crisis training with first responders, which will expand over four years to all counties. In addition, they want to train up to 2,000 people in all their offered trainings. They would also like to create a crisis intervention team. Another large project is creating a mental health map of resources available in the area. There are many resources, but people don't know about them. One of the wonderful things she has found is that this community is very supportive of each other, and she is impressed with the available services.

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

Bob reminded everyone to remove their fishing shanties from the ice.

XVIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, April 11 at 3:00 p.m., with the Nominations Committee meeting immediately prior at 2:30 p.m.

1. April Agenda Items

The proposed April agenda items were reviewed.

XIX. Meeting Evaluation

Lloyd felt Board members came prepared to govern and it was a fantastic meeting. He keeps learning more and taking the information to other boards, too. Lloyd said Nena is a fantastic Executive Director and she is able to be so because she has excellent staff. He thinks there was good participation from everyone.

XX. Adjournment

Moved by Terry Small, supported by Judy Jones, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

[signed by Bonnie Cornelius April 11, 2024]

Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

Rebekah Duhaime
Recorder

[signed by Eric Lawson April 11, 2024]

Eric Lawson, Chair