

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board
Board Meeting – August 8, 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: Bob Adrian, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small

Absent: Les Buza (Excused), Judy Jones (Excused), Eric Lawson (Excused)

Staff & Guests: Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Mary Crittenden, Rebekah Duhaime, Erin Fletcher, Ruth Hewett, Nena Sork

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

IV. Appointment of Evaluator

Dana Labar 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 July 11, 2024, Board meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

VIII. Consent Agenda

Board members received a handout with an updated Consent Agenda and were given time to review it.

Moved by Bob Adrian, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to approve the August Consent Agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Bob Adrian, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Les Buza, Judy Jones, Eric Lawson. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

IX. August Monitoring Reports

1. Budgeting 01-004

Connie clarified that the top of the report should read June 30 instead of May 31. Revenues are stable, and the Agency has been receiving close to what the NMRE projected at the start of the year. She reviewed line items with negative variances, and budget adjustments will be completed this month. Medicaid funds are overspent by \$99,890 and Healthy MI is overspent by \$221,257. All CMHSPs in the NMRE have overspent Healthy MI as funding is down. General Funds are overspent by \$472,309, which includes the carry forward amount of \$60,139. This is common across Michigan, and they will work on a request for funds from the State, which must be in by August 15. The Agency's net position would be at negative \$218,958 if General Funds were covered by local match.

2. Financial Condition 01-005

Connie reviewed the Statement of Net Position. The Agency currently has 34 days of cash.

3. Staff Treatment 01-003

Nena reviewed the Turnover Report with the Board. The total turnover rate is 14%. The Agency has been able to hold steady in most departments, but it has been hard to maintain direct care staff.

4. Treatment of Individuals Served 01-002

Ruth Hewett reported the Recipient Rights Advisory Committee met for their quarterly meeting in July. They also finished their Rights assessment today. This assessment happens every three years. Nena reported the auditors said the three Rights staff complete high quality work and are very commendable. This is especially good as two of the staff have been with the Agency less than three years. The auditors were impressed with Ruth's organization. Out of a possible score of 450, the Rights department earned 448 points. Kara Bauer LeMonds said the group was lively and Ruth is able to handle all of their questions.

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Bonnie Cornelius, to thank staff, especially Ruth Hewett, for the excellent Rights assessment. Motion carried.

Moved by Kara Bauer LeMonds, supported by Terry Small, to approve the August Monitoring Reports. Motion carried.

X. Board Policy Review

1. Chairperson's Role 02-004

The Board did not think any revisions were necessary.

2. Board Members' Per Diem 02-009

Board members' mileage rate will increase to \$0.62/mile to equal the employee reimbursement rate.

3. Board Self-Evaluation 02-012

There were no questions or comments on this policy.

XI. Linkage Reports

1. NMRE Board Meeting – July 24

Bob reported there was discussion of a downstate lawsuit regarding self-determination and Community Living Supports (CLS). Nena explained that Self-Determination is an agreement between the CMHSP and an individual, where the individual becomes their own employer, hiring and paying their own staff. Individuals have a fiscal intermediary that pays social security and FICA, etc. They must prove they have the skills for Self-Determination, and it must be a good fit for the individual and the Agency. The money flows from the Agency to the fiscal intermediary. The lawsuit settlement would increase the rate for staff hired by Self-Determination in the specified county to \$31 per hour. The State would not be able to raise all counties to this rate. MDHHS has agreed to the settlement, but no one else in the lawsuit has. It would inflate budgets by billions of dollars as agencies would have to vastly increase their wages to compensate. All the CMHSPs and directors are adamantly opposed to the settlement.

2. Advisory Council – August 5

Lloyd reported the Advisory Council met on Monday, and they had a good turnout. Nena and Rebekah presented the Board's revisions to the strategic plan. Lloyd would like Advisory Council members to attend Board meetings, so they become less intimidated about speaking up. The Walk a Mile in My Shoes rally is coming up in September, and many members were interested in attending.

XII. Operations Report

Erin Fletcher reported on operations for the month of July. Access completed 29 routine screens and had 36 crisis contacts. There were 18 private hospital admissions, 2 children and 16 adults. Older Adult Services case management served 91 individuals, MI adult served 47 individuals, and I/DD served 138 individuals.

The total unduplicated individuals served in July was 1,036.

XIII. Board Chair's Report

1. Executive Director's Evaluation

Kara thinks Nena is doing a great job. She cares and is organized, and the staff do a lot with only a little, pivoting to fit what the community needs. Lloyd said it takes a good leader to have a crew like the Agency has, and it is a credit to Nena and her staff. Kara said what staff do is commendable, as it is a thankless job, because nobody has any idea what it takes to do what they do.

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Kara Bauer LeMonds, to thank Nena and her staff for doing a fine job. Motion carried.

Moved by Charlotte Helman, supported by Terry Small, to give the Executive Director, Nena Sork, a satisfactory evaluation for August 2023 through July 2024. Motion carried.

2. Begin Board Self-Evaluation

All present Board members returned their self-evaluations. They will be compiled and reviewed next month.

XIV. Executive Director's Report

Nena reported the Naloxone vending machines have been placed in Rogers City, Hillman, the main Alpena office, and at the Fletcher Street office. The Naloxone is in nasal spray form. These are free for anyone to take and keep on hand. Nena reported that between 30 - 100 people in the 21-county region have been saved by Naloxone. People can have accidental and unintentional overdoses, especially when unknowingly exposed to Fentanyl. The Naloxone is resistant to high and low temperatures.

The new Greenhaven group home has opened. On July 22 the Agency held its annual employee appreciation luncheon for staff reaching milestone years of employment. The following day, All Staff Training was held at the Apex. Staff complete 16 required trainings in one day, have lunch, and spend quality time with their coworkers. Over 230 staff completed their training that day. The Agency's second Rehmann staff survey began the week of July 29 and will close on August 12. Nena reported Tracy Zehnder had to take a leave of absence from Rehmann, and Mikki Manion has started as the Agency's new HR Director. Rehmann's IT assessment was presented to Nena and Dennis Bannon yesterday. They provided a roadmap to move forward, and IT staff were excited about the assessment. Employment staff attended their annual conference, and two Agency staff received awards, Sharon Becker and Nikki Schultz.

Nena asked that the Board approve an update to the Licensee Designee and Administrator Resolution due to Greenhaven now being a licensed group home.

Moved by Terry Small, supported by Gary Nowak, to approve the updated Licensee Designee and Administrator Resolution. Motion carried.

XV. Information and/or Comments from the Public

None were presented.

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

None were presented.

XVII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, September 12 at 3:00 p.m.

1. September Agenda Items

The proposed September agenda items were reviewed.

XVIII. Meeting Evaluation

Dana reported he felt Board members were on time, on task, and well prepared. The acting Board Chair and former Board Chairs worked together to keep the meeting moving. There were no side conversations happening, so everyone was able to hear. All agenda items were addressed and voted on. Provided materials and presentations were timely and well written. Dana would like there to be more transparency when using acronyms, as it would make discussions more accessible.

XIX. Adjournment

Moved by Terry Small, supported by Charlotte Helman, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

[signed by Bonnie Cornelius September 12, 2024]

Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

Rebekah Duhaime
Recorder

[signed by Eric Lawson September 12, 2024]

Eric Lawson, Chair