

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board  
Board / Advisory Council Strategic Planning Meeting (Part II)  
June 10, 2021  
[This meeting was held in person and using ZOOM]**

**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: Board Members:  
Bob Adrian, Geyer Balog, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Lynette Greskowiak, Judy Jones, Eric Lawson, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small

Advisory Council Members:  
Janet Freeman (Zoom), Anne Ryan, Rebecca Stockford

Absent: Board Members:  
Gary Nowak (excused), Terry Larson

Advisory Council Members:  
Roger Boston, Alan Fischer, Eileen Tank

Staff & Guests: Lisa Anderson, Dennis Bannon, Carolyn Bruning, Lee Ann Bushey, Connie Cadarette, Erin Fletcher, Lynne Fredlund, Ruth Hewett, Cheryl Kobernik, Larry Patterson, Nena Sork, Brenda Stanton, Jen Whyte

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

**IV. Acknowledgement of Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts were identified.

**V. Appointment of Evaluator**

Judy Jones was appointed as evaluator for this meeting.

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

There were no comments presented.

**VII. Approval of Minutes**

*Moved by Roger Frye, supported by Pat Przeslawski, to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2021 meeting as presented.* Motion carried.

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

Nena Sork reported this agreement with GoExceed will make mobility management simpler and protects the agency with a monitoring feature for the many cell phones deployed to staff.

Terry Larson arrived @ 3:10 p.m.

*Moved by Pat Przeslawski, supported by Terry Small, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.* Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Robert Adrian, Geyer Balog, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Lynette Greskowiak, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Gary Nowak. Motion carried.

**IX. June Monitoring Reports**

**1. Budgeting 01-004**

Connie Cadarette reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expense for month ending April 30, 2021. Connie reported the revenues are coming in at 15.6% higher than the original amount

budgeted for revenues. At this point, the Agency is \$2.7 M underspent in Medicaid revenues. There are some expenditures which will impact this amount currently underway. Many of the expenditures should show up in the June Budgeting report. She noted the General Funds are also underspent and we will be providing some services within the community which will be expensed to those revenues.

Larry Patterson reviewed the negative variances in the expense portion of the report. He noted the Staff Recruiting and Development will most likely increase as we are really advertising to fill positions. Community relations is due to recent push to get our Agency's services out in the public. A couple of the items will require a budget amendment to address. The Property & Liability Insurance is a timing issue and will resolve when the Asset Distribution payment is received from the insurer. The tax adjustment required on a property is affecting the Rent line item. He notes the expenses are still within the amount of budget at this point.

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

The semi-annual report on the Ends the Board established for this fiscal year was reviewed. The measurements reported at this point is for the half-way point. The "Services to Children" sub-end is going well with a marked increase in intensive home-based services from 33% to 62%. The Sub-End related to development of residential facilities in our catchment area has been a struggle. Nena reported there were two potential opportunities but due to COVID the providers have either withdrawn from the development process or changed their minds due to unable to secure staffing. The Sub-End addressing development of additional supported independent services is on target with one complete by March 31, 2021 and since that time additional individuals are now living in a supported independent setting.

Eileen Tank arrived at 3:15 p.m.

The Sub-End related to the Behavioral Health Homes are all on target. The "Financial Outcomes" Sub-Ends are also doing well.

Nena Sork reviewed the "Community Education" and suggested this may be an End we may need to change as we have no control over the education provided by another provider. Eric Lawson noted this is something the Board needs to consider when establishing Ends for the next fiscal year. There are elements in this Sub-End beyond our control. Eric noted the End in behavioral health home indicating individuals will be offered participation is a good example of a Sub-End.

Rebecca Stockford suggested the Agency resume some of the trips and outings previously offered to individuals such as a day trip to Mackinac Island.

***Moved by Bonnie Cornelius, supported by Pat Przeslawski, to accept the June Monitoring Reports as presented.*** Motion carried.

## **X. Linkage Reports**

### **1. Northern Michigan Regional Entity (NMRE)**

#### **a. Board Meeting May 26, 2021**

Roger Frye reported NMRE met on May 26 and an election of officers was held and there was a lot of liquor tax dollars expenditures approved. The new Chair of the NMRE is Don Tanner. Gary Nowak is on the Executive Board. Nena Sork reported there was much discussion related to reinvestment, recruiting and support to provider networks. The NMRE Board is financially in a good position. Stabilization of the provider network was identified as a focus item.

### **2. Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHAM)**

#### **a. Spring Conference Update**

Due to this held as a virtual conference, there were no registrations for the conference requested from Board members. Erin Fletcher will be attending the conference as a staff and will provide a brief update to the Board at a future meeting.

**XI. Operational Report**

Erin Fletcher reviewed the May Operation's statistics with Board members. Access department provided 59 calls with one emergent. She noted there were 63 crisis contacts and 63 prescreens provided. For the month of May a total of 1,083 individuals received services. Eric Lawson inquired about the Contracted Residential expenditures and where those numbers are included in this report. Nena Sork reported these contracted providers could be Hope Network, Premier Care, etc. and are included in the "Other Contracted Residential Services" line item.

**XII. Chair's Report**

**1. Strategic Plan Review**

Eric Lawson provided the Board with a potential sample of the materials they will receive for the July meeting of Strategic Planning. Board members received a copy of the Strategic Plan for FY20-21. Eric Lawson requested clarification related to Evidence Based Practices. Nena Sork provided information related to EBPs such as ACT, Motivational Interviewing, EMDR, TF-CBT, Infant Mental Health, etc. She noted some of the EBPs take over a year of training for staff to be certified to provide the services.

Les Buza inquired about our collaboration with the schools related to the Opioid epidemic. Nena Sork reported she is a member of the Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC) Board. The Agency is not licensed as a substance abuse agency; Catholic Human Services provides that service for the community. We are allowed to provide co-occurring disorder treatment and host Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment (IDDT) groups which focuses on individuals who have a mental illness along with a substance use disorder. Bob Adrian inquired how "DARE" (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) ties into this. Nena Sork reported Catholic Human Services has a very active group working to address the Opioid epidemic in the region. They work with the schools. The Alcona Health Center also has a MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) clinic similar to a methadone clinic to aid individuals in weaning themselves from addiction to substances.

Eric Lawson noted the Health Information Exchange is still in development. Nena Sork reported PCE is a good conduit in exchanging information.

Eric Lawson requested input from the Advisory Council members to address goals and services. Bonnie Cornelius indicated COVID has definitely affected services and with the COVID restrictions easing up, the next year should be better.

Eric Lawson requested clarification on the Per Member Per Month (PEPM) funding for services. Nena Sork provided a brief summary of how the services are funded and who qualifies for the services according to the contracts we hold with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Services provided are crisis services, inpatient hospitalization services and other services for those meeting the criteria according to the Mental Health Code. Nena Sork reported when the State changed to the funding model of PEPM, we had three years of no harm where cost settlements were made until we had to live within the funding amounts. Eric Lawson informed the newer Board members of the trust put in to staff as they have continually managed the budgets and programs effectively.

Nena Sork informed the Board the reason our funding being in such great shape with so much underspending is due to the state is not requiring redeterminations in Medicaid nor are they applying any spend-downs to the individuals we serve. All these costs were previously covered through General Funds.

Jail services may be an area to revise with the updated progress we have made in this population. Eric Lawson reviewed the Mega End.

Next month the new Ends will be developed and Board members should contemplate any new or revision to existing Sub-Ends they wish to see.

Consensus is it will be good to get COVID behind us.

Bob Adrian left the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

**XIII. Director's Report**

**1. Director's Update**

Nena Sork provided Board members with an update of the various activities she has participated in during the past month. She noted the Operations Committee is looking at ways they can support the provider network. She continues to participate in the MDHHS and PIHP/CMHSP Director's conference calls. She noted the Alpena Emergency Managers meeting will have one last meeting. She noted several staff participated is helping out DHD #4 at the shot clinics. She notes she meets with the AMA ESD in a collaborative meeting addressing student concerns. Management team met this week and leadership is focusing on how to get staff hired for the vacant positions in the residential group homes, community living supports and supported independent living. Recruitment has been very difficult and it was determined to start offering a sign-on bonus and also a finder's fee if a staff member refers someone to the agency and they stay for six months. She reports we are looking at billboard ads, television ads, radio ads, etc. Retention payments are being made to staff until the end of the year to retain staff. The Employee Recognition will be held in June and we will have a staff picnic the day prior to the recognition. Staff will also be completing some annual staff training during the picnic day. Board members will need to RSVP to Kay Keller if they plan to attend the Employee Recognition. Board members were instructed to call Kay at 358-7701.

Nena Sork provided Board members with a recap of some of the equipment being replaced and group home renovations scheduled. The main office will get their air units replaced with new ones. Two have already failed due to age. Nena Sork informed the Board of the relationship developed with the Besser Senior Living Community by allowing our residents from Princeton Home to reside there until the renovation of Princeton is completed. What a great community partner! She reported generators will be purchased for the out county homes which will be electric start. She informed the Board of our investigation of having a fiber connection to the two group homes in Montmorency County. The Agency's fleet of vehicles will have their handicap vans replaced. She reported the Agency has had several demonstrations for a new telephone system and it was decided TelNet was the best fit for our needs. She noted the telephone system has waived the installation cost due to a special promotion in place right now.

Nena Sork reported she did contact Bill Furbish to develop training on autism in conjunction with the Carter Bag distribution. She noted she did reach out to Sheriff Kielieszewski regarding a recent suicide his deputies witnessed. Phil Heimerl, True North Radio, did a follow up story with her after her presentation to the Alpena County Board of Commissioners.

Nena Sork reported the Agency would be supporting the suicide prevention walk in September.

**2. Telephone System Update**

Covered in discussion above.

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

There was no information or comments presented.

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

Nena Sork reported 188 individuals submitted to receive the incentive for getting the vaccine. Of that amount 14 are due to religious/health reasons.

**XVI. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board will be held Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

**1. Set July Agenda**

The July agenda items were reviewed. Strategic Planning continues with Part III focusing on developing "Ends" for next fiscal year.

**XVII. Evaluation of Meeting**

Judy Jones noted the meeting began on time. The Ends report had a lot of information and the Chair revved Board members up for the next meeting. She noted Nena Sork's update was very informative and the Agency has some hard working staff.

**XVIII. Adjournment**

*Moved by Les Buza, supported by Pat Przeslawski, to adjourn the meeting.* Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

*[signed by Bonnie Cornelius on July 8, 2021]*  
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

*[signed by Eric Lawson on July 8, 2021]*  
Eric Lawson, Chair

Diane Hayka  
Recorder