

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority (NeMCMHA)
Board & Advisory Council – Strategic Planning Part II/Board Meeting
June 8, 2023**

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: (Board) Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small
(Advisory Council) Janet Freeman, Rebecca Stockford

Absent: (Advisory Council) Alan Fischer, Anne Ryan (Excused), Eileen Tank (Excused)

Staff & Guests: Lisa Anderson, Alan Bolter, Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Jason Dagner, Erin Fletcher, Lynne Fredlund, Morgan Hale, Cheryl Kobernik, Kingsli Kraft, Brooke Paczkowski, Larry Patterson, Nena Sork, Peggy Yachasz

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

Patricia Przeslawski joined the meeting at 3:01.

IV. Appointment of Evaluator

Les Buza was appointed as evaluator before 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.

Janet Freeman joined the meeting at 3:02.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Terry Small, to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023 Board meeting. Motion carried.

VIII. Consent Agenda

1. The Sunset Project

Eric Lawson pulled The Sunset Project from the Consent Agenda in order to discuss the full dollar amount, \$8,509.40, which was not listed. The contract would support The Sunset Project in providing Ending the Silence in local schools, starting with Alpena High School. There were no further comments or questions.

Moved by Terry Larson, supported by Bob Adrian, to approve the June Consent Agenda. Roll call: Ayes: Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.

IX. Educational Session – Alan Bolter

Eric introduced Alan Bolter, the Associate Director and government affairs leader of the CMHAM. Alan was recently named, for the third survey in a row, one of the most effective individual lobbyists for a membership organization or association in Michigan, and as one of the most effective single-issue lobbyists in Michigan. Alan stated the MIRS EPIC-MRA Insider Survey also named the CMHAM one of the most effective associations in the State.

Alan reported that for the first time in years there is total Democratic control of government in Michigan. During the first three months Democrats were focused on their priorities of right-to-work, prevailing wage,

gun control, codifying reproductive rights, eliminating retirement tax, and expanding the Civil Rights Act. Their focus is now on the budget which is due July 1 or October 1, constitutionally. CMHSPs across the State have a budget of \$3.5 billion. Governor Whitmer's budget recommendations from February amounted to \$81 billion – the highest proposed budget in history. The State is currently \$1.6 billion over budget. About \$800 million of that is due to the earned income tax credit and the other half is due to rolling back the retirement tax. Prior to COVID-19 Michigan's budget was around \$60 billion.

The House and Senate took different approaches with the MDHHS budget. The Senate proposed spending \$160 million below what the governor allotted, and the House budgeted \$90 million above. The governor's budget included a \$1.50 per hour increase for direct care workers, on top of the already approved amount, to raise the starting wage to \$18 per hour. The Senate reduced the additional direct care wage to \$0.65 and the House raised it to \$2.50. The House budget also included \$5 million for behavioral health workforce retention, \$10 million for social work internships, and \$65 million for one-time behavioral health projects.

Alan stated almost 800,000 individuals were added to Medicaid during the pandemic. Several hundred thousand will likely lose their coverage during redeterminations. Lobbyists have asked the State to adjust Medicaid rates as enrollment drops to prevent severe decreases in funding.

The House has created a new behavioral health subcommittee, and Alan feels there are good partners on both sides of the aisle. There hasn't been much policy activity yet, but he expects it in the fall. Though the Shirkey and Whitford privatization did not pass, they have been reintroduced. The NMRE's administrative overhead is between 4 – 6%, but private health plans would have at least 12%. This would have between \$200 – 400 million going to private insurance off the top. Medicaid funds are about 35% state and 65% federal. Healthy Michigan's \$590 million are split 80% federal and 20% state.

X. June Monitoring Reports

1. Budgeting 01-004

Connie Cadarette reported on the month ending April 30. Revenues are holding steady and the Agency received the NMRE incentive revenue of \$359,125. The change in net position is higher this month at \$454,926. The NMRE would still like the Agency to spend an additional \$2 million, so there will be more expenses coming through in the coming months. General Funds are underspent \$238,533 due to more restrictions on how they can be spent.

Larry Patterson reported on expenses for the month ending April 30. Employee Relations/Wellness rose due to signing bonuses previously being in the wrong account. Program Supplies increased \$15,000 from the previous period. This line item had been reduced to balance the budget. Contract Inpatient increased \$4,000 from the previous period due to high usage. Telephone and Connectivity should come down as plans will be reduced. Food is still in the negative due to ongoing issues with Bridge Cards. With 58.33% of the year elapsed expenses are at 57.9%.

Connie informed the Board that after the CMHs complete their audits, they are compiled by the NMRE and then they get audited. A discrepancy was found in an amount incorrectly reported by the Agency. After meeting with the auditors and the NMRE, it was discovered the number was to the Agency's benefit. It increased local funds at year end by \$27,657 and the amount due to the NMRE decreased from \$308,753 to \$281,997. The compliance audit will be redone and there will be a previous year's restatement.

Board members received an update on the Agency's Donor Fund at the Northeast Michigan Community Foundation. Connie reported funds are doing well, and there were investment gains. These funds are used to assist individuals served when starting a business.

Bob Adrian questioned if any funds could be allocated to the AFC homes. Nena stated she would discuss what could be done as a one-time expense at the NMRE Operations Meeting. The NMRE had previously allowed stability payments to contracted AFC providers.

2. Ends 04-001

Eric pointed Board members to the Ends monitoring report. Some Ends had been modified last year to accommodate for the staffing crisis. Having 39% of individuals receiving home-based services through children's services with only two of the usual seven case managers is good. Nena and Eric discussed how difficult it has been to compete with the schools for staff due to the wages and schedule the schools offer. They are trying to get a rural exemption for specific services, but some people are already talking about how to get around the rural exemption by changing how population density is calculated.

Most other Ends are on track. The Agency is providing a lot of community education and sponsoring many events. Rebecca Stockford is pleased with how the Ends are going.

Moved by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, supported by Charlotte Helman, to approve the June Monitoring Reports. Motion carried.

XI. Linkage Reports

1. QI Council

There were no comments or questions on the draft QI council minutes.

2. NMRE Board Meeting – May 24

Gary Nowak reported two members from Northern Lakes CMHA were replaced on the NMRE board. Nena said Northern Lakes has signed an enabling agreement to not split off Grand Traverse County into its own CMH. There were continuing discussions of the SUD board and how it will now function as a committee, rather than a board. Impending changes to children's services were also discussed.

3. CMHA Summer Conference – June 5 – 7

Eric felt the conference was great and he appreciates the fellowship with board members. Bonnie liked how the conference was more centered around children's services and she loved the keynote speakers. Eric highly recommends Board members go to the conferences. He attended the Board Chairpersons' Meeting and enjoyed their discussions. The next conference will be on October 23 and 24.

XII. Operations Report

Mary Crittenden reported on operations for May 2023. Access completed 62 routine requests for service and one urgent request. There were 39 crisis contacts, 46 prescreens, and 18 private hospital admissions. Doctors' services served 606 individuals and they are doing very well. Employment services served 60 I/DD individuals and 28 MI individuals. Overall, 1,112 individuals were served during May.

XIII. Chair's Report

1. Term Expirations

Eric reported all Board members were contacted about a concern regarding Charlotte and Lloyd's terms. Eric spoke with Eric Kurtz and the Board Chairperson's Meeting regarding this at the CMHA conference. He stated the Board would be insulated from change by having the terms staggered, but that it isn't a crisis and can be handled in the future. Nena assured the Board they are not in noncompliance, as was suggested, and the Board's bylaws and the Mental Health Code were followed. Eric stated the statute isn't exactly clear, though he believes the intention was to keep the terms staggered. They could update the bylaws to reflect the staggered terms and make the process clearer. The Montmorency County Controller's office will be contacted to see how to handle the situation.

Terry Larson would like the bylaws to be reviewed and updated to set specific terms for each member, according to their county, to prevent expiration overlap. There are currently three members from Presque Isle County and two have the same term expiration. Eric has been looking at the terms for a while, and with the new information he would like them to be realigned. He asked Board members to think about this before the next bylaw review.

2. Strategic Plan

Eric asked that Board members review the 2022-2023 Strategic Plan and Eric Kurtz's Environmental Scan to

prepare for the third part of strategic planning next month.

XIV. Executive Director’s Report

During the week of May 15, Nena attended the NMRE Operations Meeting and participated in a Mental Health Forum at Alpena High School. On May 20, the Agency hosted its Mental Health Movement 5K Run-Walk and they had 208 participants. Mary and Rebekah Duhaime did radio interviews discussing the 5K and the Agency, and Mary also appeared on Talk of the Town. The 5K committee has received a lot of positive feedback on the event. Charlotte and Lloyd both participated and Lloyd heard great feedback. Nena attended Clubhouse training in Greenville, SC during the week of May 22. They worked together on an action plan for Light of Hope Clubhouse. The Agency hosted a blood drive on May 31 and they collected their goal amount of 25 units. Nena attended the CMHA Summer Conference on June 5 – 7.

The Agency was nominated as one of Alpena’s best businesses in a Salvation Army Facebook contest, and they received 91 handmade donuts as a prize. Reassessments are being completed for the 11 individuals in AFC homes who had decreased rates. The League of Women Voters Northeast Michigan has asked Nena to present at their June 12 meeting. They were alarmed to hear about the reduction of pediatric State hospital beds and are prepared to start a letter writing campaign.

Nena asked the Board for a one-time 3% retention payment for staff, at a cost of about \$467,000. Eric stated he checked with Deanna Yockey again to ensure the Agency is approved to spend extra funds.

Moved by Patricia Przeslawski, supported by Bob Adrian, to approve a one-time 3% retention payment for staff. Roll call: Ayes: Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.

XV. Information and/or Comments from the Public

Jason Dagner from Light of Hope Clubhouse is appreciative of the Board approving the retention payment and taking care of staff.

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

There were no comments made.

XVII. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NeMCMHA Board will on Thursday, July 13 at 3:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Council will be on Monday, August 7 at 5:00 p.m.

1. Set July Agenda

The proposed July agenda items were reviewed.

XVIII. Meeting Evaluation

Les Buza stated the meeting started on time and everyone came away with education from Alan. The majority of the Board participated, and he thinks it was one of the better meetings they’ve had in a while.

Lloyd asked that the Board meet with Alan more often than every two years.

XIX. Adjournment

Moved by Patricia Przeslawski, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

[signed by Bonnie Cornelius July 13, 2023]
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

Rebekah Duhaime
Recorder

[signed by Eric Lawson July 13, 2023]
Eric Lawson, Chair