

Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board
Board Meeting
May 14, 2020
[Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held using ZOOM/Uber Conference]

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: Bob Adrian, Lester Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Judy Jones, Albert LaFleche, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Gary Wnuk

Absent:

Staff & Guests: Lisa Anderson, Dennis Bannon, Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Mary Crittenden, Lynne Fredlund, Cheryl Kobernik, Eric Kurtz, Margie Hale-Manely, Ruth Hewett, Larry Patterson, Rich Rider, Nena Sork, Brenda Stanton, Monica Werda, 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

Pat Przeslawski 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 Albert LaFleche, supported by Roger Frye, to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2020 meeting as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Judy Jones, Albert LaFleche, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Pat Przeslawski, Gary Wnuk; Nays: Gary Nowak; Absent: None. Motion carried.

VIII. Environmental Scan

Eric Kurtz, NMRE CEO, provided an Environmental Scan as the first part of our Strategic Planning process. He reported the market impacts from previous years has not changed drastically; however, the focus on integrated health is becoming greater.

Eric reports due to the current environment, much of the efforts in mental health will be focused on COVID-19. He touched on the waiver requests currently submitted. He notes there are several services put in place with COVID and we hope some of the components will remain in place after COVID-19. He notes there has already been a change in the premium pay for certain, identified direct care workers; initially rolled out as \$2 per hour and in the most recent action by the legislature increased to \$3 per hour. Eric reported the risk corridor is also up for some changes. He reports the PIHPs have proposed different language. Any changes to the risk corridor will affect the system two or three years later. The expansion of telehealth/telemedicine is working well and created several efficiencies. It would make sense to keep these services in place for the future. A COVID-19 Accountability Office was established and there will be scrutiny of expenses during this time, especially those using COVID funding.

The State Budget outlook for FY20-21 is bleak. The Michigan economy has crashed. There will be a revenue estimating conference tomorrow. The estimates are showing a 43% reduction in state revenue. The federal stimulus dollars cannot be used to offset non-COVID-19 expenses. Michigan does have a \$1.2 billion rainy day fund.

Mr. Kurtz reviewed the initiatives for system redesign. He reported the Section 298 was vetoed and the most recent system redesign is taken off the table due to COVID. There is an adhoc advisory group with the CMHAM working to develop other potential scenarios related to the design. He reviewed four potential scenarios and the pros and cons of each model. The consensus of the advisory group is to put these scenarios on hold. They may be brought out when focus is again put on the initiative.

Eric Kurtz reported during the COVID crisis the providers have shown both sides of engagement – some have really stepped up to do the best they can to assure individuals are receiving services and others have shuttered their doors.

Mr. Kurtz reviewed the reporting revisions the State and Federal government is attempting to implement. The intent is to change the financial reporting which is so different than what was reported to them previously without any training of staff. This is in a holding pattern at this point as it is not part of the current contract. He reports the Cures Act will have some new regulations which will need to be implemented. The Home and Community Based Settings compliance is continuing. He reports there is also a push to become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) and Senator Stabenow is really pushing Michigan to become a CCBHC state. The funding would change to a perspective payment model versus a prepaid model. Mr. Kurtz reports he was invited to participate in a workgroup reviewing this initiative.

He reported prior to the crisis, psychiatric residential treatment facilities were being developed. This is a step-down between state facilities and community services. Initially focused on children; they also recognized a need for this type of service for adults as well.

Eric Kurtz reported the Office of Inspector General (OIG) would be increasing oversight related to COVID and fraud, waste and abuse.

He reviewed the regional initiatives of the NMRE. He reported focus on expansion of the Behavioral Health Home to all 21 counties would occur. He reported Centra Wellness Network has such a home already and the goal is to expand this service in all member boards of the NMRE. He reported the internal service fund is shrinking. He reports the Operations Committee is looking at ways to put money back into the internal services fund. Integrated physical and behavioral health at both the provider level and individual level for those we serve should be a focus. There will be a continuing of expansion of the Opioid Health Homes. He discussed the importance of network adequacy and looking at how procurement of services is conducted in the contracting process. Another initiative will be to implement common contracts across the region. He notes we are at various stages in this development. This will work especially well for those providers common to more than one member board.

Mr. Kurtz reported there is a forecast for an increase in service demand after the pandemic eases. He notes the additional services will most likely need to be provided in an environment with reduced funding. He reports we are working with Region 1 and are looking at our own system redesign alternatives.

Eric Kurtz reported once the pandemic has relaxed there will be more scrutinizing of the expenses as the regulations have been lightened substantially during this time.

Nena Sork inquired about funding for the Behavioral Health Homes and he reported this is 90% federal funding so the State's portion is minimal and this would be in addition to the capitation payments.

Eric Lawson requested Board members to jot down any questions they may have about goals and future training opportunities so they can be included in the future Strategic Planning discussions.

IX. Consent Agenda

1. University of Michigan – MC3 (Child Collaborative Care) Agreement

Moved by Gary Wnuk, supported by Pat Przeslawski, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Bob Adrian, Lester Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Judy Jones, Albert LaFleche, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Gary Wnuk; Nays: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.

X. May Monitoring Reports

1. Treatment of Consumers 01-002

Pat Przeslawski reported the Recipient Rights Committee held their meeting by conference call and the meeting went well. There were no other comments.

2. Budgeting 01-004

Connie Cadarette reported this report includes the adjustments from the budget amendment last month. Most expense line items are at the point where they should be, right around 50%. The property liability is due to the annual asset distribution we traditionally get around July. She noted the increase in Medicaid underspent dollars is partially due to lower salaries with the temporary layoffs. Gary Wnuk questioned the variance in Employee Wellness. Connie Cadarette reported it is a timing issue and will even out. Some of the wellness expenses are paid early in the fiscal year. The Miscellaneous expenses are due to Board Association dues and physician fees. This will even out as the year goes on.

3. Financial Condition 01-005

Eric Lawson reported there are 52 days of unrestricted. Larry Patterson reported this is right on target with the recommended level. Connie Cadarette reported financial statement from the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan is a quarterly report provided to the Board. This is the endowment fund established by the Board several years ago. Gary Nowak inquired as to whether the spendable funds are being used. Nena Sork reported there is an internal committee that accepts and approves applications for use of the funds. Larry Patterson reported he just received a request to assist an individual with employment related expenses.

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Judy Jones, to accept the May Monitoring Reports as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Judy Jones, Albert LaFleche, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Gary Wnuk; Nays: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.

XI. Board Policy Review and Self Evaluation

1. Board Job Description 02-003

This policy was updated to reflect the term Executive Director from CEO.

2. Board Core Values 02-014

Board members reviewed the policy and there were no revisions recommended.

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Albert LaFleche, to approve revision to Policy 02-003, Board Job Descriptions, as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Judy Jones, Albert LaFleche, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Gary Wnuk; Nays: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.

XII. Linkage Reports

1. Northern Michigan Regional Entity (NMRE)

a. Board Meeting April 22, 2020

Nena Sork reported there was discussion about telemed and televideo and how the services were going. This was a teleconference meeting and was quite abbreviated. She reported the internal service fund and risk corridor were the main topics of the meeting. This topic will continue at the Operations Committee meeting next week.

2. Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHAM)

a. Spring Conference Update

The Spring Board Conference scheduled for June was cancelled and CMHAM is working to reschedule possibly in early August. Nena Sork reported she did check the Association website and at this point there is nothing scheduled. Member Services is waiting to see where this pandemic is going as to whether it would be feasible to hold a conference in August.

XIII. Operation's Report

Mary Crittenden reviewed the report for the month ending April 30, 2020. She reported the hospital admissions and pre-screens were down. Other services are staying relatively the same. She reported staff are still seeing individuals face-to-face. She notes some services are via telephone or video. She reports children's services have a slight increase. The majority of the decreases are in prescreens and crisis walk-ins.

Gary Wnuk inquired as to whether this next month would show an increase. Nena Sork reported clinically she has been surprised that there has not been an increase in crisis services. Gary Nowak questioned if more are going to the emergency room. Nena Sork reported this is also down and even during COVID if an individual presents at the emergency room with an identified behavioral health issue, they would contact our clinicians to conduct prescreen or a crisis contact.

XIV. Chair's Report

Eric Lawson wished Judy Jones a Happy Birthday wish.

Eric Lawson informed Board members of his follow-up to the concern Board members had related to being informed of the Director's job performance. He spoke with Eric Kurtz about the concern. He was reassured this would be communicated. Mr. Kurtz reassured him this agency is doing well.

Eric Lawson reported Nena Sork also received the Employee of the Month award for May.

1. CMH PAC Last Call

Last call for the CMH PAC. Eric Lawson stressed the importance of providing support to the PAC. Board members were requested to submit their checks for CMH PAC to Diane Hayka.

2. Disclosure of Ownership Forms Update

Board members were requested to review the form to assure there have been no changes that need to be reported. This form is completed every three years and Board members attest they have no changes annually.

XV. Director's Report

1. MDHHS COVID-19 Grant

Nena Sork reported receipt of a notice from the State of a COVID Grant for \$80,783. The State issued an E-grants grant for this amount to cover any costs associated with COVID-19. The deadline to sign the E-grants was Friday. A deposit of the grant dollars was in our account this morning. She is requesting approval of the agreement and approval to spend up to that amount for expenditures for items included in the grant, which include technology, PPE, increased transportation, etc. The dollars spent will be tracked. Technology will include Microsoft Team enhancement and other technology expenses to facilitate working from home. Board members requested a report on how the dollars were spent at a future meeting.

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Gary Wnuk, to approve the Director's execution of the E-Gram signing of the COVID-19 Grant and, in addition, approve the purchases for equipment, PPE and other related COVID-19 as allowed in the Grant . Roll call: Ayes: Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Judy Jones, Albert LaFleche, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Gary Wnuk; Nays: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.

Nena Sork reported this is the largest work-from-home experiment and it is going well. She reports she is part of an Emergency Management group having calls every Monday to address the pandemic focusing on the four counties. She reports twice a week there are phone calls with the State and Department on addressing changes in the system.

She continues participation in the Northern Michigan Opioid Response Commission Prevention committee meetings and Board meetings.

Staff are working from home and the Agency is following the Michigan's Safe Start model prior to returning staff to the office setting. Nena Sork reports some of the services may continue to be a work from home even after COVID. Prior to COVID, it was the Agency's intention to transition case managers to a home-based office so it is likely that this will continue.

Nena Sork provided Board members with an update of the Agency's webpage. She reports this month a Facebook page is developed, which can be accessed through the website. Jobs are posted on the website and applicants can fill out an application online.

Nena Sork reports she is shifting her focus to design how we work with a reduction in funding for next year. Funding is projected to be a 30-40% reduction from the current year. This will greatly impact service delivery and we will need to be creative on how we can still provide the necessary services with reduced funding.

Nena Sork reported on a positive note next Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. will be a panel on Facebook hosted by Thunder Bay Theatre regarding Mental Health Awareness in conjunction with May is Mental Health Month. Nena Sork reported she did a recent interview with WBKB TV and another staff did an interview with the radio station in recent months.

Bob Adrian thanked Nena Sork for her participation in the Monday Emergency Management conference calls and reports she has connected to many organizations in the community letting them know Community Mental Health is available for services during this time. He also reported the FEMA assistance grant would be available to CMH and this week was the training week. There are dollars available for COVID expenses but participation in training is required and a FEMA portal must be created. There is tracking of dollars necessary with this program.

XVI. Information and/or Comments from the Public

There was no information or comments presented.

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

There was no information or comments for the Good of the Board.

XVIII. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board will be held Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

1. Set June Agenda

The June agenda items were reviewed. Strategic Planning continues with Part II focusing on progress towards current "Ends."

XIX. Evaluation of Meeting

Pat Przeslawski noted meeting started at 3:01 p.m. and Eric Kurtz's environmental scan was informative. She reported there were times it was difficult to hear. She reported she believes Nena Sork is a great leader. The majority of the board participated. She notes there is respect within the board members. This Board is caring and the phone meetings show the Board has good adaptability.

XX. **Adjournment**

Moved by Gary Wnuk, supported by Roger Frye, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.
This meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

[signed by Bonnie Cornelius digitally on 5/14/2020]
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[signed by Eric Lawson digitally on 5/14/2020]
Eric Lawson, Chair

Diane Hayka
Recorder