

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority (NeMCMHA) Board  
Board Meeting  
March 9, 2023**

**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: Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small

Staff & Guests: Lisa Anderson, Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Mary Crittenden, Erin Fletcher, Kingsli Kraft, Larry Patterson, Abbey Podbielski, Nena Sork, Frank Van Goethem, Jen Walburn

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

**IV. Appointment of Evaluator**

Judy Jones was appointed as evaluator for this meeting.

**V. Acknowledgement of Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were acknowledged.

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

No information or comments were presented to the Board.

**VII. Approval of Minutes**

*Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Terry Small, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023 Board meeting as presented.* Motion carried.

**VIII. Educational Session – Gentle Teaching/Sunrise Side of Sarah**

Board members viewed the Sunrise Side of Sarah video included in Gentle Teaching training. It tells the story of deinstitutionalization in Michigan, the use of Gentle Teaching, and their impact on Sarah, an individual served by Northeast. Les Buza was on the Mt. Pleasant Center Board while his daughter lived there. He was told Alpena had the best group homes and that his daughter should be moved up here when the Mt. Pleasant Center closed. Nena Sork stated there were originally 26 homes opened and the Agency is now down to nine. Nena stated millions of dollars are put back in the community by the group homes. Terry Larson stated the staff are wonderful with clients and do a phenomenal job.

**IX. Consent Agenda**

**1. ABA Pathways**

Board members reviewed a change to the ABA Pathways contract, which adds a new code for Exposure Adaptive Behavior Treatment.

*Moved by Terry Larson, supported by Gary Nowak, to approve the March 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.

**X. 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, 2023. Medicaid is underspent \$121,170 and Healthy Michigan is underspent \$304,211, for a total underspent amount of \$425,381. General funds lapsing to MDHHS are currently at \$280,000. Connie stated there will be a financial impact when the Public Health Emergency ends, as Medicaid spenddowns will begin again right away. The current change in net position is negative \$92,372. The negative amount is mostly due to not yet receiving local matching funds or incentive payments. It is normal for the number to be negative at this time of year.

Larry Patterson reviewed expenses with negative variances. Some variances are due to timing issues, which include the line items for Postage, Telephone & Connectivity, and Utilities. A few of the line items that had originally been cut to balance the budget will need to see adjustments. These include Salaries, Pension, and Program Supplies. A few line items will continue to be monitored, including Contracted Inpatient, Professional Fees, and Miscellaneous Expense (which is the Agency's 10% share of inpatient costs). With 33.33% of the year elapsed, the Agency has used 31.6% of expenses.

## **2. Treatment of Individuals Served 01-002**

Board members received the 2022 I/DD Customer Satisfaction Committee survey results at the meeting. Pat Przeslawski stated there has been a lot of consistency over the years. Nena reported the QI Committee is routinely looking at improvements and suggestions. The 50% response rate is not unusual, as many of the surveys go out to guardians, and they don't always receive them back.

*Moved by Pat Przeslawski, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to approve the March Monitoring Reports.* Motion carried.

## **XI. Board Policies Review**

### **1. Budgeting 01-004**

Connie and Larry both reviewed the policy and did not have any suggested revisions.

### **2. Board Members Ethical Code of Conduct 02-008**

Revisions were suggested to make job titles consistent, and chief executive and CEO were both changed to Executive Director. Board members were asked to sign and return the updated version of the Board Members Ethical Code of Conduct policy.

*Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Terry Small, to approve the revisions to the Board Members Ethical Code of Conduct Policy.* Motion carried.

## **XII. Linkage Reports**

### **1. NMRE Board Meeting – February 22, 2023**

Gary reported there was a good presentation on the liquor tax that gave him a better understanding. There was also discussion of the new crisis residential facility in Gaylord and the possible rural exemption.

## **XIII. Operations Report**

Mary Crittenden reported on individuals served for the month of February 2023. There were 51 routine access screens, older adult services served 123 individuals, and ACT served 36 individuals. There were two state hospital admissions for individuals who decompensated and were readmitted. The group homes served 55 individuals. Overall, 1,089 individuals were provided services during the month of February.

## **XIV. Executive Director's Report**

Nena reported work is continuing on the AFC assessment tool, and the next stage will be rolling it out to some of the AFC providers. The revised assessment will be tested on those who had the most significant reductions to see how it captures their behaviors and impacts their scores. Nena spent time with Diane Pelts from AuSable Valley CMHA who reports they don't contract with private AFCs. They utilize larger, corporate homes, and have also contracted out all of their previously owned group homes, including staffing, to Bay Health Home Services. The corporate homes are a larger expense, but there are less emergent issues. Nena will compare the Agency's compensation grid to other CMHSPs and she expects the process to be completed by the end of April.

Mary Crittenden, Rebekah Duhaime, and Nena updated the Board on the Mental Health Movement 5K Run-Walk the Agency is hosting on May 20. Online registration is available and all proceeds from the 5K will be donated to Hope Shores Alliance.

The first Behavioral Health Subcommittee meeting was held last week in Lansing. Two CMHSP directors and Alan Boulter spoke to the committee.

**XV. Chair's Report**

Eric reappointed Gary Nowak to the NMRE Board.

**1. Update on PAC Campaign**

The current total of Board member donations to the PAC is \$140 from three donations.

**2. Nomination/Board Member Composition Committee**

The committee met in November and suggested all three Board members with expiring terms, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, and Gary Nowak, have their terms renewed. The Nomination/Board Member Composition Committee, which will consist of Terry Larson, Lloyd Peltier, Pat Przeslawski, and Terry Small, will meet at 2:30 p.m. prior to the April 13 meeting to discuss officers. Terry Small had been appointed as a Temporary Vice Chair after Roger Frye's passing.

**3. Board Member Recognition**

Gary Nowak – 24 years	Judy Jones – 10 years	Lynnette Grzeskowiak – 2
Pat Przeslawski – 23 years	Eric Lawson – 8 years	years
Terry Larson – 22 years	Bonnie Cornelius – 8 years	Terry Small – 2 years
Les Buza – 13 years	Robert Adrian – 3 years	

Judy Jones was recognized with two certificates. The first for reaching ten years of service on the NeMCMHA Board and the second from the CMHA for completing Boardworks in its entirety.

Eric and Nena reported the CMHA is asking every CMHSP to provide a donation representing their region for the next conference. Nena asked that Board members bring ideas to the next meeting.

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

Scholarship information for the 5K can be sought from Nichole Keyes.

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

Board members discussed a previous Board member who is now in an AFC home. A card will be sent to her on the Board's behalf.

**XVIII. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NeMCMHA Board will on Thursday, April 13 at 3:00 p.m.

**1. Set April Agenda**

The proposed April agenda items were reviewed.

**2. Meeting Evaluation**

Judy stated meeting started and ended on time. She appreciated the video on Sarah and stated it was enlightening. The majority of the Board participated, and learning about the history of Northeast is important for all to understand.

**XIX. Adjournment**

*Moved by Les Buza, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to adjourn the meeting.* Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

*[signed by Bonnie Cornelius April 13, 2023]*  
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

Rebekah Duhaime  
Recorder

*[signed by Eric Lawson April 13, 2023]*  
Eric Lawson, Chair