

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board
Board Meeting – October 10, 2024**

I. Call to Order

Chair Eric Lawson called the meeting to order in the Board Room at 3:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Present: Bob Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Judy Jones, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small

Staff & Guests: Sharon Becker, Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Rebekah Duhaime, Ruth Hewett, Jason Lepper, Zackeria Miller, Nena Sork, Brenda Stanton, Jen Walburn

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

IV. Appointment of Evaluator

Bonnie Cornelius 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

A revision will be made to the Executive Director's Report and it will be brought back to the Board for review.

VIII. Education Session: Benefits-To-Work Coach, Zackeria Miller

Zack Miller introduced himself as the Benefits-To-Work Coach for the Agency. He works with individuals regarding their SSI, SSD, Medicaid, Medicare, and food benefits. He assists individuals with understanding how much they can work while retaining their benefits.

Kara Bauer LeMonds entered the meeting at 3:07.

Zack has helped over 65 individuals, meeting monthly with current referrals to review communications from the State and help them understand their benefits. He dispels myths regarding work and benefits, and motivates individuals to seek employment, encouraging them to work and better their lives. Zack has helped individuals who have a higher income than allowed on standard Medicaid get into Freedom to Work Medicaid, which saves the Agency General Fund dollars. He works to help set up MiABLE accounts so individuals can keep more money in savings. He spoke of his personal experience being on SSI and how he worked to get himself in a better position.

IX. Consent Agenda

Board members received a handout with autism provider contracts to add to the Consent Agenda.

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

X. **Consent Agenda: NEMROC**

Bob Adrian requested to abstain from voting, due to his wife being employed by NEMROC.

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Terry Small, to approve Bob Adrian abstaining from voting on the NEMROC Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

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

XI. **FY25 Budget Hearing**

Connie reviewed the proposed FY25 Budget, starting with the Revenue Budget, which included a 1% increase in revenue as projected by the NMRE. She noted that General funds will not have a carry forward amount next year. The line item for Residential Clients - Room and Board has increased due to the five beds provided at the new Greenhaven group home. She next reviewed the Expenditure Budget (by account), noting line items with changes from the previous year. Connie reiterated that the line item for Pensions is for defined contributions, and there is no unfunded liability as the pensions are self-funded. She briefly reviewed the Expenditure Budget (by program), Capital Purchases, and Staffing – Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs) budgets.

Moved by Bob Adrian, supported by Gary Nowak, to approve the FY25 Budget. Roll Call: Ayes: Bob Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Judy Jones, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

XII. **General Fund Benefit Packages**

Nena informed the Board that the Agency will have to revert to how General Funds (GF) were managed before the pandemic. The Agency receives \$1.2 million in GF which must be used to provide, by Government mandate, inpatient hospitalization, Access services, and crisis services. What is left in GF after those three services are provided can be used to serve individuals who don't have insurance. Last year the three mandatory services cost \$629,000 of the \$1.2 million of GF. This year, Nena has set aside the \$629,000, which may increase or decrease, leaving \$570,000 for individuals who have a Medicaid Spend-down or no insurance at all. Individuals that meet medical necessity criteria will be placed on a service priority list and will be reviewed monthly. There will be a GF Committee reviewing cases to determine how many individuals can be kept in services with the amount of GF available. Individuals will be given a packet of services based on acuity. Nena reported this had to be done at a more intense scale in 2014, and they provided the same benefit guide to all affected individuals. This time individuals will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and given individualized packets of services. The Agency serves 200 individuals who have no Medicaid or who have a Medicaid spend-down (which functions like a monthly deductible).

Moved by Dana Labar, supported by Les Buza, to support the Agency's need to manage its limited General Funds by offering individualized packages of services to affected persons served. Roll Call: Ayes: Bob Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Judy Jones, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

XIII. **October Monitoring Reports**

1. Budgeting 01-004

Connie reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expense and Change in Net Position for the month ending August 31, 2024, with 91.67% of the year elapsed, highlighting line items with larger variances. The Change in Net Position is at negative \$285,515. The total overspent amount for Medicaid and Healthy MI is \$569,087

and General Funds are overspent by \$644,105, which includes the carry forward amount. The Agency has received \$75,000 from another board, which will show on next month's report.

2. Compensation and Benefits 01-008

Board members reviewed the monitoring report and did not have any questions.

Moved by Lloyd Peltier, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to approve the October Monitoring Reports.

Motion carried.

XIV. Board Policies Review and Self-Evaluation

1. Annual Board Planning Cycle 02-007

The Board reviewed the policy, and Terry thinks they are meeting what is required.

2. Executive Director Job Description 03-003

The Board feels they are fulfilling the policy.

3. Monitoring Executive Director Performance

This policy was last revised in 2019, and Terry and other Board members feel they are abiding by it.

4. Board Ends Statement 04-001

The Board set their Ends at the July meeting, and the proposed revisions reflect those changes.

Moved by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to approve the revisions to the Board Ends Statement Policy. Motion carried.

XV. Linkage Reports

1. NMRE Board Meeting – September 25

Nena and Eric discussed the status of the PIHP signing their contract with the State. The NMRE does not approve of certain parts of the contract, and multiple PIHPs will not be signing the contract until it is revised. There are two items the PIHPs are in opposition to: one is regarding the Waskul Settlement and the other pertains to the amount allowed in internal savings funds. There is a legal provision that if the CMHSPs agree to continue providing services, they can continue to negotiate and work on the contract.

2. Advisory Council – October 7

Lloyd reported they met on Monday and had a quick meeting. Two council members were reappointed, and they reviewed their bylaws and a policy. They also discussed the upcoming SUD Day of Education.

XVI. Operations Report

Nena reported on operations for the month of September. There has been an increase in hospital prescreens and the crisis team was busier than average. Home-based Children's is higher as they have been able to hire more staff. The total of unduplicated individuals served in September was 1,045.

XVII. Board Chair's Report

1. Strategic Plan

The Board reviewed the finalized strategic plan booklet.

2. Schedule Nominations Committee Meeting

Six Board members' terms will expire on March 31, 2025. Five will be seeking reappointment. The Nominations Committee, made up of Lynnette, Judy, Gary, and Terry, will meet at 2:30 p.m. prior to the Board meeting on November 14.

3. CMHA Fall Board Conference – October 21 & 22 – Attendees and Voting Delegates

Lloyd and Gary will be the voting delegates for Northeast at the 5:40 p.m. meeting on Sunday, October 20.

XVIII. Executive Director’s Report

Nena reported the Rural and Frontier Caucus has had some productive meetings recently and they have been successful in exempting themselves from Conflict-Free Access and Planning (CFAP), which may be starting in January.

XIX. Information and/or Comments from the Public

None were presented.

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

Lloyd encouraged Board members to attend conferences. He commended Nena on her involvement with many committees and boards, stating the additional work she takes on and completes is phenomenal.

XXI. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 14 at 3:00 p.m.

1. November Agenda Items

The proposed November agenda items were reviewed.

XXII. Meeting Evaluation

Bonnie reported the Board all came prepared, as she thinks they do every time, and everyone is involved in the meetings. She said Zack did a phenomenal presentation and she was very impressed with him.

XXIII. Adjournment

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Terry Small, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

[signed by Bonnie Cornelius November 14, 2024]

Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

Rebekah Duhaime
Recorder

[signed by Eric Lawson November 14, 2024]

Eric Lawson, Chair