

Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board

Board Meeting [In-Person, Zoom, Uber Conference]

December 10, 2020

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: In Person: Les Buza, Roger Frye, Lynnette Greskowiak, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Gary Wnuk
Via Zoom: Bob Adrian
Via Uber Conference: Bonnie Cornelius, Judy Jones, Albert LaFleche, Pat Przeslawski

Absent: Terry Larson (excused)

Staff & Guests: Lisa Anderson, Dennis Bannon, Carolyn Bruning, LeeAnn Bushey, Connie Cadarette, Mary Crittenden, Erin Fletcher, Lynne Fredlund, Ruth Hewett, Nicole Kaiser, Cheryl Kobernik, Larry Patterson, Nena Sork, Jen Whyte

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

IV. Appointment of Evaluator

Gary Wnuk was appointed as evaluator of this meeting.

V. Acknowledgement of Conflict of Interest

There was no conflict of interest to acknowledge.

VI. Information and/or Comments from the Public

No information or comments were presented.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Roger Frye, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2020 meeting with correction as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Lynnette Greskowiak; Judy Jones, Albert LaFleche, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Gary Wnuk; Nays: None; Absent: Terry Larson. Motion carried.

VIII. Consent Agenda

1. Leases

- a. **Sub-Lease of Fletcher Street Office to ABA Pathways LLC**
- b. **Sub-Lease of Harrisville Office to District Health Department #2**

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

IX. December Monitoring Reports

1. Grants or Contracts 01-011

Nena Sork reported this monitoring report has not changed much from the previous year's report. Due to COVID, monitoring efforts were on hold with the contract manager anticipating providing a virtual review to assure compliance.

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Les Buza, to accept the December monitoring report as presented. Roll call vote: Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Lynnette

Greskowiak, Judy Jones, Albert LaFleche, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Gary Wnuk;
Nays: None; Absent: Terry Larson. Motion carried.

X. Board Policy Review and Self Evaluation

1. Grants or Contracts 01-011

Board members reviewed this policy. This policy is associated with the monitoring report presented at this meeting. There were no recommended revisions.

2. Board Member Recognition 02-011

Board members reviewed this policy. Board members determined they were in compliance with the policy and there were no revisions needed.

3. Board Member Orientation 02-015

The content of this policy seems to be sufficient; however, due to COVID this past year the orientation has been more difficult to attain. More focus will need to be taken in the future to comply with the elements of the policy.

XI. Linkage Reports

1. Northern Michigan Regional Entity (NMRE)

a. Board Meetings

i. December 9, 2020

The NMRE held their combined November/December meeting yesterday. Roger Frye noted the NMRE has requested support of a motion made at their meeting yesterday based on information presented to them by Chip Johnson, Director of CentraWellness. Nena Sork provided some historical information related to Section 928. She noted the local community mental health agencies provide the State with local match dollars for a draw-down and the state sends it to the federal government and in return receives more Medicaid dollars back. CMS has indicated this practice has to end and last year the legislature passed a bill to phase out this practice. The State passed boilerplate language intending that they would continue at a 20% reduction each year until the local match was \$0 and the State abided by the bill in last fiscal year as the Agency had a 20% reduction in the local match draw-down requirement. This year, due to budget constraints, the State did not reduce the local match draw-down requirement; however, some of the community mental health boards withheld their first quarter local match payment to the state. Mr. Johnson requested the Board pass a motion to support the boilerplate language passed last year. Nena Sork reported should we follow this lead, the state will most likely take the 20% local match from our General Fund. For this Agency, our local match drawdown is \$199,580 for the current fiscal year. The transfer of the draw-down dollars to the General Fund dollars could impact our Agency for several years. Legally there is good rationale for this fight; however, it might be harmful to services to our individuals in the end, as you cannot mix how the funding is used. General Fund dollars allows for greater flexibility than Medicaid and if the State took this 20% from General Funds, some services provided with General Fund dollars would not be provided. Board members felt they would need more information to make an informed decision.

Eric Lawson reported in the by-laws, the Executive Committee is charged to meet to discuss legislative actions and this might be a role the Executive Committee should pay. This would need to be acted upon by February when the next payment of local match is due. It was suggested Chip Johnson be requested to provide an educational session for the Board at the January meeting. At this point, the dollars we give in local match, we get returned in Medicaid dollars. There are some boards that do not get back as much as they give. Nena Sork reported while this is somewhat questionable as to how the state is doing this, it does not harm the Agency. Nena Sork reported CMS will be dictating how the state handles the draw-down in a few years. Eric Lawson suggested we go through with an educational session related to this topic at the January meeting. Gary Nowak indicated after hearing these additional details, he did not support having Chip Johnson

provide the explanation and have Nena Sork gather more information. Gary Wnuk reported the draw-down dollars are local and the local community should have control.

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Les Buza to table this topic until the next meeting to gather further information. Bob Adrian reported this is something that should be brought to the attention of our legislators. Bonnie Cornelius indicated right is right and wrong is wrong. Roll call vote: Ayes: Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Lynnette Greskowiak, Judy Jones, Albert LaFleche, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Gary Wnuk; Nays: None; Absent: Terry Larson. Motion carried.

Gary Nowak reported there were several disbursements of the liquor tax dollars at the NMRE meeting yesterday.

ii. October 28, 2020

The minutes from the October meeting were distributed to Board members at this meeting.

2. Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHAM)

a. Northern Regional Meeting

Gary Wnuk reported he attended the regional meeting and was the only board member in the five board area to attend. Representative Sue Allor was nominated for the Go to Bat Award from the Northern Region. Gary Wnuk reported it is very important for a commissioner to be a conduit between the CMH and the county to either support specific bills or be a conduit for communication. Bob Adrian questioned if there was a possibility of presenting a plaque to Representative Sue Allor with board member signatures. Board members were supportive of providing recognition to Representative Sue Allor.

Moved by Gary Wnuk, supported by Roger Frye, to nominate Representative Sue Allor for the Go to Bat Award from the Northern Region. Roll call vote: Ayes: Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Lynnette Greskowiak, Judy Jones, Albert LaFleche, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Gary Wnuk; Nays: None; Absent: Terry Larson. Motion carried.

Nena Sork reported a possible press release would be appropriate. Gary Nowak also suggested we contact Representative Allor to get her opinion on the Section 298 stall.

Moved by Bob Adrian supported by Gary Wnuk, to send a letter to Representative Allor in recognition of her nomination for this award. Roll call vote: Ayes: : Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Lynnette Greskowiak, Judy Jones, Albert LaFleche, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Gary Wnuk; Nays: None; Absent: Terry Larson. Motion carried.

3. Advisory Council

Les Buza reported the Advisory Council meeting was very informative. He reported the members viewed a video on the virtual Walk a Mile in My Shoes Rally held in late September. This rally traditionally held in May but due to COVID was delayed. CMHAM informed our Agency the day before the rally of the event, which precluded participating for our group. Rebecca Stockford, new Council member, attended the meeting in person. Rebecca provides screening of visitors at the entry some days.

XII. Operations Report

Mary Crittenden provided an update on the services provided for the month of November. Overall, 1,006 individuals received services during this past month. With the increase of COVID cases in the area, some of the programs' numbers were down slightly.

XIII. Chair's Report

Eric Lawson welcomed new Board member Lynette Greskowiak, representing Alpena County, and thanked Gary Wnuk for his service noting he appreciates the value Mr. Wnuk has brought to the Board.

1. By-Law Review

Board members reviewed the by-laws. The Nomination's Committee was discussed as to whether this is a Standing Committee, adhoc committee or really needed. This could be a function of the full Board. The language will be addressed and a proposal will be made to the Board at their January meeting. Gary Nowak suggested changing the appointments to a two-year term versus a one-year term. Nominations would be from the floor rather than a Slate of Officers being presented. Gary Wnuk questioned whether under Section 4 Removal of an Officer if the vote should be 2/3 versus the majority of the Board. Board members felt the simple majority would be adequate. Members also discussed the need to have a meeting evaluator; however, this is a requirement of CARF. Bob Adrian suggested Board packets be submitted electronically to Board members versus receiving hard copies to save mailing costs. Bob indicated the county has a board book that is accessible by the public as well as board members.

Discussion ensued related to Section 8. Decorum during Debate. In question is the sentence "Such person shall thence be seated until the Chair shall have determined whether the person is in order." As the person from the public presenting information does not always stand the wording may need to be revised. Possibly be worded to indicate the Chair will provide warning to the individual of possible removal if found unruly. Gary Nowak reported, under "Committees," the Executive Committee appointments are based by the officer position held by the member. Gary Wnuk questioned the quorum definition of 50% and suggested that possibly this should be 50% plus one. The Policy Governance guidelines will be checked for his concern.

Gary Nowak departed the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

XIV. Director's Report

1. Director Report

Nena Sork reported she continues participation in the Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC) Prevention Committee and on the Board. She reported internally protocols were sent out to supervisors to provide guidance on how staff should be operating in today's COVID environment. She reports at this time the Spring Board Conference is still scheduled as a face-to-face gathering. The Winter Conference will continue as a virtual setting. She reports she continues participation in the Emergency Managers conference call. In addition, District Health Department #4 (DHD4) has requested we survey our staff related to their intent/willingness to receive the COVID vaccine when available. This will assist DHD#4 in planning for administration. A survey will be sent out to staff yet this week.

Nena Sork informed Board members of the hiring of a new Residential Manager, Nicole Kaiser. She also reported a new group was formed through the AMA/ESD with collaborative community partners. This group will be addressing student concerns in the community since COVID and associated truancy.

The Consent Agenda for this meeting contained a sub-lease for one of our providers we now contract with to provide autism services for the Agency. Since the mailing went out, the second provider we use for autism services has also requested to lease a conference room at the Fletcher Street Office to conduct testing. This will be \$14 each day they use it beginning January 5, 2021.

Moved by Roger Frye, supported by Gary Wnuk, to approve the sub-lease of the Fletcher Street Office to Autism of America as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: Robert Adrian, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Roger Frye, Lynnette Greskowiak, Judy Jones, Albert LaFleche, Eric Lawson, Pat Przeslawski, Gary Wnuk; Nays: None; Absent: Terry Larson, Gary Nowak. Motion carried.

Nena Sork reported the staff holiday luncheon/party has been postponed until the environment is safer to host a gathering. Nena reported recruitment efforts continue for vacant positions. Staff are being very cautious during the recent surge in COVID cases. Staff have had to quarantine. At this

point, staff shortages have been manageable. She reports the morning calls twice a week continue to keep everyone connected during this restricted time. All essential services continue to be provided.

XV. Information and/or Comments from the Public

There was no information or comments presented.

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

Gary Wnuk reported he has enjoyed serving on this Board. He notes a family member has a mental illness and reports he appreciates the work done by the Board in the various programs. He reports he recognizes the good work done by staff. Les Buza reported when his daughter was discharged from the Mt. Pleasant Center she was put in this area and he was very appreciative of the services she received.

XVII. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board will be held Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

1. Set January Agenda

The January agenda items were reviewed.

XVIII. Evaluation of Meeting

Gary Wnuk reported the meeting began on time. He reported there was much discussion and interaction. The Board is engaged and understands their purpose.

XIX. Adjournment

Moved by Les Buza, supported by Gary Wnuk, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

[electronically signed by Bonnie Cornelius 01/14/2021]
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[signed by Eric Lawson 01/14/2021]
Eric Lawson, Chair

Diane Hayka
Recorder