

Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board

Board Meeting

December 12, 2019

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: Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Steve Dean, Roger Frye, Mark Hunter, Albert LaFleche, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Gary Wnuk

Absent: Judy Jones (excused), Pat Przeslawski (excused)

Staff & Guests: Lisa Anderson, Dennis Bannon, Carolyn Bruning, LeeAnn Bushey, Connie Cadarette, Mary Crittenden, Lynne Fredlund, Nena Sork, Jen Whyte, Peggy Yachasz

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

IV. Appointment of Evaluator

Eric Lawson appointed Roger Frye as evaluator for this meeting.

V. Acknowledgement of Conflict of Interest

Board members had no conflicts to acknowledge.

VI. Information and/or Comments from the Public/ Board Member Communication

There was no information or comments presented.

VII. Educational Session – Special Music/Refreshments

Eric Lawson provided some Christmas music for Board members. Christmas cookies were also provided. Merry Christmas to one and all.

VIII. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Albert LaFleche, to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

IX. Workers' Compensation Carrier Change

Nena Sork reported this Agency works with a consultant to review options for benefits which include insurance carriers providing workers' compensation insurance. Each year policy rates are reviewed. Lisa Anderson reported the agent requests three bids from various companies and an analysis is done to determine the best option. Argent provided the best option this year with a cost savings of \$38,000. Had we stayed with the current provider an increase of approximately \$30,000 was proposed. Some of the elements the new company will continue to provide is to provide support during audits such as the CARF review and also aid in the annual site surveys conducted at each of our worksites.

Moved by Roger Frye, supported by Gary Nowak, to approve the change in carrier for the workers' compensation insurance to Argent. Mark Hunter questioned if this sounds too good to be true and are they as good as our previous carrier. Nena Sork reported the agent has done background information to assure the service will be the same. Roll call vote: Ayes:

Lester Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Steve Dean, Roger Frye, Mark Hunter, Albert LaFleche, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Gary Wnuk; Nays: None; Absent: Judy Jones, Pat Przeslawski

X. **December Monitoring Reports**

1. **Grants or Contracts 01-011**

Steve Dean expressed concerns and requested a clarification on the definition of sexual orientation and whether this includes gender identity as well. The definition was provided. Diane Hayka noted the report still reflects CEO and this should have been revised to Executive Director and will do so in the future.

Moved by Lester Buza to accept December Monitoring Report as presented, but motion was withdrawn as Gary Nowak requested it be corrected to reflect Executive Director.

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Mark Hunter, to accept the December monitoring reports with a revision to the presented report to change CEO to Executive Director. Motion carried.

XI. **Board Policy Review and Self Evaluation**

1. **Grants or Contracts 01-011**

The revision to this policy was to change CEO to Executive Director.

2. **Board Member Recognition 02-011**

Mark Hunter questioned what the award for twenty years. Diane Hayka reported this traditionally follows the same and the staff recognitions. In the past it has been an engraved pen and pencil set, a gift certificate to the recipient's choice and most recently, due to tax implications, it is a monetary award and processed through the payroll department. The twenty-year recipient gets \$100 and it increases by \$50 for each additional five years. This policy will be revised to add language for 20+ years to indicate "An appropriated gift as determined by the Executive Director in consultation with the Board Chair."

3. **Board Member Orientation 02-015**

Mark Hunter reported some of the orientation outlined in this policy was not provided to him as a new board member. The timelines of getting this done within 90 days does not occur. Gary Nowak suggested Lynne Fredlund be a resource person in the Governance Model. Nena Sork suggested using the Director or designee in lieu of Executive Director. Discussion ensued about timeframe. Gary Nowak noted it is important to learn about the system as quickly as possible. Board members have options to watch a DVD to obtain credits for BoardWorks or attend modules during Board Conferences. When attending a conference, the BoardWorks are included in the registration fee; when obtaining credits through watching the DVDs, there is a \$75 per module fee. Board members were encouraged to watch the DVDs if they are not able to attend conferences or if they wish to get the training quickly.

The revision to this policy will be the addition of Director or designee to allow for the governance training provided through our QI Coordinator, currently Lynne Fredlund.

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Bonnie Cornelius, to revise policies 01-011, 02-011 and 02-015 as discussed. Opposed – Mark Hunter. Motion carried.

XII. **Linkage Reports**

1. **CMHAM (Community Mental Health Association of Michigan)**

There was no new information received to report on for the CMHAM.

2. Northern Michigan Regional Entity (NMRE)

a. Board Meeting December 11, 2019

The NMRE Board meeting was held yesterday. Gary Nowak reported there was good dialogue at the meeting. Gary Nowak noted it was brought up the counties might have some risk if the agency does not stay solvent. Nena Sork noted the 298 pilot was an attempt to take the carve out money and put the money in the private sector. The Governor then vetoed this pilot. There is still an emphasis on the private sector capturing the behavioral health dollars and privatizing the system. Nena Sork reported Michigan has one of the strongest mental health systems and is working pretty well. She notes where Michigan lacks is in serving the mild to moderate population groups. Receiving services is also problematic for individuals enrolled in private insurance. Nena Sork reported "Plan B" is to remove the PIHPs from the current structure. She noted Director Gordon provided his plan to the capitol last week which occurred just after the OPS meeting and the directors listened to his message and began their rebuttal to some of the issues addressed by Director Gordon. There is recognition the rural areas are different from the urban areas. Nena Sork reported this agency has already put in place integrated health services. Nena Sork noted the barriers have been removed to assure individuals are receiving primary care services when needed whether it be financial, transportation, behaviors, etc. Those with high utilization are being tracked. She reports the vital signs are taken routinely and labs are requested. Gary Wnuk questioned if there is a resolution being written to present to the counties. Nena Sork reported if the services are transferred to the private sector then the risk goes to the counties. The NMRE has authorized up to \$25,000 to get a consultant to write a white-paper to submit on how provide the services in our region without the separation of funding. This will be in cooperation with the UP counties as well. Eric Lawson requested the white paper be shared with the Board when complete. The Region is taking a lead role and being proactive to present a workable solution for our region.

3. Consumer Advisory Council

The minutes for this meeting are not available as there was no quorum for this meeting.

XIII. Operational Report

Mary Crittenden reviewed the Operational Report for month ending November 30, 2019. She reported in Case Management section the home based children's services has increased and the intensity of the services have increased, resulting in a decrease in the case management for children. She noted there were no new admissions to the state facility.

XIV. Chair's Report

1. By-Law Review

Eric Lawson made a suggestion to change the "their" in Replacement of an Officer to "his or her." No support of the change was made resulting in the by-laws standing as is.

XV. Director's Report

1. Director's Report

Nena Sork reported after the last Board meeting, the medical staff, director and human resource manager met with a potential psychiatrist who will be graduating in the summer of 2020. If we are able to recruit another psychiatrist this addition would take effect most likely the end of this fiscal year of the beginning of next fiscal year. Mark Hunter questioned the population group this psychiatrist would see. Nena Sork noted this would be all population groups except children.

Nena Sork reported she and Lee Ann Bushey attend the awards banquet for the Monday Night Activities group with approximately 90 in attendance.

Nena Sork reported she attended the Member Services meeting in Lansing and the Spring Board conference will now be held in Traverse City in addition to holding the Fall conference at the same location. She reported she also attended her first COFR dispute hearing. This was a Macomb County resident and our position was upheld and Macomb will be reimbursing this Agency for all the services provided up to that point.

Nena Sork reported the holiday luncheon was held yesterday while she was in Gaylord. She received good feedback from this event.

Nena Sork reported the State awarded the ESDs funds to provide school-based programs which will provide behavioral health services within the schools. Nena Sork reported there may be ESDs that will work with community mental health agencies; however, our local AMA is soliciting to hire their own staff.

XVI. Information and/or Comments from the Public/Board Member Communication

Lynne Fredlund thanked Eric Lawson for the music noting "O Holy Night" is one of her favorites.

Roger Frye reported the tootsie roll drive checks would be issued shortly. In addition, a fishing event which will also provide some funding for a couple of missions is also planned.

Mark Hunter reported he attended two showings of "Suicide: The Ripple Effect." There was low turnout at both showings. He provided observations on those attending both events and some issues associated with sound systems, etc. at the events.

Mark Hunter reported there is an upcoming play at Alpena Civic Theater having two suicides in the play entitled "All My Sons." This play is scheduled for early next year.

XVII. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board will be held Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

1. Set January Agenda

The January agenda items were reviewed. Lynne Fredlund will provide the Board with the oversight this agency undergoes by various entities.

XVIII. Evaluation of Meeting

Roger Frye reported the meeting started almost on time and the music was very good. He noted everyone was involved in conversations pertaining to Board issues and what is going on at the state level.

Nena Sork reported that while we do not have a budgeting monitoring report until the fiscal year final balances are complete, Connie Cadarette did run a preliminary report for the month ending October 31, 2019 and the Agency is \$67,000 to the good. The report shows the Agency is currently underspent in Medicaid, Healthy Michigan and General Funds. From this report, it shows the Agency at 52 days of operating cash. Nena Sork noted these numbers may change when all FY19 expenses and revenues are finalized.

XIX. Adjournment

Moved by Albert LaFleche, supported by Lester Buza, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

[signed by Bonnie Cornelius on 01/09/2020]

Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[signed by Eric Lawson on 01/09/2020]

Eric Lawson, Chair

Diane Hayka
Recorder