

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board  
Board Meeting – November 14, 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, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small

Absent: Dana Labar (Excused)

Staff & Guests: Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Mary Crittenden, Rebekah Duhaime, Mikki Manion, Ruth Hewett, Nena Sork, Brenda Stanton, Jen Walburn

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

**IV. Appointment of Evaluator**

Charlotte Helman 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**

***Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Les Buza, to approve the revised minutes of the October 10, 2024, Board meeting and the revised minutes of the September 12, 2024, board meeting, as presented.*** Motion carried.

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

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

**IX. November Monitoring Reports**

**1. Budgeting 01-004**

Connie Cadarette reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expense and Change in Net Position for the month ending September 30, 2024, as a soft close for FY24. These numbers have been reported to the State for interim reporting but will not be the audited financial statements. Connie reviewed line items with negative variances. The total overspent due to the NMRE is \$698,693 and General Funds were overspent \$584,128.

Kara Bauer LeMonds entered the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

The Medicaid deficit will be balanced by additional funds coming to the NMRE. The Agency's audit will be the second week of January.

**2. Financial Condition 01-005**

Connie reported the Agency currently has an unrestricted net position of 34 days of cash. The figures presented were also soft close numbers.

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

Eric thought there was a lot of good information in the Recipient Rights Quarterly Report. Ruth Hewett reported it was a very good meeting and that it was a great opportunity for Recipient Rights Committee members to meet Eric.

*Moved by Lloyd Peltier, supported by Charlotte Helman, to approve the November Monitoring Reports.*

Motion carried.

#### **X. Board Policies Review**

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

Board members reviewed the policy and did not feel it required any revisions. Nena Sork and Jen Walburn discussed IT security measures that are in place to protect private health information of those served by the Agency.

##### **2. Staff Treatment 01-003**

Board members reviewed the policy and asked that Nena review it further to ensure compliance with EEOC is adequately addressed.

#### **XI. Linkage Reports**

##### **1. NMRE Board Meeting – October 23**

Eric will be discussing the largest topic of conversation from the NMRE Board meeting during his Chair's report later in the meeting.

##### **2. CMHA Fall Conference**

Lloyd reported it was an outstanding conference and there was so much to learn.

#### **XII. Operations Report**

Mary Crittenden reported on operations for the month of October. There were 51 routine requests for services, 54 crisis contacts, and 57 preadmission screens. Of the screens, 19 were privately hospitalized (4 children and 38 adults). Overall, the Agency served 1,045 unduplicated individuals in October.

#### **XIII. Nominations Committee Report**

Gary reported letters will be sent to the three county commissions with members up for reappointment. As Judy Jones will not be seeking another term, Alpena will have to appoint a new Board member.

#### **XIV. Board Chair's Report**

##### **1. Status of PIHP Contract with MDHHS**

Eric reported the NMRE returned their unsigned contract to the State as there are two items they do not agree with. One item relates to the Waskul settlement, which would not be economically feasible for the CMHSPs. The second item is regarding the cap on the internal service fund (ISF). These objections did not go over well with the State. Nena reported that initially seven of the ten PIHPs did not sign the contract, but now it is down to five not having signed. The proposed Waskul Settlement would raise the hourly rate of Self-Determination workers to \$32 per hour, which would create greater salary demands on all positions throughout the CMHSPs and would not be sustainable. Currently, ISFs are capped at 7.5%. The PIHPs are asking for that amount to be raised to 10%, which is still below the 15% advised by actuaries. The whole NMRE Board is very supportive of taking a stand on these issues in the contract.

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

Nena reported she met with her routine committees and boards through the last month. The IS Director, Dennis Bannon, has announced his retirement date will be January 2, 2025. The accounting software the

Agency uses will be going away by 2028, so they will have to move to new software. This contract will soon be coming to the Board for approval. The General Funds Committee has been meeting about twice a week to review individuals who utilize General Funds for services. Nena advised the Board that the Agency may receive grievances from individuals who have their services decreased. She also reported that the Agency's new onboarding process has been going very well.

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

None were presented.

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

None were presented.

**XVIII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m.

**1. December Agenda Items**

The proposed December agenda items were reviewed.

**XIX. Meeting Evaluation**

Charlotte thought there was a lot of great discussion, and everyone was afforded an opportunity to contribute to meaningful conversation. Provided documents were well-organized and allowed the Board to effectively govern. She wished all the hunters good luck in the woods and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

**XX. Adjournment**

***Moved by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to adjourn the meeting.*** Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

*[signed by Bonnie Cornelius December 12, 2024]*

Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

Rebekah Duhaime  
Recorder

*[signed by Eric Lawson December 12, 2024]*

Eric Lawson, Chair