

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD**  
**November 18, 2010**  
**North Country Community Mental Health**  
**Commissioner's Room**  
**Antrim County Building**  
**205 E. Cayuga**  
**Bellaire, MI**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Debra Kimball, Paul Liss, Alice Mushlock, Ann Smith, Dan Plasencia, Karla Sherman, Joel Evans, George Anthony, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Jane Dunaway, Ed Ginop

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert Boyd, Louis Scholl, Laura Stanek

**STAFF:** Alexis Kaczynski, David Schneider, Joan Booth, Christine Gebhard, Jan Smith

**GUESTS:** Mike Crawford, Antrim County Commissioner

Ed Ginop called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Ginop welcomed the Board members and staff to the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Financial Statement – Provider Operations - North Country CMH:**

Balance on Hand, Sept 30, 2010	\$5,474,009.96
Receipts, Adjustments & Transfers, Oct .	\$2,986,354.81
Total Disbursements & Adjustments, Oct .	\$2,991,681.31
Decrease in Cash Balance	\$ 5,326.50
Balance, Oct. 31, 2010	\$5,468,683.46

\*Approximately \$3,141,217 has been advanced from the State of Michigan and has been encumbered for outstanding bills.

**Financial Statement – Managed Care Operations - North Country CMH:**

Balance on Hand, Sept. 30, 2010	\$2,589,904.08
Receipts, Adjustments & Transfers, Oct.	\$6,026,696.38
Total Disbursements& Transfers, Oct.	\$5,328,727.10
Increase in Cash Balance	\$ 607,969.28
Balance, Oct. 31 2010	\$3,287,873.36

Included in the balance is the Medicaid Internal Service Fund balance of \$2,160,386.

**MOTION BY DEBRA KIMBALL, SECOND BY SR. AUGUSTA STRATZ, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Information (I) Items from Committee reports**

Information items were included in the committee minutes.

**Privileging Recommendations**

There were no privileging recommendations this month.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION**

**Program Committee**

Sr. Augusta Stratz reviewed the Compliance Plan. This is the Affiliation document regarding compliance with federal and other regulations.

**MOTION BY SR. AUGUSTA STRATZ TO APPROVE THE COMPLIANCE PLAN. MOTION CARRIED.**

Sr. Augusta Stratz reviewed the Utilization Management Plan. There were no changes to this plan.

**MOTION BY SR. AUGUSTA STRATZ TO APPROVE THE UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT PLAN. MOTION CARRIED.**

Sr. Augusta Stratz reviewed the 2011 QI Plan

**MOTION BY SR. AUGUSTA STRATZ TO APPROVE THE 2011 QI PLAN. MOTION CARRIED.**

Sr. Augusta Stratz reviewed the Trauma-informed Treatment and De-escalation policies. This moves the agency toward a culture of trauma-informed treatment.

**MOTION BY SR. AUGUSTA STRATZ TO APPROVE THE TRAUMA-INFORMED TREATMENT AND DE-ESCALATION POLICIES. MOTION CARRIED.**

Sr. Augusta Stratz reviewed the Fair Housing and Clinical Privileging Policies.

**MOTION BY SR. AUGUSTA STRATZ TO APPROVE THE FAIR HOUSING AND CLINICAL PRIVILEGING POLICIES. MOTION CARRIED.**

Sr. Augusta Stratz referred to the CARF Report and reported that it has been received and the agency was awarded a three year accreditation. She complimented the staff who put the work and effort into this successful accreditation decision. This was distributed to the full Board and Sr. Augusta explained how well the agency did on this report.

Sr. Augusta Stratz indicated that the Program Committee reviewed the Risk Management Plan, the Accessibility Plan, and the Infection Control and Safety Manual changes. She also reviewed the DCH Site Review Report and Corrective Action Plan, and the Conflict of Interest Policy.

**MOTION BY SR. AUGUSTA STRATZ TO APPROVE THE REVISED CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY. MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION ITEMS – WITHOUT COMMITTEE REVIEW**

Ms. Kaczynski reviewed the Nepotism Policy and said that the staff is recommending board approval, and there has been no committee review.

Ms. Kaczynski reviewed the bids on the replacement of the fence at the Bay Woods Home. Because the Finance Committee did not meet this month it needs to be approved by the Board. There is a fence that needs repair because it was torn down in a storm. A question was asked about whether there is homeowners insurance on the fence. Ms. Kaczynski indicated that the agency wants the fence for safety reasons. The agency received three bids and the one being recommended is the least expensive.

**MOTION BY KARLA SHERMAN, SECOND BY DEBRA KIMBALL, TO APPROVE THE NEPOTISM POLICY AND THE BID FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE FENCE AT THE BAY WOODS HOME IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,850.00. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Evans asked about the bids for the automatic door opener and Ms. Kaczynski reported that thanks to Mr. Plasencia the agency got another bid that was lower and this bid was accepted in the amount of \$4,150 and the door is being installed.

**PRESENTATION**

**Recovery Enhancing Environment: Survey Results**

Christine Gebhard introduced herself and made a power point presentation on the REE. In 2008 the REE survey was chosen by the Michigan Recovery Council and MDCH. In 2009 advocates for human potential were chosen to supervise administration of the survey and analyze the results. The REE tool was developed by Priscilla Ridgeway, Ph.D. It collects information about where people are in their recovery. It gives the clients their perception on how the agency and its programs help in their recovery. The goals are to educate providers and consumers about recovery.

The survey had five major components: involvement in recovery process, recovery markers, recovery elements, special needs and demographics. What was unique about the survey was that it was conducted by consumers. They used a written script and went throughout the state and did a pencil and paper survey. Types of programs surveyed were: targeted case management; assertive community treatment; psychosocial rehab; consumer-run drop in center; supported employment; medication clinics; licensed

housing and community living services. Major findings were 57% active involvement in recovery, 19% did not answer and 7% had never heard of or thought about recovery.

Ms. Gebhard provided a chart with the major findings and number of CMHSP's and North Country was the highest in the state on consumers actively involved in their recovery. There were recovery markers and respondents indicated if they agreed with 23 statements about their recovery process. She reviewed specific recovery markers. She discussed factors associated with active involvement in recovery. Consumers rated the program and staff on ten elements of a recovery enhancing environment. She showed the actual question in the survey and explained how they rated it. She explained the ten program supports recovery elements. There were special needs groups identified and these were explained. Ms. Gebhard reviewed the percent of consumers believing staff supports their special need. She gave demographics of consumers working full time, part time and in school. Next steps are to educate stakeholders on recovery environment, increase consumer awareness on expectation of recovery and re-administer the REE.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business this month.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Dunaway requested a closed session to discuss the Union Contract.

**MOTION BY DEBRA KIMBALL, SECOND BY PAUL LISS TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION. MOTION CARRIED.**

Ms. Dunaway requested that the meeting should be reopened.

**MOTION BY KARLA SHERMAN, SECOND BY JOEL EVANS, TO REOPEN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY JANE DUNAWAY TO SUPPORT THE UNION CONTRACT.**

**MOTION BY JANE DUNAWAY TO WITHDRAW THE MOTION TO SUPPORT THE UNION CONTRACT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY JOEL EVANS, SECOND BY SR. AUGUSTA STRATZ, TO SUPPORT THE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO FINALIZE THE UNION CONTRACT. MOTION CARRIED.**

Ms. Dunaway asked that the closure of the mental health unit and potential demolition of the Lockwood building be added to the agenda

Ms. Kaczynski referred to the two communications from Reezie DeVet and Tina Aown. The closing of the mental health unit at Lockwood will be a loss to the region. Northern Michigan Regional hospital has operated the unit for 32 years. The hospital has indicated that they are experiencing low utilization and are losing money on the unit. She has talked to some of the other directors and she will approach the other mental health units

in the northern part of the state to see if they might want to expand. Ms. Kaczynski mentioned that state hospitalization has decreased dramatically over the past few years. It is feared that this will increase with the absence of the unit, as well as transportation costs to transfer patients from emergency room to in-patient units much farther away. She does not feel there is anything the agency can do to change the Hospital's mind.

The second part is that the hospital felt Lockwood was too expensive to run and feel they need to consider closing and demolishing the building. Almost all of the agency's Emmet County programs are housed at Lockwood. The hospital has been very fair regarding rent and maintenance. Once the inpatient unit and dialysis are gone, there will be no more NMH programs in the building. The hospital could continue to operate it as an office building. A question was asked about other alternatives and it is not possible for North Country to operate a hospital and obtain reimbursement for the services provided. It is doubtful that another hospital would want to operate the unit in Petoskey and there are restrictions about how far a unit can be from its key hospital and still be considered part of a general hospital and not a free standing institution, which is not eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. The timeline set by the hospital (about one month) does not permit research into other alternatives. A question was asked about purchasing the building. It was clear that the hospital did not have firm plans. Ms. Dunaway suggested that a committee be established to make a plan to secure space.

**MOTION BY KARLA SHERMAN, SECOND BY SR. AUGUSTA STRATZ, TO ESTABLISH A BUILDING COMMITTEE TO STRATEGIZE AND DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION TO SECURE NEW SPACE. MOTION CARRIED.**

Ms. Dunaway appointed Dan Plasencia, Ed Ginop, Joel Evans, Karla Sherman, Paul Liss and herself to serve on the committee.

Ms. Kaczynski asked the Board members for any help they could give in working with the hospital Board.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Kaczynski indicated that she has good news. The Workers Compensation insurance rates for 2011 are down \$72, 738. The agency's Workers Compensation Insurance is with MARO.

She referred to the report on the MACMHB Legislation Committee meeting she attended by phone. She reviewed the information on the election and reported that Republicans had a sweeping victory at all levels. The new governor has already appointed several members of the former Engler administration to his transition team. There are rumors about who the new DCH Director will be and a lot of talk about state workers who will be retiring. There are about 1,000 retiring from DCH and about 400 of them are case workers. Ms. Kaczynski does not think any significant bills will be approved during the remaining legislative sessions. As an Association they are working on the advocacy plan and one of the platforms that was suggested was for the closure of another state facility. She asked the Board members what their opinion was in that regard. The facilities being proposed are Kalamazoo, Caro or Walter Reuther. There were no firm opinions on this. State hospitals cost a tremendous amount of money to run. Discussion ensued.

**AFFILIATION (MANAGED CARE OPERATIONS) REPORT**

Mr. Schneider referred to the document that explained service expansion priorities. The agency continues to improve its Medicaid funding. The Affiliation has established priorities based on the Application for Renewal and Recommitment and pursuing more uniformity across the region. He reviewed the priorities: employment services, peer employment and peer delivered services, integration with primary health care, children's services, and residential service improvements. He explained that expanded administrative capacity for the PIHP will be necessary to meet the additional requirements being developed by the MDCH. With current Medicaid rates, there are expanded Medicaid resources available to fund policy initiatives and expansion.

**LONG RANGE PLAN/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATES**

Ms. Gebhard distributed information from the Watershed Council regarding proper disposal of unwanted medications.

**MOTION BY KARLA SHERMAN, SECOND BY DEBRA KIMBALL, TO  
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:15 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.**

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Jane Dunaway, Board Chair