

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD**  
**April 15, 2021, 4pm**  
**North Country Community Mental Health**  
**Zoom Meeting**



**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Michael Newman, attending virtually from Cheboygan MI; David White, attending virtually from Resort Township MI; Katina Banko, attending virtually from Kalkaska MI; Paul Liss, attending virtually from Vanderbilt MI; Robert Draves attending virtually from East Jordan MI; Christian Marcus attending virtually from Elmira MI; Robert Boyd, attending virtually from Cheboygan MI; Gary Knapp, attending virtually from Interstate 75 north traveling through Georgia; Caroline Loper, attending virtually from Central Lake MI; Karla Sherman, attending virtually from Petoskey MI; Ed Ginop, attending virtually from Cheboygan MI; Ron Iseler, arrived at 4:07, attending virtually from Gaylord MI; Dennis Priess, arrived at 4:20, attending virtually from Florida.

All members attending virtually due to Emmet County Declaration of a Local State of Emergency which expires June 30, 2021.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** St. Augusta Stratz

**STAFF:** Christine Gebhard, Brian Babbitt, Amy Christie, Kevin Hartley, Lorraine Manary

**GUESTS:** Derek Miller; Roslund, Prestage & Co.

Mr. Ginop called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Ginop welcomed Board members and staff to the meeting. He welcomed Gary Knapp, representing Antrim County, to the board. A roll call was taken and quorum present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda includes the agenda overview, minutes of the previous meeting, privileging recommendations and contracts signed in the past month.

**MOTION BY ROBERT BOYD TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED, SUPPORT BY KARLA SHERMAN.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Karla Sherman, Michael Newman, David White, Robert Draves, Paul Liss, Katina Banko, Robert Boyd, Christian Marcus, Gary Knapp, Caroline Loper, Ed Ginop

**NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION\***

**Nominating Committee:** Robert Draves reported for the committee. Committee members Robert Boyd, David White, Robert Draves, Ron Iseler, Caroline Loper and Katina Banko offered two nominations for each position.

Chairperson: Ed Ginop or Christian Marcus

Vice Chairperson: Sr. Augusta Stratz or Karla Sherman

Secretary: Dennis Priess or Sr. Augusta Stratz

Board discussion took place and one nomination for each position was brought forward and vote called.

**MOTION BY DAVID WHITE TO ELECT ED GINOP AS BOARD CHAIR FOR THE COMING YEAR, SUPPORT BY KARLA SHERMAN.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Karla Sherman, Michael Newman, Ron Iseler, David White, Robert Draves, Paul Liss, Katina Banko, Robert Boyd, Christian Marcus, Gary Knapp, Caroline Loper, Ed Ginop

**NAYS:** None                   **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY DAVID WHITE TO ELECT KARLA SHERMAN AS BOARD VICE CHAIR FOR THE COMING YEAR, SUPPORT BY KATINA BANKO.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Karla Sherman, Michael Newman, Ron Iseler, David White, Robert Draves, Paul Liss, Katina Banko, Robert Boyd, Christian Marcus, Gary Knapp, Caroline Loper, Ed Ginop

**NAYS:** None                   **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY KARLA SHERMAN TO ELECT SR. AUGUSTA STRATZ AS BOARD SECRETARY FOR THE COMING YEAR, SUPPORT BY ROBERT BOYD.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Karla Sherman, Michael Newman, Ron Iseler, David White, Robert Draves, Paul Liss, Katina Banko, Robert Boyd, Christian Marcus, Gary Knapp, Caroline Loper, Ed Ginop

**NAYS:** None                   **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Personnel Committee Report:** Mr. Liss reviewed the minutes of the March 23, 2021 personnel committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review a salary study of CEO pay rates within the CMH system and make a salary recommendation to the Board.

**MOTION BY CHRISTIAN MARCUS TO APPROVE A 3% COLA INCREASE TO THE CEO BASE SALARY EFFECTIVE 4/1/2021, SUPPORT BY KARLA SHERMAN.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Karla Sherman, Michael Newman, Ron Iseler, David White, Robert Draves, Paul Liss, Katina Banko, Robert Boyd, Christian Marcus, Gary Knapp, Caroline Loper, Ed Ginop, Dennis Priess

**NAYS:** None                   **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Finance Committee Report:** Mr. Marcus reviewed the minutes of the April 15, 2021 finance committee meeting, including the statement of cash on hand, check register, and interim financial statements. The committee also reviewed a communique related to the expanded analysis of the role of Michigan's CMHSPs and relation to cost allocation effort.

**MOTION BY CHRISTIAN MARCUS TO APPROVE PLACING THE FEBRUARY 28, 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ON FILE FOR AUDIT, SUPPORT BY KARLA SHERMAN.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Karla Sherman, Michael Newman, Ron Iseler, David White, Robert Draves, Paul Liss, Katina Banko, Robert Boyd, Christian Marcus, Gary Knapp, Caroline Loper, Ed Ginop, Dennis Priess

**NAYS:** None                    **MOTION CARRIED.**

The report will be placed on file for audit.

**Program Committee Report:** Mr. Iseler reviewed the minutes of the April 14, 2021 program committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Annual Needs Assessment, Annual Risk Management report, and the updated Compliance Plan Policy. The Compliance Policy describes NCCMH's plan for the prevention, detection, and reporting of fraud, waste, and abuse. The policy also helps employees and contract providers clearly understand and follow state and federal laws governing the delivery of services.

**MOTION BY RON ISELER TO APPROVE THE COMPLIANCE PLAN POLICY EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2021, SUPPORT BY CAROLINE LOPER.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Karla Sherman, Michael Newman, Ron Iseler, David White, Robert Draves, Paul Liss, Katina Banko, Robert Boyd, Christian Marcus, Gary Knapp, Caroline Loper, Ed Ginop, Dennis Priess

**NAYS:** None                    **MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION ITEM(S) WITHOUT COMMITTEE REVIEW\***

None

**PRESENTATIONS**

**FY2020 Financial Audit**

Mr. Miller of Roslund, Prestage & Company reviewed the recently completed FY2020 (Oct. 1, 2019 through Sept. 30, 2020) Financial Audit. It is the opinion of Roslund, Prestage & Co. that the financial statements present fairly in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities and each major fund of the CMHSP. Total assets on Sept. 30, 2020 were \$16,540,003, liabilities on that date were \$11,643,659 and the total net position was \$4,896,344, all above the prior year totals. Mr. Miller complimented Mr. Hartley and his staff for their preparation of materials and support during the audit.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Gebhard referred to her report and recognized Mr. Babbitt and Dr. Chipman for their skilled leadership while she was on vacation. She also made note of a comment in her evaluation on what a wonderful job Mr. Hartley is doing in his role as CFO. Addressing other items from the evaluation, Ms. Gebhard reflected on the survey sent to board members about their interest and availability for interim orientation sessions. She will create a schedule for the remainder of the year. Board member also requested more information on the work of NCCMH. Ms. Gebhard suggested the program committee could meet monthly with presentations from herself or staff on specific programming. The committee agreed. Lorraine will survey them for the best day and time. A Board member suggested small group tours of the NCCMH offices which can also be set up for those interested.

Ms. Gebhard mentioned the grant concept paper shared; the agency will be not applying at this time. She also mentioned Representative Borton’s interest in access to Autism services and his willingness to advocate for services. Ms. Gebhard and Christine Dillion have been meeting with Acorn and will pursue a contract with them for initial autism testing.

Ms. Gebhard drew the Board’s attention to the Michigan Association of Health Plans strategic paper for FY21, specifically their interest in transferring risk to the private sector. The board discussed Senator Shirkey’s plan “Gearing Toward Integration” which would move funding to private Medicaid Health Plans. Ms. Gebhard would like to meet with the Board’s County Commissioners, i.e., the Finance Committee, to discuss the implications of privatization and making a presentation to each county’s Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Gebhard ended with the news that McLaren NM plans to re-establish a 16-bed adult inpatient psychiatric unit in Cheboygan to open fall of 2022. McLaren wants to develop a full behavioral health service line,

## **QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

Ms. Christie provided a report on access timeliness. NCCMH met the target for 5 out of 6 indicators in the first quarter. All inpatient emergency screenings for children occurred within three hours resulting in 100% compliance.

## **NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY**

The Operations Committee minutes of 2/16/21 were shared in the board packet. It was noted that the state has extended premium pay for direct care workers, but prior to that the NMRE had decided to do the same if these funds were not extended. This is one example of how the NMRE is responsive to local needs. A board member asked if Action Alerts from CMHA could be shared via text message rather than email only. Ms. Gebhard will send the request to CMHA.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **COVID Update**

NCCMH’s response plan remains in effect. The plan to return office-based clinical staff onsite on April 19 was pushed back a week to April 26. Approximately 75% of clients in AFC group homes have been vaccinated, the rate for staff in these facilities is about 34%. In the six-county region served, 39% – 53% of the population has been vaccinated, while NCCMH staff are at

37%. The leadership team is encouraging staff to have the vaccine if they are able, reminding them that we serve a very vulnerable population.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Committee Assignment**

Mr. Ginop assigned Gary Knapp to the Personnel Committee.

### **Virtual Meetings**

Three counties (Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet) have issued declarations of emergency, which provides the agency the option of virtual meetings. Ms. Gebhard asked if the Board wished to continue meeting remotely through the end of June and reassess the situation at that time.

### **MOTION BY KARLA SHERMAN TO HOLD VIRTUAL/REMOTE BOARD MEETINGS THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021, SUPPORT BY RON ISELER.**

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Karla Sherman, Michael Newman, Ron Iseler, David White, Robert Draves, Katina Banko, Robert Boyd, Christian Marcus, Gary Knapp, Caroline Loper, Ed Ginop, Dennis Priess

**NAYS:** Paul Liss      **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS**

Ms. Sherman thanked Mr. White for nominating her as Vice Chair. . Mr. Ginop also thanked the board for their support, having reinstated him as Board Chair.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. by Board Chair, Ed Ginop.**

  
Edward Ginop, Board Chair

