

MINUTES OF THE BOARD
July 16, 2020
North Country Community Mental Health
Telephone and Video-Conference Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Ginop, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Karla Sherman, Michael Newman, Ron Iseler, Robert Draves, David White, Patty Cox, Paul Liss, Christian Marcus, Caroline Loper, Robert Boyd, Dennis Priess

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Louis Scholl

STAFF: Christine Gebhard, Kevin Hartley, Brian Babbitt, Amy Christie, Joseph Balberde, Pam Krasinski-Wespiser, Tia Sager, Lorraine Manary

GUESTS: None

Mr. Ginop called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Ginop welcomed Board members and staff to the meeting. 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 and contracts signed in the past month.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED BY SR. AUGUSTA, SUPPORT BY PATTY COX.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Ed Ginop, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Karla Sherman, Michael Newman, Ron Iseler, Robert Draves, David White, Patty Cox, Paul Liss, Christian Marcus, Caroline Loper, Robert Boyd, Dennis Priess

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION*

Finance Committee Report: Mr. Marcus reviewed the minutes of the finance committee meeting. This included the Statement of Cash on Deposit, Interim Financial Statements, and Revenue by Fund Source. Statement of Net Position as of May 31, 2020 shows our net position at \$4,453,971, a \$916,131 increase since 9/30/19.

MOTION TO PLACE THE FINANCE REPORT ON FILE FOR AUDIT BY SR. STRATZ, SUPPORT BY PATTY COX.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Ed Ginop, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Karla Sherman, Michael Newman, Ron Iseler, Robert Draves, David White, Patty Cox, Paul Liss, Christian Marcus, Caroline Loper, Robert Boyd, Dennis Priess

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The report will be placed on file for audit.

ACTION ITEM(S) WITHOUT COMMITTEE REVIEW: None

PRESENTATION: Gentle Harbor.

Pam Krasinski-Wespiser, Director of Specialty Services, and Tia Sager, Gentle Harbor Administrator, provided an overview of North Country CMH's transition home, Gentle Harbor. The home provides interdisciplinary services, 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. The home is designed as a safe, trauma informed, recovery-focused living situation intended to integrate the individual back into community living. Gentle Harbor's mission is to teach, nurture, and empower independence. The program serves clients placed out of the NCCMH catchment area who want to be closer to their home communities, and clients not making progress or gaining skills. Ms. Sager described the services provided, including daily strategies and formal therapies. To date, seven clients have benefited from the program.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Gebhard referenced a number of items in her CEO report.

This past month Ms. Gebhard presented the 2019 annual report to Charlevoix and Kalkaska County Commissions. She presented the Job Classification and Wage Scale to NCCMH Staff. The Union ratified a three-year contract including wage parity with non-union staff. Ms. Gebhard heard a proposal to pilot a restructuring of the Emergency Services System (ESS) for three months. In the proposal full-time ESS staff would work three twelve-hour shifts which reduces the reliance on "On Call" staff to one 24 period over the weekend.

Ms. Gebhard participated in a virtual Hill Day. She mentioned the request for emergency appropriation of \$38.5 Billion for Mental Health and Addition Treatment, the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act of 2020 (S. 3312), and the National Suicide Hotline Designation

Act of 2020 (H. R. 4194/S. 2661). The FCC, today, approved the use of 988 for a national suicide hotline.

Ms. Gebhard also referred to the passage of H.B. 5832, which modernizes the Mental Health Code and creates crisis stabilization units. Also, H.B. 5178, which establishes uniform credentialing requirements. Both have passed the House; neither have been through the Senate.

A breakdown of the states FY2020 Budget Agreement of June 29, 2020 was shared, as were CMHA position statements.

Ms. Gebhard mentioned the Executive Team Summary; this is a quick update from key departments.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Ms. Christie reported that the NMRE has begun the Delegated Functions Review which will be conducted as a desk audit. Chart reviews will be occurring in August and Sept. of 2020. NMRE monthly client satisfaction surveys have been suspended due to COVID. The NMRE is seeking input on how best to proceed. Ms. Christie will work with the Consumer Council on suggestions.

Ms. Christie also noted the Emergency Services Lean Process Team that led to the proposal for redesigning the Emergency Services System (ESS) structure creating one six-county team rather than north and south teams.

Two new Lean Champion trainees, Joe Balberde and Carole Doherty, presented their Project Charter to standardize the process for data requests. The expected outcome is a more effective way to manage data and report requests, as well as reduce the number of overlapping submissions. To become a more robust data-driven decision-making organization!

NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY

The NMRE is evaluating a partnership with the Upper Peninsula to collaboratively hire a regional trainer. The Behavioral Health Home model will begin implementation on Oct. 1 in the NMRE CMH boards as well as the Upper Peninsula. Training is scheduled to start on August 7.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Gebhard provided an update on NCCMH's response to the COVID pandemic. Clubhouses re-opened on Monday of this week with limited attendance. We are working with day program providers on their plans to resume community-based services and facility-based, when that becomes an option. The Executive Team continues to meet weekly on our COVID Response with the health and well-being of our clients and staff as the main concern.

Mr. Balberde gave the board an iPad & SharePoint demonstration. iPads have been purchased for all board members to provide access to Board related materials and facilitate remote meetings. They are loaded with direct Zoom and SharePoint links and have internal WiFi. Arrangements will be made for Board Members to pick up their device and provide any training or practice needed.

NEW BUSINESS

The CMHA will hold its member assembly on Aug. 13 via Zoom. Mr. Ginop and Sr. Stratz have agreed to represent NCCMH as delegates for this virtual meeting.

BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. White mentioned having attended a Celebration of Life for a young man who recently committed suicide. These are tragic events, especially for one so young.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. by Board Chair, Ed Ginop.


Edward Ginop, Board Chair