

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD**  
**January 20, 2022, 4 PM**  
**North Country Community Mental Health**  
**Boardroom, 1420 Plaza Drive, Petoskey**



**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

David White, Gary Knapp (virtual from Portland NY), Caroline Loper, Ed Ginop, Paul Liss, Christian Marcus, Ron Iseler (virtual from Gaylord MI), Karla Sherman, Robert Boyd, Dennis Priess, Michael Newman, Robert Draves

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sr. Augusta Stratz, Katina Banko

**STAFF:** Christine Gebhard, Kevin Hartley,

**GUESTS:** Gwen Pearl, Cheryl Solowiej

Mr. Ginop called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Ginop welcomed Board members and staff to the meeting; there were no guests in attendance. A quorum was present.

Acknowledgement of Conflict of Interest – no board members expressed a conflict with any agenda item.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Public comment was made concerning barriers to accessing services.

**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 MS. LOPER TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED, SUPPORT BY MS. SHERMAN.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION\***

**Program Committee Report:** No meeting held since December 1, 2021. These minutes were shared at last month's meeting.

**Recipient Rights Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:** The December 30, 2021 quarterly meeting minutes were shared with the board. Mr. Ginop drew the Board's attention to the section on *Recommendations to the Governing Board*, which had not been included in the Director of Recipient Rights annual report last month.

**Personnel Committee Report:** Minutes of the January 4, 2022 and January 19, 2022 meetings were reviewed by Chair Liss. Ms. Gebhard has presented her letter of resignation, effective July 1, 2022, to the committee. The committee conveyed their appreciation for Ms.

Gebhard's service. The committee reviewed the seven key stages of the recently completed Board Selection Process plan and, at Mr. Ginop's request, received a Letter of Engagement from Susan West of Rehmann. The Personnel Committee recommends engaging Rehmann. Mr. Ginop appointed the Personnel Committee to work with Ms. West. A press release will be written.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT MS. GEBHARD'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022; SUPPORT BY MR. BOYD.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION TO ENGAGE REHMANN TO FACILITATE CEO RECRUITMENT AND SUCCESSION IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$28,900; SUPPORT BY MS. SHERMAN.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Finance Committee Report:** Mr. Marcus reviewed the Statement of Cash on Deposit and Bills through December 31, 2021; Interim Financial Statements as of November 30, 2021; Revenue and Expense by Fund Source; Trending Revenue and Expenses as of November 30, 2021; and NMRE Financial Summary Report. The committee also heard a presentation of the FY23 & 24 Mental Health Block Grant applications, a revision to the Client Special Needs Fund Policy, and an updated Provider Sustainability Proposal. The Provider Network received \$938,900 in FY21 for recruitment, retention and \$26,400 in stability payments.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE CLIENT SPECIAL NEEDS FUND POLICY REVISION INCREASING THE ANNUAL MAXIMUM REQUEST TO \$300 PER PERSON; SUPPORT BY MS. SHERMAN.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION TO CONTINUE THE FY21 PROVIDER NETWORK STAFF RETENTION AND SUSTAINABILITY PAYMENTS DURING FY22 UP TO \$1,000,000 WITH A 6-MONTH AUDIT; SUPPORT MS. SHERMAN.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Mr. Ginop requested the financial reports be placed on file for audit.**

**PRESENTATION – 2021 Wellness Committee Year End Report.**

Ms. Freed provided an overview of the three FY2021 committee goals, objectives, and the results. The committee created a system to support employees physical, mental, and emotional health. Themes were selected for each quarter which drove the content for weekly wellness tips and wellness challenges. Ms. Freed provided details on the number of staff participating in the challenges; overall a total of 78, or just over 1/3 of all staff participated in these activities. The committee fostered a sense of community and team within departments with employee spotlights and an informal Welcome Wagon. Lastly the committee created an overall culture of wellbeing through education on healthy lifestyles. This included a virtual ergonomics training, easily accessible Wellness tab on the intranet for resources, weekly wellness tips, additional newsletters and more.

**ACTION ITEMS - WITHOUT COMMITTEE REVIEW**

An application to the Recipient Rights Advisory/Appeals Committee was received by Stacey Chipman, recently retired Chief Clinical Officer. Board members were happy to receive her application and to have Ms. Chipman continue to provide support to the agency.

**MOTION BY MR. MARCUS TO APPOINT STACEY CHIPMAN TO THE RECIPIENT RIGHTS ADVISORY/APPEALS COMMITTEE, SUPPORT BY MS. SHERMAN.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Gebhard referred to several communications included in the packet. Notably, Amy Christie has assumed the role of Chief Clinical Officer; the Pinehaven Red AFC home in Gaylord is being repaired to be used as a crisis residential facility (this is part of the NMRE re-investment plan); a Media and Communication Specialist was hired to expand our outreach through social media and to improve overall communication in the agency. Ms. Gebhard mentioned MDHHS initiatives on 988 implementation and the requirement for 24/7 mobile crisis services. The Northern Michigan Counties Association will be hosting Senator Shirkey on February 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss SB 597 & 598. Mr. Marcus will request she receive an invitation to the meeting. The CMHA Advocacy Plan opposing these bills was included in the packet; Ms. Gebhard is a member of the CMHA ad hoc Advisory Committee for Advocacy and Public Relations. Ms. Gebhard also reported that donations totaling \$5965 were received for the Client Special Needs Fund between November-January. We are very grateful for our communities' generosity.

**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE** – There was no Quality Improvement update provided this month.

**NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY**

Meeting minutes of the December Operations Committee, and November and December NMRE Board meeting were shared. The NMRE has a two-month surplus of \$21,510,645.

**OLD BUSINESS** – There was no old business.

**COVID Update**

Ms. Gebhard reported that North Country CMH is not covered by the CMS Vaccination Requirement for Healthcare Facilities, specifically Medicare-Certified facilities, which was upheld by the Supreme Court. It may impact NCCMH staff who work in facilities that are covered by the mandate. There is an increase in the number of clients and staff with COVID. We continue to urge staff to be vaccinated and to follow infection control practices.

**NEW BUSINESS**

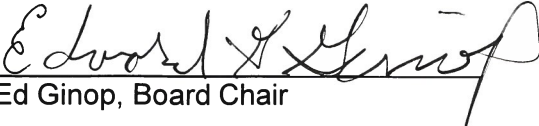
Ms. Gebhard presented the 2022 Board and Committee calendar for presentations and asked the Board to send her suggestions on any topic they would like to include.

**BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS**

Several Board members expressed their appreciation for Ms. Gebhard's leadership.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m. by Board Chair, Ed Ginop.

  
Ed Ginop, Board Chair

