

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD**  
**May 20, 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; Paul Liss, attending virtually from Vanderbilt MI; Robert Draves attending virtually from East Jordan MI; Sr. Augusta Stratz attending virtually from Kalkaska MI; Christian Marcus attending virtually from Elmira MI; Robert Boyd, attending virtually from Cheboygan MI; Gary Knapp, attending virtually from Bellaire MI; Caroline Loper, attending virtually from Central Lake MI; Karla Sherman, attending virtually from Petoskey MI; Ron Iseler, attending virtually from Gaylord MI; Dennis Priess, attending virtually from Charlevoix.

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ed Ginop, Katina Banko

**STAFF:** Christine Gebhard, Brian Babbitt, Joe Balberde, Kevin Hartley, Lorraine Manary

**GUESTS:** Alan Bolter, Associate Director, CMHA-M

Ms. Sherman called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Sherman welcomed our guest, 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, privileging recommendations and contracts signed in the past month.

**MOTION BY ROBERT BOYD TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED;  
SUPPORT BY CAROLINE LOPER.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Michael Newman, David White, Robert Draves, Paul Liss, Robert Boyd, Ron Iseler, Christian Marcus, Gary Knapp, Dennis Priess, Caroline Loper, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Karla Sherman

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

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION\***

**Finance Committee Report:** Mr. Marcus reviewed the minutes of the May 20, 2021 finance committee meeting, including the statement of cash on hand, check register, and interim financial statements.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR CHRISTIAN MARCUS MOVED TO PLACE THE MAY 20, 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ON FILE FOR AUDIT; SUPPORT BY ROBERT BOYD.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Caroline Loper, Michael Newman, David White, Robert Draves, Paul Liss, Dennis Priess, Robert Boyd, Ron Iseler, Christian Marcus, Gary Knapp, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Karla Sherman

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

**COMMITTEE CHAIR CHRISTIAN MARCUS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TECHNOLOGY PURCHASE REQUESTS INCLUDING TWO NEW DELL POWEREDGE SERVERS AND MANAGE ENGINE SECURITY MONITORING SOFTWARE FROM REHMANN; AND 30 MICROSOFT SURFACE PRO TABLES AND 20 SURFACE LAPTOPS FROM CDW-G FOR A TOTAL OF NO MORE THAN \$115,000; SUPPORT BY SR. AUGUSTA STRATZ .**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** David White, Robert Draves, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Paul Liss, Caroline Loper, Michael Newman, Dennis Priess, Robert Boyd, Ron Iseler, Christian Marcus, Gary Knapp, Karla Sherman

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

**COMMITTEE CHAIR CHRISTIAN MARCUS MOVED TO APPROVE REPLACING THE DECK AT GENTLE HARBOR BY CONTRACTING WITH PRINCE CONTRACTING, UTILITIZING A COMPOSIT MATERIAL, CONTINGENT ON POSITIVE REFERENCES FOR NO MORE THAN \$42,464.67; SUPPORT BY ROBERT DRAVES .**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Paul Liss, David White, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Caroline Loper, Michael Newman, Dennis Priess, Robert Boyd, Ron Iseler, Christian Marcus, Gary Knapp, Robert Draves, Karla Sherman

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

**COMMITTEE CHAIR CHRISTIAN MARCUS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AS PRESENTED AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$1,348,500; SUPPORT BY ROBERT BOYD.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Paul Liss, David White, Christian Marcus, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Caroline Loper, Dennis Priess, Robert Boyd, Ron Iseler, Gary Knapp, Robert Draves, Michael Newman, Karla Sherman

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

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

An oversight of approving the FY2020 Financial Audit presented by Mr. Miller of Roslund, Prestage & Company on April 15, 2021; needed action.

**MOTION BY KARLA SHERMAN TO ACCEPT THE NCCMH FY2020 AUDIT PRESENTED BY ROSLUND, PRESTAGE & CO.; SUPPORT BY DAVID WHITE .**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Michael Newman, Ron Iseler, David White, Robert Draves, Paul Liss, Robert Boyd, Christian Marcus, Gary Knapp, Caroline Loper, Dennis Priess, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Karla Sherman

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

**CMHA Policy/Legislation Update, Alan Bolter, Associate Director**

Mr. Bolter presented an overview of the CMHAM's policy position. There is current movement toward reworking the previous section 298 in the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Shirkey would like to accomplish a change before leaving office in 2022. Representative Whiteford, with support from Representative Allor, is introducing a bill in the House which would create an Administrative Services Organization (ASO) to manage the mental health system. Their bill would remove the PHIPs and moves the system from capitated to a fee-for-service model. The legislature and governor are not in sync with these changes. CMHA opposes these changes and is working diligently with MDHHS, Legislators and the governor's office to advocate on behalf of the vulnerable populations served by the CMH system.

Discussing the budget process, Mr. Bolter mentioned that there is a \$2.35/hour increase for direct care workers and \$32M slated for mental health facilities including crisis residential.

**Regulatory Compliance, Brian Babbitt, COO**

Mr. Babbitt provided an overview of the state and federal regulations under which the organization operates to prevent fraud and abuse. He reminded the Board that they are ultimately responsible for compliance. Compliance audits are conducted regularly, and results are shared with the board. He answered board member questions. Board members were asked to complete the compliance attestation and return it to Lorraine.

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

Ms. Gebhard referred to her report pointing out a number of items. She has met with Rep. John Damoose and introduced him to the agency and Mental Health System. Ms. Gebhard met with EMS providers in our catchment to gather input on transportation barriers. Ms. Gebhard pointed the boards attention to several communications in the packet. Ms. Gebhard will be presenting her 2020 annual report to county commissioners in the next four to six weeks and will discuss the legislatures proposals for behavioral health integration.

Lastly Ms. Gebhard discussed the distribution of MyStrength information and the good press it is getting. She asked board members to keep an eye out for a billboard in their county on the service.

**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Babbitt provided a review of the report on the recent claims audit covering the first quarter. NCCMH had twenty claims reviewed with 100% accuracy.

**NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY**

Ms. Sherman indicated that she, Mr. Ginop and Mr. Marcus attend these meetings. The primary discussion was on the proposals being brought by Senate Majority Leader Shirkey and Representative Whiteford. The NMRE has engaged a public relations firm to raise awareness of the NMRE and CMH services in northern Michigan.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**COVID Update**

On Monday, May 24, staff that provide office-based services will return to offices. NCCMH's Response Plan remains in effect with no change in protocols at this time. Ms. Gebhard anticipates this will change as MIOSHA revises their guidance. She provided an overview of the number of staff and clients who have contracted the virus, and the number who have died as a result (two).

**NEW BUSINESS**

The board discussed whether to meet in person or remotely in June. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Board members wishing to attend in person should contact Ms. Manary.


A new board calendar including the standing Program and Personnel committee meetings was shared; however, there was some confusion on dates. Lorraine will review and publish a revised calendar, as needed.

**BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m. by Board Vice-Chair, Karla Sherman.**

  
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Karla Sherman, Board Vice-Chair