

MINUTES OF THE BOARD
June 17, 2021, 4PM
North Country Community Mental Health
Zoom/In Person Hybrid Meeting



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christian Marcus, David White, Ed Ginop, Karla Sherman, Sr. Augusta Stratz.
Michael Newman, attending virtually from Cheboygan MI; Katina Banko, attending virtually from Kalkaska MI; Robert Draves attending virtually from East Jordan MI; Robert Boyd, attending virtually from Cheboygan MI; Gary Knapp, attending virtually from Bellaire MI; Caroline Loper, attending virtually from Central Lake MI; Ron Iseler, attending virtually from Gaylord MI; Dennis Priess, attending virtually from Charlevoix.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Liss

STAFF: Christine Gebhard, Brian Babbitt, Kevin Hartley, Amy Christie, Christine Dillon, 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, privileging recommendations and contracts signed in the past month.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS: None **MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION*

Program Committee Report: Mr. Iseler reviewed the minutes of the May 26, 2021, Program Committee meeting. A new policy on grant writing, assuring any grants align with the organizations strategic plan.

COMMITTEE CHAIR RON ISELER MOVED TO APPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT POLICY AS PRESENTED.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Sr. Augusta Stratz, Ron Iseler, Robert Draves, Robert Boyd, Mike Newman, Katina Banko, Karla Sherman, Gary Knapp, Dennis Priess, David White, Christian Marcus, Caroline Loper, Ed Ginop

NAYS: None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Iseler continued, reporting that Mr. Babbitt provided a review of provider relations and the various communication mechanisms in place to connect with them. Communications are at a minimum quarterly, but more frequent this past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Personnel Committee Report: Mr. Ginop reviewed the minutes of the June 1, 2021, Personnel Committee meeting. Mr. Babbitt presented the Annual Human Resources Report. The annual employee survey was completed in September, overall rates are positive. Mr. Priess complimented Mr. Babbitt on his presentation.

Finance Committee Report: Mr. Marcus reviewed the minutes of the June 17, 2021, Finance Committee meeting, including the statement of cash on hand, check register, and interim financial statements. He also provided background on a number of projects; the repaving of the driveway at Gentle Harbor; a proposal from Pennie Foster-Fishman to develop the program evaluation and outcomes capacity of NCCMH; and a proposal to upgrade the agency's Local Area Network (LAN) to a virtual network or VLAN.

COMMITTEE CHAIR CHRISTIAN MARCUS MOVED TO APPROVE CONTRACTING WITH REITH-RILEY CONSTRUCTION FOR REPAVING THE DRIVEWAY AT GENTLE HARBOR FOR THE BID OF NO MORE THAN \$17,940.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Gary Knapp, Karla Sherman, Katina Banko, Mike Newman, Robert Boyd, Robert Draves, Ron Iseler, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Caroline Loper, Christian Marcus, David White, Dennis Priess, Ed Ginop

NAYS: None **MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE CHAIR CHRISTIAN MARCUS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL TO CONTRACT WITH PENNIE FOSTER-FISHMAN, PH.D., TO ENHANCE NCCMH's EVALUATION CAPACITY FOR NO MORE THAN \$56,468.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Katina Banko, Mike Newman, Robert Boyd, Robert Draves, Ron Iseler, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Caroline Loper, Christian Marcus, David White, Dennis Priess, Gary Knapp, Karla Sherman, Ed Ginop

NAYS: None **MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE CHAIR CHRISTIAN MARCUS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL BY REHMANN TO UPDATE THE EXISTING LOCAL AREA NETWORK TO A VIRTUAL (VLAN) NETWORK FOR NO MORE THAN \$15,663.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Robert Boyd, Mike Newman, Katina Banko, Karla Sherman, Robert Draves, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Ron Iseler, Christian Marcus, Caroline Loper, Dennis Priess, David White, Gary Knapp, Ed Ginop

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Ginop thanked committee chairs for their reports.
The finance report will be placed on file for audit.

ACTION ITEM(S) WITHOUT COMMITTEE REVIEW*

None

PRESENTATIONS

Dialectical Behavior Treatment for Adolescents (DBT-A)

Ms. Dillon, Director of Child and Family Services shared that NCCMH was chosen to participate with five other Michigan agencies in the first ever DBT-A Cohort in the state. This cohort will continue for one year and will include one outpatient therapist from each of our six counties. Ms. Dillon provided information on the history of DBT, an overview of the cohort requirements, which are in place to meet the evidence-based treatment model. She explained what the therapy entails, what qualifies an adolescent for this treatment, the typical course of treatment, and how this is different from other interventions.

DBT increases “**dialectical**” behavioral patterns and thinking, teaches more balanced responses and a balanced perspective. It can be thought of as “the middle path” and helps youth understand that there is more than one way to think/feel/respond to a situation. This treatment focuses on putting people on the path to “building a life worth living.”

Ms. Dillon responded to questions from the board.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Gebhard indicated that much of her time has been spent on meeting with state representatives in the NCCMH catchment, primarily providing input on HB4925, addressing the redesign of the state mental health code. She described the changes that would occur if this legislation passed, including elimination of the PIHPs, elimination of managed care, and a reduction or the elimination of local oversight; however, it positively moves behavioral health services for the mild and moderate populations to the CMHSPs Rep. Rendon (Kalkaska) is reaching out to the Northern Caucus for a meeting with PIHP and CMHSPs to provide input on the subject. The state budget needs to be submitted by July 1, issues with the section 928 local match funds continue. Representative Damoose is holding a mental health symposium on June 25 and Ms. Gebhard will be attending.

Other items of note in the board report include an email from Marianne Huff, President and CEO of the Mental Health Association in Michigan to CMHAM leadership. Ms. Gebhard contacted Ms. Huff to request that she discuss complaints about NCCMH with Ms. Gebhard so all sides of the situation are understood before commenting.

Ms. Gebhard shared information on the Community Health Innovation Region (CHIR) giving some background on their work. She shared an infographic about May is Mental Health Month activities and the Friday updates she regularly shares with staff.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Ms. Christie gave an update on the launch of the myStrength app. She shared a brief video which described some of its uses. Ms. Christie also noted the implementation plan that was developed to assure community stakeholders have access to and understand the benefits of the app. Ms. Christie described the myStrength business cards and indicated that if board members were interested, they could contact Ms. Manary for a supply.

Mr. Iseler stated that churches may be a good avenue for distribution. Mr. Marcus asked if there was notification if someone indicated they were suicidal within the app. Ms. Christie explained the app is confidential but will ask at an upcoming implementation meeting if a pop up with the NCCMH access or crisis numbers could be added for cases like this.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY

The Operations Committee minutes, Board minutes, and financials relating to NCCMH were shared. NMRE's efforts continue to be focused on current proposed legislation.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID Update

NCCMH's response plan was updated on June 2 and sent to all staff. The update gave the expectation for resuming in-person and in office services and discontinuing mask requirement for fully vaccinated staff (unless meeting with a client). The Governor will open the state fully on June 22 with eight orders being rescinded. Some protections will remain in place for vulnerable populations. Sixty five percent (65%) of agency staff are now vaccinated.

NEW BUSINESS

MDHHS/Milliman Standard Cost Allocation

Ms. Gebhard directed attention to page 79, an email from CMHAM regarding contract negotiations and finance reporting. The association is requesting that each CMH abide by its current contract, which does not reflect the proposed financial reporting requirement. The department has asked for financial data in a new format, but this is not in the current contract nor an amendment. Ms. Gebhard provided background on the issue and advised the Board, without objection, that she will follow current contract reporting requirements.

NCCMH FY2020 Annual Report

The annual report was shared with the board. Ms. Gebhard is in the process of presenting the report to each of the six county commissions. The report includes information about the agency including numbers served and funding spent, our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and highlights from the past year, as well as stories of hope and recovery.

NCCMH Brand & Logo

Ms. Gebhard received input from staff that the NCCMH logo seems outdated in its representation of a family. The logo was created in 2004. Logos from other CMH's in our region and around the state were shared to prompt a discussion. Board members were happy with the current, newly colored, version of the logo. The topic may be revisited.

BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS

The board will return to in-person meetings in July. The finance committee has decided to meet in person as well, with a 3:00 start time. The Personnel and Program committee members were asked to consider how they would like to meet in the future; virtual is still an option. Ms. Manary will send out a survey to members for their input.

Mr. Iseler asked if anyone felt our domain address was troublesome, with NORCO(CMH) being so similar to the prescription drug Norco. There were limited options for a domain when North Country CMH's was chosen. Most Board members or staff had not considered the similarity. No action was proposed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m. by Board Chair, Ed Ginop.


Edward Ginop, Board Chair

