

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD**  
**September 16, 2021, 4PM**  
**North Country Community Mental Health**  
**1420 Plaza Drive, Petoskey**



**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Karla Sherman, Sr. Augusta Stratz, David White, Michael Newman, Robert Boyd, Gary Knapp, Caroline Loper, Ed Ginop, Dennis Priess, Robert Draves, Ron Iseler attending remotely from Gaylord Michigan

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Paul Liss, Christian Marcus, Katina Banko

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

**GUESTS:** None

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No Conflicts of Interest to any of the meeting agenda items were expressed.

**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 CAROLINE LOPER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION\***

**Program Committee Report:** Ron Iseler provided an overview of the August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Christie had reported on results of the NMRE's April 2021 Mental Health Consumer Satisfaction Survey for North Country. NCCMH had the most returned surveys in the region. Overall responses were very positive, areas for improvement were identified, and plans are being put into place to address them.

**Personnel Committee Report:** No meeting held this month.

**Finance Committee Report:** Mr. Ginop reviewed the minutes of the September 16 Finance Committee meeting. In response to Board questions, Ms. Gebhard explained that much of the surplus is due to Medicaid enrollees not being dropped during the pandemic. The NMRE is able

to keep 5% of the surplus once the IFS is fully funded. Remaining funds would lapse back to the state. NCCMH is unable to keep Medicaid dollars but may carryforward 5% of General Funds.

**Preliminary FY22 Budget:** Mr. Hartley directed the boards attention to the budget presentation in their packet. While the NMRE is projecting a flat budget, we are conservatively projecting a 2% reduction in capitated funding assuming clients may start to lose Medicaid eligibility in FY22. Mr. Hartley also noted that the direct care worker premium pay will continue through FY22, but provider stability payments are not expected during the year. The budget includes 3% COLA, if revenues remain stable. North Country has a balanced budget with operating revenue of \$57,330,207 and expenses of \$56,315,215 resulting in an estimated net increase of \$680,229. Mr. Hartley reviewed the budget revenue and expenses and responded to board member questions.

**MOTION BY DAVID WHITE TO APPROVE THE PRELIMINARY FY22 BUDGET AS PRESENTED, SUPPORT BY ROBERT DRAVES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**Update Naloxone Policy:** The Health Services Committee asked that the Naloxone policy be updated to align with the Intranasal Naloxone Procedure referenced in the updated policy.

**MOTION BY KARLA SHERMAN TO APPROVE THE NALOXONE POLICY AS PRESENTED EFFECTIVE OCT. 1, 2021, SUPPORT BY ROBERT BOYD. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Ms. Gebhard referred to several items in her report. She noted that there were 94 attendees at the virtual Northern Michigan Crisis Assessment presentation by TBD Solutions, as well as newspaper and TV coverage. This is generating potential new partnerships in the community.

On Sept. 15 the agency hosted Representative Mary Whiteford on her listening tour. Ms. Sherman, Dr. Vogel, and Representative Allor were present along with provider staff, CMH staff, and clubhouse members. Representative Whiteford has heard the need for more than a single ASO, mentioning one for urban and another for rural at a minimum. She also heard attendees stress the need for local control. Rep. Whiteford mentioned that the legislative process continues, and she welcomes input. She specifically asked for detailed ideas on how to craft language for the bill. Ms. Gebhard noted that Rep. Whiteford and Senator Shirkey's bills are vastly different, and while it is unlikely that either one would be signed by the Governor, strong advocacy efforts need to be continued. She directed the boards attention to advocacy materials regarding the Senate Bills 597 & 598 and a letter from the regional CMH's as well as one from advocacy agencies.

Ms. Gebhard noted that the legislature reached an agreement on the FY22 omnibus budget. It goes to both chambers next week for a vote then to the Governor. She noted the phase out of the local match drawdown was included along with the \$2.25 direct care wage payment.

Ms. Gebhard also provided an update on the Standard Cost Accounting issue reminding the board that NCCMH did not participate in FY21. We have submitted a request for extension until April 2022 which was approved.

Ms. Gebhard also mentioned her letter of support for a proposed transit authority in Emmet County. Public transportation is important for the clients we serve; without it they have difficulty getting to appointments, work, and shopping. She ended her report by reading a few inspiring client stories.

#### **QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

No report was presented this month.

#### **NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY**

The Board minutes, Operations Committee minutes, and financials were shared. NMRE efforts continue to be focused on the current proposed legislation, direct care wages, the workforce shortage, and advocacy efforts. The NMRE will contract with attorney Adam Falcone to review the NMRE/CMHSP contract and to assure it very clearly defines when we are operating as a network provider versus a subcontractor (an important distinction for the standard cost allocation and medical loss ratio controversy).

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **COVID Update**

Ms. Gebhard reminded the board that staff at NCCMH are required to wear masks in all public areas. She reported there have been more positive cases, mostly of staff, in AFC homes. A question was raised about President Biden's order that businesses with over 100 employees mandate staff are vaccinated or provide negative weekly screening. Ms. Gebhard explained that OSHA has yet to craft language and, once it is completed, MIOSHA will need to adopt it. She advised staff during this week's briefing that they should anticipate this. Mr. Draves mentioned that long term care facilities do not have an exemption to the rule requiring 100% of staff be vaccinated.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Leadership changes:** Ms. Gebhard announced that Dr. Lapo, Medical Director, has submitted 90-day notice to terminate his contract with his last day being November 5, 2021, having served NCCMH for five years. Dr. Vogel will serve as Interim Medical Director while a replacement is recruited. A psychiatric nurse practitioner for children was contracted for two days a week. Ms. Gebhard is in talks with other Psychiatry Physician Practices for telehealth adult psychiatry services.

Ms. Gebhard went on to share that Dr. Chipman, Chief Clinical Officer, has announced her retirement effective December 31, 2021. Dr. Chipman has been with the agency for 28 years serving in many capacities for Antrim Kalkaska CMH and North Country CMH following the merger. The position is posted. Ms. Gebhard noted that a summary plan for the transition of these positions will be shared with staff.

#### **BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS**

Mr. White thanked Christine for assisting in a difficult situation. She was able to make a phone call that helped smooth the process for a suicidal young man with an addiction to enter a rehabilitation program. Mr. White said her action saved a life.

Ms. Sherman mentioned the extraordinary job Christine does in crafting communications locally and at the state level to advocate for the CMH system.

Mr. Knapp stated his appreciation for client stories saying that, as a new board member, they bring the work we do to life.

Ms. Gebhard invited the board to participate in the NCCMH virtual staff training event scheduled for Monday, Sept. 20. Clients will share their stories throughout the afternoon. A link will be sent to the board so members can participate if they are able.

Ms. Gebhard directed the boards attention to an email to the Board from Lani Laporte, Contract Manager. In it she shares her appreciation for the Board's financial support and recognition of CMH staff.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. by Board Chair, Ed Ginop.**

  
Ed Ginop, Board Chair