

MINUTES OF THE BOARD
November 18, 2021, 10AM
North Country Community Mental Health
Stafford's Perry Hotel, 100 Lewis St, Petoskey



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sr. Augusta Stratz, David White, Gary Knapp, Caroline Loper, Ed Ginop, Paul Liss, Christian Marcus, Ron Iseler, Karla Sherman, Robert Boyd, Dennis Priess via phone

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Katina Banko, Michael Newman, Robert Draves

STAFF: Christine Gebhard, Brian Babbitt, Amy Christie, Kevin Hartley, Stacey Chipman, Pam Krasinski-Wespiser, Chanda Harwood, Christine Dillon, Lorraine Manary

GUESTS: None

Mr. Ginop called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.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: 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 PAUL LISS TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED,
SUPPORT BY DAVID WHITE.**

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION*

Program Committee Report: Minutes of the October 28, 2021 meeting were reviewed by Chair Ron Iseler. The committee heard a report from Amy Christie on the Quality Improvement Plan.

Personnel Committee Report: Minutes of the November 2, 2021 meeting were reviewed by Chair Paul Liss. At the meeting Mr. Babbitt reviewed 2022 employee benefits rates and renewal process, and move to another carrier, Lighthouse.

Finance Committee Report: No finance meeting was held. Mr. Hartley reviewed the Statement of Cash on Deposit and Bills through October 31, 2021; Interim Financial Statements as of September 30, 2021; Revenue and Expense by Fund Source; Trending Revenue and Expenses as of September 30, 2021; and NMRE Funding Source Report. Mr. Ginop requested the financial reports be placed on file for audit.

PRESENTATION – Ms. Gebhard shared a brief video, produced by Macomb County CMH and CMHA, of client advocates speaking out against Senate Bills 597 & 598. Natalie Weber's presentation outline on "A Day in the Life of an Outpatient Clinic" was shared.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Gebhard referred to several items in her report. She has attended a number of coffee hours with legislators to discuss Senate Bills 597-598. A resolution opposing the bills has been passed by Antrim, Charlevoix, and Otsego counties. Ms. Gebhard attended a committee meeting in Kalkaska to answer questions before it goes to their full board. Cheboygan County commissioners will discuss the resolution next week. She plans to attend an Emmet County commission meeting to request, during public comment, that the resolution be placed on next month's agenda.

Ms. Gebhard discussed the "MI Kids Now" initiative which is the result of the KB Lawsuit. While the settlement isn't final, or public, MDHHS has indicated new minimum staffing requirements may be forthcoming, i.e., youth peer supports, parent supports and 24/7 mobile crisis. We are advocating for flexibility in rural areas. MDHHS has issued a Least Restrictive Policy aimed at opening beds in state hospitals, which are full. MDHHS has identified four NCCMH clients as ready for discharge. Finding residential placements in the community is very challenging. The national 988 suicide hotline will be implemented in July 2022. Discussions on how to best tie calls back into local crisis lines is taking place.

Ms. Gebhard referred to MSA Bulletin 21-39 which requires contract providers to adhere to the new requirements. This is aligned with the Standard Cost Allocation reporting requirement being negotiated with MDHHS by the PIHP and CMHSP Contract Negotiations Committees.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE – No report this meeting

NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY

Operations Committee minutes, and financials relating to NCCMH were shared. The NMRE will solicit a legal opinion whether the CMHSPs unspent General Funds can be transferred to the NMRE. Ms. Gebhard and Mr. Kurtz are in discussions with Dr. Ibrahim to open an adult crisis residential facility in Gaylord that would have guaranteed start-up funding for two years.

OLD BUSINESS

None

COVID Update

Addressed during new business.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Open Meetings Act – Virtual Participation.** Virtual participation is no longer allowed for any reason other than military service. House Bill 5467 is seeking to revert back to the

process put into place during early stages of the pandemic, however it does not permit virtual members to vote.

- **FY22 Board Calendar** was provided to members.
- **COVID.** Ms. Gebhard discussed the Emergency Temporary Standard for Vaccination, Masks and Testing OSHA issued its guidance; it is believed that NCCMH meets the covered entity requirement. However, this morning OSHA announced it would not enforce the ETS while the Circuit Court's Stay Order is in place, and while States' challenges make their way through the court system. Ms. Gebhard will place NCCMH's ETS policy on next month's Personnel Committee agenda.
- **CMHA Special assessments.** The CMH Association is requesting a special assessment to cover additional expenses for its marketing and advocacy efforts opposing legislation to eliminate the PIHP/CMHSP system. Funds may also be used for corporate contributions to groups or individuals. The Special Assessment request will be brought to the Finance Committee in December.
- **CHIR.** The Northwest CHIR, which covers ten-counties including Emmet, Charlevoix, Antrim and Kalkaska, received grant funding for a year-long Behavioral Health Initiative that will bring together interested stakeholders to develop a three-year strategic plan to increase access to behavioral health services. Ms. Gebhard is co-chair on Access to Crisis Services.

BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Gebhard offered the Board's condolences to Mr. Ginop on the passing for his mother, and to Robert Boyd, whose mother also passed away this past month. Sympathies were expressed by all.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m. by Board Chair, Ed Ginop.


Ed Ginop, Board Chair

