



NORTH COUNTRY

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

MINUTES OF THE BOARD

May 15 2025 2:30 PM

**North Country Community Mental Health
1420 Plaza Drive, Petoskey, Board Room**

Mr. Ginop called the meeting to order at 2:34PM

ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Michael Newman, Ron Iseler, Jarris Rubingh, Edward Ginop, David White, Bob Baldwin, Caroline Loper, Daniel CasaSanta, Annemarie Conway

MEMBERS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Bob Boyd

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dana Wingo, Karla Sherman, Ed Belitz

STAFF: Brian Babbitt, Nancy Rhue, Tim Stapp Jr., Kim Rappleyea, Joe Balberde, Amy Christie

GUESTS: KERI LAPORTE-MONTERO, FRAN DAMOTH BIGELOW, CARRIE BROROWIAK, CINDY EVANS

Mr. Ginop welcomed Board members and staff to the meeting. There is a quorum 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. Items requiring approval will be placed on the meeting agenda.

MOTION BY CAROLINE LOPER TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA; SUPPORT BY DAVID WHITE:

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION*

Program Committee Report: Mr. Iseler reviewed the minutes of the April 24, 2025 meeting. Agenda items included approval of previous minutes, the Risk Management Annual Report, and updates to the AED policy.

MOTION BY JARRIS RUBINGH TO APPROVE THE UPDATES TO THE AED POLICY; SUPPORT BY BOB BALDWIN:

MOTION CARRIES

Personnel Committee: The Personnel committee met on May 6, 2025 agenda items included approval of previous minutes and several policy updates. Mr. Babbitt explained the policies brought forward to the personnel committee.

MOTION BY RON ISELER TO APPROVE THE DRESS CODE POLICY, AND THE UPDATED STUDENT INTERN AND VOLUNTEER, AND LONGEVITY, AND PAID TIME OFF POLICIES; SUPPORT BY ANNEMARIE CONWAY:

DISCUSSION: Ms. Loper asked who all the dress code covers and what office casual is. Mr. Babbitt explained the dress code and flexibility according to the situation.

MOTION CARRIES

Finance Committee Report: Mr. White reviewed the Statement of Cash on Deposit and Disbursements through April 30, 2025; Interim Financial Statements as of March 31, 2025 Revenue and Expense by Fund Source; Trending Revenue and Expenses as of March 31, 2025, the NMRE interim financial report, updated proposal for Arctic Wolf , and a proposal to transition to Microsoft Dynamics 365.

MOTION BY DAVID WHITE TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 3-YEAR CONTRACT WITH ARCTIC WOLF FOR MANAGED DETECTION AND RESPONSE SOLUTION FOR CYBERSECURITY AT AN ANNUAL COST OF \$82,679.64 (EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE DOLLARS AND SIXTY-FOUR CENTS) WITH GRANT FUNDING TO BE APPLIED AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE; SUPPORT BY ANNEMARIE CONWAY:

Discussion: Mr. Iseler asked if there is going to be follow-through on the grant.

Mr. Balberde explained that the grant has already been applied for and that the IT Manager is in contact with the representative on a monthly basis.

Ms. Loper asked if the grant was guaranteed.

Mr. Balberde explained it is not guaranteed.

Mr. CasaSanta asked if we were using Arctic Wolf for any of our other security.

Mr. Balberde explained that we do not, however partner CMHSPs do.

Mr. Rubingh asked if this was a state grant.

Mr. Balberde explained that this is a federal rural grant.

ROLL CALL

AYE: CAROLINE LOPER, JARRIS RUBINGH, BOB BALDWIN, RON ISELER, DAVID WHITE, MICHAEL NEWMAN, DANIEL CASASANTA, ANNEMARIE CONWAY, EDWARD GINOP

NAY: NONE

NOT VOITING: ROBERT BOYD

ABSENT: KARLA SHERMAN, EDWARD BELITZ, DANA WINGO

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY DAVID WHITE TO RECOMMEND THE FULL BOARD APPROVE THE TRANSITION TO MICROSOFT DYNAMICS 365 BUSINESS CENTRAL FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$81,140.00 (EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FORTY DOLLARS); SUPPORT BY BOB BALDWIN:

Discussion: Ms. Loper asked if this was a budgeted expense.

Mr. Babbitt explained that it has been included in our projected overspend.

ROLL CALL

AYE: RON ISELER, BOB BALDWIN, DAVID WHITE, DANIEL CASASANTA, ANNEMARIE CONWAY, CAROLINE LOPER, MICHAEL NEWMAN, JARRIS RUBINGH, EDWARD GINOP

NAY: NONE

NOT VOTING: ROBERT BOYD

ABSENT: DANA WINGO, EDWARD BELITZ, KARLA SHERMAN

MOTION CARRIES

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

PRESENTATION – Regulatory Compliance – Kim Rappleyea- Ms. Rappleyea explained the Office of Inspector General's 7 elements of effective compliance which are implementing policies, procedures and standards of conduct, designating a compliance officer and compliance program, conducting effective training and education, developing effective lines of communication, conducting internal monitoring and auditing, enforcing standards through well publicized disciplinary guidelines, and responding promptly to detected offences and undertaking corrective action. Ms. Rappleyea explained the board's role in compliance. She also explained NCCMH's code of conduct and code of ethics. Ms. Rappleyea defined fraud, waste and abuse in the context of service delivery, and the applicable laws governing compliance. These laws are the Deficit Reduction Act, Federal and Michigan Medicaid False Claims Acts, Federal and State of Michigan Whistleblowers Acts and the Affordable Care Act, the anti-

kickback statute, patient access and Medicare (Medicaid) protection act, exclusion statute, civil monetary penalties law, criminal healthcare fraud statute, and HIPAA. All suspected violations, misconduct, fraud and abuse are required to be reported to the NCCMH/NMRE compliance officer, if it is suspected that the compliance officer has a conflict of interest then the report is made to the CEO. If the suspected violation involves the CEO then the report will be made to the compliance officer or the Board Chairperson.

ACTION ITEMS WITHOUT COMMITTEE REVIEW: Mr. Babbitt brought forward the NCCMH/NMRE contract. He went over changes made to the contract, including the addition of comprehensive specialty services network, updated information and timelines if the contract is dissolved, cost overrun language, updates to the home and community-based services language, detailed information regarding the CMHSPs responsibilities, CMHSP Liability statement, and information regarding MDHHS/OIG sanctions.

Mr. Rubingh asked if the changes in the contract should be reviewed by the agency's legal counsel.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the changes were very straightforward, and legal review was not necessary.

MOTION BY JARRIS RUBINGH TO APPROVE MR. BABBITT SIGNING THE NMRE/NCCMH CONTRACT; SUPPORT BY CAROLINE LOPER:

ROLL CALL

AYE: CAROLINE LOPER, BOB BALDWIN, DAVID WHITE, DANIEL CASASANTA, ANNEMARIE CONWAY, RON ISELER, MICHAEL NEWMAN, JARRIS RUBINGH, EDWARD GINOP

NAY: NONE:

NOT VOTING: ROBERT BOYD

ABSENT: KARLA SHERMAN, EDWARD BELITZ, DANA WINGO

MOTION CARRIES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Babbitt referred to several items in his report. On April 28, he and Ms. Christie appeared on 9&10 news' Good Day Northern Michigan to talk about May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the array of events that NCCMH has planned. On May 6 Mr. Babbitt did a Radio interview regarding May is Mental Health Awareness Month with Big Sky Radio. On May 12 he and Ms. Rappleyea met with Matt Barresi, the Otsego County Administrator regarding the intent to move the Gaylord offices from the Alpine Center to the Cross Street building. He drew attention to the MDHHS 2025-3 Executive Directive report that addresses the impact of the proposed federal cuts to Medicaid and the Medicaid expansions that was included in the packet. The proposed cuts at the federal level would result in 100,000-200,000 Michigan residents losing their Medicaid coverage. He then drew attention to the Bell Seal Award from Mental Health America, NCCMH received platinum status this year.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE – Ms. Christie shared the quarterly performance indicators and examples of the measures for 2025. NCCMH performed above the NMRE average for 7 indicators, including all the populations for Intake Assessments performed in less than 14 days, as well as First Service for SED Children and Discharge Appointments in less than 7 days for the adult demographic. Indicators that experienced challenges due to staffing, holidays, and even weather were First Service for the I/DD adult and child population and the MI adult population. Inpatient recidivism was at a higher level due to specific individuals who were returning to the hospital. This was noted within the Utilization Management process once the individuals were identified.

As of December 2024, the State of Michigan began its plan to change the reporting areas and requirements for both the CMHSPs and the PIHPs. NCCMH is required to continue to report both new and old measures to the PIHP through 2025, however the old measures are not reported to the State. The changes in measures will be on a three-year timeline, and while some measures will remain the same, such as Access to Care, the number of days has decreased from 14 to 10. Most measures that will be collected, monitored, and reported mimic CMS/NCQA measures, aligning them with many health-related/co-morbid measures.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY- Draft minutes of the April NMRE and the Interim Financial report were handed out ahead of the meeting. The minutes of the March NMRE Operations Committee meeting were included in the packet

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Babbitt shared a proposed county resolution urging action to address the Public Mental Health Funding Shortfall. The commissioners on the board asked for the resolution to be sent to their counties for consideration.

BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS – Mr. Rubingh shared that with the Covid funds for the Antrim County Transportation System running out that fees were going to be going up. He is concerned about residents who use the bus to receive services provided by GTI in Mancelona.

Mr. CasaSanta asked “how long the runway is” regarding transitioning internal CLS services to our contracted providers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 PM by Board Chair Edward Ginop


Ed Ginop, Board Chair

