



NORTH COUNTRY

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

MINUTES OF THE BOARD

December 18, 2025 2:30 PM

1420 Plaza Drive, Board Room, Petoskey

Mr. Ginop called the meeting to order at 2:36 PM

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING: Caroline Loper, Edward Ginop, Jarris Rubingh, Michael Newman, David White, Daniel CasaSanta, Bob Baldwin, Annemarie Conway, Dana Wingo

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Bob Boyd, Ron Iseler

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ed Belitz

STAFF: Brian Babbitt, Nancy Rhue, Tim Stapp Jr., Ann Friend, Kim Rappleyea, Amy Christie, Michael Wolf, Brandy Marvin, April Johnson, Katie Lorence

GUESTS: Micah Haven

Mr. Ginop welcomed Board members and staff to the meeting. There is a quorum present.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

PUBLIC COMMENT: Micah Haven from GTI read the following statement: Good Afternoon, Last week, more than 100 community members – nearly half the town of Mancelona- came together to host what I can only describe as one of the most joyful Christmas celebrations I have ever been a part of. As Jarris and Brian can attest, because they were there, our clients felt loved, celebrated, and most importantly, like they truly belong. There are not very many places where our team members can go where they feel that way.

That is why we are so passionate about advocating for the people we support. People with disabilities deserve a place they can call their own- a place to talk with friends, learn new skills, and earn a little money. The very thought of losing our Mancelona program is devastating.

William, the client who spoke with you all last month, told me that without GTI, he would be sitting home all day watching tv. That is no way to live

GTI was very encouraged by Brian's statement at our last meeting that he was not saying our clients must be moved out of the facility, though there remains some confusion on exactly what this organization's expectations for community integration actually are.

We are also encouraged by the recent approval of transitional support funding and GTI is actively working on a proposal that we hope will meet this board's criteria. At the same time, we remain deeply committed to the individuals who benefit from and choose facility-based services.

I also wanted to share a positive report on GTI's financial position. Just two months into our new fiscal year, we are already beginning to see the positive impact of our new rates. While It is too early to draw conclusions for the full year, the data suggests that these rates may finally put the Mancelona program on a path out of our deficit. For that, we sincerely thank you- thank you for listening and thank you for taking action.

Merry Christmas

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 ANNEMARIE CONWAY:

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION*

Finance Committee Report: Mr. White reviewed the minutes of the December 18, 2025 meeting. Agenda items included Statement of Cash on Deposit and Disbursements through October 31, 2025; Interim Financial Statements as of October 31, 2025, Revenue and Expense by Fund Source; Trending Revenue and Expenses as of October 31, 2025, the NMRE financial report, a proposal for Microsoft Surface Laptops, and a discussion about the Cross Street building in Gaylord.

MOTION BY DAVID WHITE TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF 32 MICROSOFT SURFACE LAPTOPS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,708.11 (THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHT DOLLARS AND ELEVEN CENTS); SUPPORT BY JARRIS RUBINGH:

MOTION CARRIES

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

PRESENTATIONS – Recipient Rights Annual Report – Michael Wolf- Mr. Wolf presented the FY 25 Recipient Rights Annual Report. He explained the functions of the Office of Recipient Rights were complaint resolution, monitoring, education/training, and consultation. He explained that one complaint to the ORR can contain multiple allegations. In FY25 the ORR received 123 complaints containing 151 allegations. This initiated 141 investigations, 3 interventions, and 7 were found to either be out of jurisdiction or there was no right involved. 81 of the investigations were substantiated. Staff were the main reporting source of complaints, followed by recipients, the ORR, anonymous reports, family and community. Mr. Wolf explained the abuse and neglect classes. In FY25 there were 17 Abuse Class complaints received, 8 were substantiated. There were 27 Neglect Class complaints with 15 substantiated. The 100 remaining complaints received were dignity and respect, safe, sanitary and humane environment, services suited to need, freedom of movement, family rights, disclosure of confidential information, religious practice, possession/use of personal property, limitations on personal property, least restrictive setting, visits/telephone/email. Of those 100, 58 were substantiated and 7 were found to be out of jurisdiction or no right involved. 44% of investigations were completed within 30 days, 62% were completed within 60 days. Remedial action taken on substantiated complaints were written reprimand (27), training (26), employment termination (17) employee resigned (8), verbal counseling (8), suspension (6), other (6), written counseling (5), staff transfer (1), and policy revision/development (1). In FY25 the ORR did 35 in catchment site reviews, 61 out of catchment site reviews, and 2,561 incident report reviews, provided Recipient Rights training to 62 CMH employees and 149 contracted employees, and attended 24 Behavioral Treatment Committee meetings and reviewed 2 requests for emergency plans/restrictions. Goals for FY25 were to recruit additional RRAC members, develop training materials to educate and inform recipients of their rights, and evaluate the site-review process to ensure efficiency and compliance.

ACTION ITEMS WITHOUT COMMITTEE REVIEW: Updated Bylaws- Per request last month, Public Comment was added to the end of the agenda as well in this update.

MOTION BY JARRIS RUBINGH TO APPROVE THE UPDATED BYLAWS; SUPPORT BY DAVID WHITE:

ROLL CALL:

AYE: BOB BALDWIN, DAN CASASANTA, ANNEMARIE CONWAY, CAROLINE LOPER, DAVID WHITE, DANA WINGO, MICHAEL NEWMAN, JARRIS RUBINGH, ED GINOP

NAY: NONE

NOT VOTING: RON ISELER, BOB BOYD

ABSENT : ED BELITZ

MOTION CARRIES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Babbitt referred to several items in his report. He drew attention to the 3 days he spent between Lansing and Grand Rapids for the combined PIHP and CMH cases. Judge Yates extended the hearing for an extra day immediately so that each side had ample time to call witnesses. Based on observation and questions asked at closing, Mr. Babbitt stated that he thinks that Judge Yates has come to the conclusion that parts of the RFP as it stands are not consistent with the Michigan Mental Health Code, specifically the parts that do not allow CMHSPs to contract with providers, ORR duties, and not delegating managed care functions. At the conclusion of day 2 it was decided that no more witnesses would be called and day 3 would be for closing arguments. A decision is anticipated before Christmas but that is not a hard deadline. He drew attention to the MDHHS final rule for Home and Community-Based Services included in the packet. He then drew attention to the NMRE Enrollee data analysis and related funding which was up year over year while enrollee numbers were down. He also reviewed statewide revenue and all PIHP received less in October than they did in September. Mr. Babbitt drew attention to the CARF accreditation letter included in the packet stating that NCCMH received a 3 year accreditation. There will be a corrective action plan for some things that will be shared with the Program Committee and then to the board in the future. Mr. Babbitt drew attention to the photos of the freshly painted Charlevoix office, stating that the contractor did a great job. He then drew attention to the photo of the Otsego County Bus with the NCCMH "Overwhelmed" ad.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE – None

NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY: Minutes of the October Operations Committee meeting were included in the packet, draft minutes of the December Board meeting were passed out ahead of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – The initial brochure for the CMHA Winter Conference was included in the packet. Mr. Babbitt instructed the board to reach out to Ms. Rhue if they wish to attend.

BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS – Mr. White stated that he has resigned his position as the Petoskey Club Liaison so there is an open position on the advisory council.

Mr. Rubingh asked if that position needed to be from Emmet County.

Mr. White stated that it did not, that it just needed to be a board member.

Mr. Baldwin stated that they have advertised the open, at large, board seat in Kalkaska County and that so far there have not been any applicants. He stated that if they are unable to fill the position by January they would pass the opening to the next county. He did state

that they had not included the per-diem or milage rates in the advertisement, and that may help.

Ms. Rhue said that she would send the per-diem and mileage rates to Mr. Baldwin and Administrator Whiteford.

Ms. Conway stated that there is a person who is interested in the open Charlevoix County board seat, but she cannot start until April. She also stated that the Bergmann Center is back in their building after the ice storm damage.

Mr. Rubingh wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He stated that he was reviewing the Three Kings stories in both Matthew and Luke and noted the difference in the telling of the story. He also mentioned that Luke was a doctor.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 PM by Board Chair Ed Ginop.


Ed Ginop Board Chair