



NORTH COUNTRY

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

MINUTES OF THE BOARD

February 19, 2026 2:30 PM

100 Lewis Street, Perry Hotel, Reycraft Room

Mr. Ginop called the meeting to order at 2:40 PM

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING: Caroline Loper, Edward Ginop, Jarris Rubingh, Michael Newman, David White, Daniel CasaSanta, Annemarie Conway, Dana Wingo, Bob Boyd, Ron Iseler, Sarah Bronson

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY:

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ed Belitz, Bob Baldwin, Aimee Bissonette

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

GUESTS: None

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

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 ANNEMARIE CONWAY:

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION*

Program Committee Report: Mr. Iseler reviewed the minutes of the January 22, 2026 meeting items on the agenda included the new AI policy, updated LOCUS Policy and the CARF CAP.

MOTION BY DAVID WHITE TO VOTE ON BOTH POLICIES TOGETHER; SUPPORT BY CAROLINE LOPER:

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY MICHAEL NEWMAN TO APPROVE THE NEW AI AND THE UPDATED LOCUS POLICIES; SUPPORT BY ANNEMAIRE CONWAY

MOTION CARRIES

Finance Committee Report: Mr. White reviewed the minutes of the February 19, 2026 meeting. Agenda items included Statement of Cash on Deposit and Disbursements through January 31, 2026; Interim Financial Statements as of December 31, 2025, Revenue and Expense by Fund Source; Trending Revenue and Expenses as of December 31, 2025, the NMRE financial report, a proposal for 12 fleet vehicles, and a general update on the Gaylord Cross Street building.

MOTION BY DAVID WHITE TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF 9 TRAIL BLAZERS 1 TRANSIT VAN, AND 2 PACIFICAS FOR A NEW TOTAL FLEET COST OF \$273,374.88 (TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY DOLLARS AND EIGHTY-EIGHT CENTS); SUPPORT BY ANNEMARIE CONWAY:

MOTION CARRIES

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

PRESENTATION – There is no presentation this month

ACTION ITEMS WITHOUT COMMITTEE REVIEW: None

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Babbitt referred to several items in his report. He stated that he and Mr. Ginop went to the CMHA winter conference. He stated that he felt this was one of the better Winter conferences he has attended, that the content and presentations were more pertinent to

what is happening in the system. He drew attention to a meeting he had with Incompass and Gringas Global Social Enterprise. Social Enterprises are not for profit entities that exist for social purposes such as employment for persons with IDD or mental illness. There are some in Michigan today. Incompass and the Small Business Association partnered with Gringas to help with financing, grant money, and technical support for social enterprises. Mr. Babbitt then drew attention to a document in the packet from Speaker Hall's 2026 House Priorities. He then drew attention to the CMHA's summary of the FY27 state budget proposal. The budget includes 97 million to DHHS for H.R. 1 implementation and hiring of 598 full-time employees to help with the workload of the biannual Healthy Michigan redeterminations. There are also proposed new taxes on tobacco, vaping, online gambling and sports betting to attempt to stabilize Medicaid. He then drew attention to an article regarding the PIHP RFP. MDHHS has filed a motion to dismiss the case as they have withdrawn the RFP.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE – Ms. Christie presented the quarterly QI report. There are 8 standing committees with charters that report to the Quality Improvement Council on a quarterly schedule; these are Behavior Treatment, Credentialing and Privileging, Data Management, Executive Team, LEAN Advisory, Residential Sustainability, Risk Management, and Utilization Management. Ms. Christie outlined notable work from the committees. She noted that the NMRE recently approved the annual Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program (QAPIP) for FY25 and that the NMRE has developed a FY26 QAPIP which continues to be more closely aligned with the CMH's Quality Improvement Plans and Assurance Measures.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY: Minutes of the December Operations Committee meeting, draft minutes of the January Board Meeting, and the interim financial report were included in the packet.

OLD BUSINESS – Mr. Babbitt shared the estimates for the work needed on the Cross Street property with the board and an estimate of total cost to purchase and update the building.

NEW BUSINESS – The CMHA PAC information was included in the packet. Mr. Babbitt has agreed to match any board member donations up to the first \$250.00 of donations made.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS – Mr. Boyd asked if the agency was helping GTI or if our contract with them was done.

Mr. babbitt stated that we have not ended our contract with them and that it is not our plan to end our contract.

Mr. Rubingh stated that he has been engaged in conversations with Gary Knapp. He states that one of Mr. Knapp's goals is to find a way to treat substance use disorders and mental health issues before persons are incarcerated. He states that the majority of crime in our region is SUD or MH related.

Mr. Babbitt agrees that the further upstream you can intervene in MH/SUD issues the better it is overall. Mr. Babbitt stated that over the holiday season 98% of crisis screenings were persons not known to our agency.

Mr. Babbitt stated that for our agency the difference between our interim FSR and our final FSR is generally around \$200,000 out of an annual budget of 56 million dollars. He thanked Ms. Friend for her attention to detail on the budget and financial reports.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 PM by Board Chair Ed Ginop.


Ed Ginop Board Chair