NORTH COUNTRY
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

MINUTES OF THE BOARD
July 16, 2026 2:30 PM
North Country Community Mental Health
1420 Plaza Drive, Petoskey, Board Room

Mr. Ginop called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM

ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING:
Annemarie Conway, Bob Baldwin, Dan CasaSanta, Ed Ginop, Jarris Rubingh, Mike Newman, Ron Iseler, Sarah Bronson

MEMBERS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Bob Boyd

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ed Belitz, Dave White, Dale Eschenberg, Aimee Bissonette,

STAFF: Brian Babbitt, Nancy Rhue, Tim Stapp Jr., Ann Friend, Kim Rappleyea, Lynne Pearson, Lauren Myers, Angela Balberde, April Johnson, Amy Christie, Nicol Beck, Katie Lorence

GUESTS: Brian Greene, Chris Fox, Micah Haven, Tracy Trasky, Deb Daly, Cindy Evans, Amy Carter, Lori Wood, GTI Mancelona, Fran Bigelow

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: Brian Greene is the new board chair for Bergmann Center. He stated that he thanks NCCMH for working with Bergmann Center the last few months. Ms. Laporte-Montero, and Bergmann Center's CFO are no longer with the center as they needed to reduce administrative overhead cost. He states that he is looking forward to working with finance for rate development in the next few months.

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 JARRIS RUBINGH TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA; SUPPORT BY BOB BALDWIN:

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION*:

Program Committee: Ms. Conway reviewed the minutes of the June 25, 2026 meeting. Items on the agenda included approval of the previous meeting's minutes, the Utilization Management Annual Report, and the Risk Management Annual Report.

Finance Committee Report: Mr. Rubingh reviewed the Statement of Cash on Deposit and Disbursements through June 30 2026, Interim Financial Statements as of May 31, 2026, Revenue and Expense by Fund Source; Trending Revenue and Expenses as of May 31, 2026, the NMRE interim financial report, and proposals for the finance department's business central license renewal, Provider Network Benefit Stabilization proposal HVAC repairs at Plaza Drive, and the recruitment fee from Medical Professionals.

MOTION BY JARRIS RUBINGH TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS CENTRAL LICENSE RENEWAL IN THE AMOUNT OF TEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS ($10,320.00); SUPPORT BY BOB BALDWIN:

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY JARRIS RUBINGH TO APPROVE THE BENEFIT STABILIZATION ENHANCED RATES FOR AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF $779,354.33 (SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR DOLLARS AND THIRTY-THREE CENTS); SUPPORT BY BOB BALDWIN:

Discussion: Mr. CasaSanta asked what the make-up of the amount was.
Mr. Rubingh explained the breakdown.
Mr. Babbitt explained the memorandum of understanding that will be sent to the providers.

ROLL CALL

AYE: DANA WINGO, SARAH BRONSON, JARRIS RUBINGH, DAN CASASANTA, MIKE NEWMAN, ANNEMARIE CONWAY, BOB BALDWIN, ED GINOP

NAY: NONE

NOT VOTING: BOB BOYD

ABSENT: DAVE WHITE, AIMEE BISSONETTE, RON ISELER, ED BELITZ, DALE ESCHENBERG

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY JARRIS RUBINGH TO APPROVE CONTRACTING WITH SHEREN PLUMBING HEATING AND COOLING FOR REPAIRS ON THE HVAC SYSTEM AT PLAZA DRIVE IN THE AMOUNT OF THITY THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS ($30,025.00); SUPPORT BY BOB BALDWIN:

ROLL CALL

AYE: MIKE NEWMAN, JARRIS RUBINGH, BOB BALDWIN, SARAH BRONSON, ANNEMARIE CONWAY, DAN CASASANTA, DANA WINGO, ED GINOP

NAY: NONE

NOT VOTING: BOB BOYD

ABSENT: AIMEE BISSONETTE, RON ISELER, ED BELITZ, DALE ESCHENBERG, DAVE WHITE

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY DAVE WHITE TO APPROVE THE RECRUITMENT FEE OF SEVENTEEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED ELEVEN DOLLARS ($17,411.00) TO MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS; SUPPORT BY BOB BALDWIN:

MOTION CARRIES

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

PRESENTATION – Self Determination – Lynne Pearson – Ms. Pearson, SD Coordinator presented the FY25 SD annual report. Self Determination arrangements at NCCMH offer a way for clients to have control over how and by whom their authorized services are provided. The client is the director of their life, and an arrangement helps to amplify the control they have in how they live their life. A person identifies their needs, goals, and objectives as part of the person centered planning process. At that point, a SD budget is developed to ensure the funding is identified that will help pay for the services approved in the plan of service. The 4 principles of SD are freedom, authority, support, and responsibility. SD arrangements support freedom and independence for clients, allowing them to live independently, build small businesses, choosing how to live, who to hire when to have support, how to pay their supports, and ensure they have opportunities to connect with their community. A majority of SD budgets got towards Community Living Supports. For FY25 the total cost of SD services was $2,756,655.11 with funding coming from HAB Support Waiver, Medicaid, Child Waivers, and less than 1% general funds. For FY25 the number of clients using SD arrangements was 117, 80% of the clients are adults and 20% are children.

ACTION ITEMS WITHOUT COMMITTEE REVIEW – None

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Babbitt referred to several items in his report. He states that he has presented the FY25 annual report to 5 of the 6 counties. He will be presenting to Otsego County on July 28th. He drew attention to the LEAN Gemba walks on his schedule, the executive team has been going out to where the work is done and getting real time feedback. GEMBA walk frequency is going to be increased and management along with the executive team will be involved as well. Mr. Babbitt drew attention to the executive team quarterly reports. He then drew attention to the FY25 compliance report. He noted that there were no control deficiencies and no material noncompliance or fraud with the Medicaid and General Funds contracts. There were recommendations around ability to pay and making sure that this is completed correctly and that consumers who have who have the ability to pay are billed. Mr. Babbitt then drew attention to a survey from the CMHA regarding the privatization of the public mental health system. 70% of people surveyed support the public system. He then drew attention to an article about a new Department of Justice opinion that says, “states aren’t required to provide community-based care for people with disabilities”. He reiterated that this is just an opinion and not law, but this is indicative of where current law makers are in their thinking. He drew attention to an article regarding the Cheboygan Emergency Department expansion that will include specific behavioral health screening rooms. Mr. Babbitt was asked for an update regarding Bergmann Center status by Mr. Rubingh. Mr. Babbitt states that there are over 40 people back receiving services at Bergmann Center. He states that they are working with Jake Smith and Jennier Raymond, scheduling in house training and the partnership is good. He states that there are still things to work out.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE – None

NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY- The minutes of the May Operations meeting and May interim financials were included in the packet.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Micah Haven said thank you for the rate increase. What Mr. Rubingh described is much needed, again thank you. He also said that Ms. Conway has been a wonderful partner. He stated that the $50,000 transitional assistance funds are going to be paid out with June’s billing and thanked the board for the investment. He started to give an update on the Plan of Correction that was sent on June 22nd and Ms. Rappleyea announced that GTI is fully in compliance now.

Brian Greene asked if he could get the details on the rate increase.

Chris Fox states that she is a manager in a SD home. She states that they have been trying to get a lift for the 2 men in the home. These men have power chairs and push chairs. She states that the power chairs get stuck in the snow and they have to contact family members to help get them in and out of the house. She states that they have been trying to get this covered by HAB waiver funds for 4 years and they have been denied again. She states that they are not able to follow the plan of service for one of the men in the winter because he cannot get in to his garage.

Sam Cadwell is the guardian of one of the men, he states that the men can get down the ramp but they worry about staff in the winter. He states that they had a 30 year old lift that broke. He states that they had to put in for 2 lifts as they were told that they cannot share resources. He states that the options are limited, and putting in for 2 lifts is a waste of resources. He states that the lift would be helpful for staff as it would increase safety.

BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS –
Mr. Babbitt stated that the ramp request will be followed up on and he stated that he is happy to be working with Bergmann Center again.

Mr. Rubingh states that their County Commissioner meeting is tonight and the preliminary cost of the public safety center is on the list. The bond was not to exceed 27 million and they are currently at 26 .5 million. He states that the public safety center is going to house a new 911 center, but the new computer system for that is going to cost 1 million alone. He stated that there are 24 thousand people in Antrim County and 911 receives 24 thousand calls per year.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 PM by Board Chair Edward Ginop

Edward G Ginop
Ed Ginop, Board Chair