NORTH COUNTRY
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

MINUTES OF THE BOARD
September 17, 2026, 2:30 PM
North Country Community Mental Health
1420 Plaza Drive, Petoskey, Board Room

Mr. Ginop called the meeting to order at 2:42 PM

ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING:
Annemarie Conway, Bob Baldwin, Ed Ginop, Jarris Rubingh, Mike Newman, Ron Iseler, Sarah Bronson, Dave White, Aimee Bissonette

MEMBERS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY:

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dana Wingo, Dan CasaSanta, Dale Eschenburg

STAFF: Brian Babbitt, Nancy Rhue, Tim Stapp Jr., Ann Friend, Kim Rappleyea, Tiffany Kiper, Joe Balberde, Katie Lorence, Adrea Rose, Breena Walker, Jennfier Pewinski

GUESTS: Micah Haven, Nikki Smith, Phyllis Priest Cindy Evans, Dorothy Felton, Jean Favior

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Mr. Iseler said he may have a conflict of interest in the roof repair at Pine Haven Green and will abstain from voting and discussion if that is the case.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Micah Haven states that GTI has had a busy summer. They are most proud of developing new ways to integrate clients into the community. Funding was secured for their summer learning series, and they have created a partnership with Mancelona Schools. Football Players come in to share a meal with clients and clients are attending the football games. Their community garden project has made great progress with community groups adopting the raised garden beds and they are hoping to host a spring garden party. Consumer Energy has donated electric van with lift to Mancelona GTI. He states that GIT is in week 5 of 12 of their transition to the Statewise documentation system. He states that there is still a lot of work, but the goal of the system is to have better connection with NCCMH, faster information sharing, quicker documentation, and more face-to-face time with clients.

Nikki Smith states that processes are going well and Bergmann Center is almost back to full capacity. They have new staff and clients are starting micro-businesses. Their contract with IMI has been reinstated so they can continue with supported employment. She states that Bergman Center was also in the Venetian Festival Parade.

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 ANNEMARIE CONWAY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA; SUPPORT BY DAVE WHITE

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION*:

Personnel Committee: Mr. Iseler reviewed the minutes of the September 8, 2026, Personnel Committee Meeting. Agenda items included approval of the previous minutes and CEO Compensation.

MOTION BY MIKE NEWMAN TO APPROVE THE 9% INCREASE IN THE CEO SALARY TO BRING THE CEO SALARY CLOSER IN LINE TO THE REGIONAL AND STATE AVERAGE; SUPPORT BY SARAH BRONSON:

ROLL CALL:

AYE: BOB BALDWIN, MIKE NEWMAN, SARAH BRONSON, AIMEE BISSONETTE, DAVE WHITE, ANNEMARIE CONWAY, RON ISELER, ED GINOP

NAY: JARRIS RUBINGH

NOT VOTING: NONE

ABSENT: DAN CASA SANTA, DANA WINGO, DALE ESCHENBURG

MOTION CARRIES

Finance Committee Report: Mr. White reviewed the Statement of Cash on Deposit and Disbursements through August 31, 2026, Interim Financial Statements as of July 31, 2026, Revenue and Expense by Fund Source; Trending Revenue and Expenses as of July 31, 2026, the NMRE interim financial report, and proposals for roof repairs at Pine Haven Green and Plaza Drive.

MOTION BY DAVE WHITE TO APPROVE A CONTINUATION PLAN OF THE BUDGET; SUPPORT BY JARRIS RUBINGH:

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY DAVE WHITE TO APPROVE CONTRACTING WITH DYNASTY EXTERIORS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $$26,135.00 (TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS) FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT AT PINE HAVEN GREEN; SUPPORT BY JARRIS RUBINGH:

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY DAVE WHITE TO APPROVE BOARD CONTRACTING WITH QUALITY ROOFING AND EXTERIORS LLC IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $83,715.37 (EIGHTY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTEEN DOLLARS AND THIRTY-SEVEN CENTS) FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT AT PLAZA DRIVE CONTINGENT ON THE REPORT FROM THE BUILDING SETTLING SURVEY AND TO LOOK AT 50 YEAR SHINGLE COST UP TO $10,000.00 (TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS); SUPPORT BY JARRIS RUBINGH:

ROLL CALL:

AYE: MIKE NEWMAN, DAVE WHITE, AIMEE BISSONETTE, RON ISELER, JARRIS RUBINGH, BOB BALDWIN, SARAH BRONSON, ANNEMARIE CONWAY, ED GINOP

NAY: NONE

ABSENT: DALE ESCHENBURG, DANA WINGO, DAN CASASANTA

MOTION CARRIES

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

PRESENTATION – Managed Care Funding – Brian Babbitt- CEO – Mr. Babbitt shared that Michigan Medicaid is managed using a managed care model. Managed care is a healthcare financing system designed to manage costs, service utilization and quality of care. In this system NCCMH receives funding through a capitation method, a fixed amount per enrollee, per month. Capitated funding is based on number of enrollees, program type, age and gender, etc. The major Medicaid program categories are Disabled, Aged, and Blind (DAB), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Healthy Michigan plan. Additional funding is available through waiver programs. Medicaid funding is not tied to specific individuals; it is pooled and used to cover the cost of services for all individuals who use the public mental health system. Some enrollees use few or no services while others require extensive support. Providing more services in a capitated model does not result in the CMHSP receiving more funds. If total service costs exceed available Medicaid funding, the shortfall must be covered by the PIHP, general funds, unrestricted local funds, or enter the risk corridor. If overall costs are less than the funding pool, the extra funds are returned.

ACTION ITEMS WITHOUT COMMITTEE REVIEW – Updated Administration Manual Policy – Mr. Babbitt brought forward the updated Administration Manual Policy. The only change was the removal of the wording "the manual shall be reviewed annually, and changes approved by written signature of the Chief Executive Officer". This was removed because all changes are reviewed by the CEO and the board for approval.

MOTION BY DAVE WHITE TO APPROVE THE UPDATED ADMINISTRATION MANUAL POLICY; SUPPORT BY ANNEMARIE CONWAY:

MOTION CARRIES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Babbitt referred to several items in his report. September 8-9 he was at the Great Lakes Regional Mental Health Association Conference. September 16 he virtually attended the CMHA Legislation & Policy Meeting. He referred to the Mental Health Framework that aims at strengthening the recipient rights office and oversight. He then drew attention to a Bridge Michigan article included in the packet regarding the overhaul of the Medicaid system from HR1. Redetermination every 6 months will begin in January of 2027. Implementing the changes will be a heavy lift for local advocates and the state, which has budgeted for more than 400 new workers to implement the guidance.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE – None

NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY- The minutes of the July Operations meeting, draft minutes of the August Board Meeting, and the July interim financials were included in the packet.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – The brochure for the CMHA Fall Conference was included in the packet. Board members were instructed to contact Ms. Rhue if they would like to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Nikki Smith asked why the rate for a person in a wheelchair and an ambulatory person are the same. She asked why it is a pooled budget and not specific to the person. She states that they need to hire more staff for a 2 to 1 ratio, but it is hard to get people to stay for $17.13 an hour.

Mr. Babbitt said that is why there is strong advocacy from the board association regarding rates. The DCW rates don't fund for wage compression.

Trudy Suave from Bergmann Center stated that the funding presentation was helpful. She also asked how many HAB waivers NCCMH has.

Micah Haven states that it is a big deal for DCW wages. For 3 years they have not been able to give direct care staff more than mandatory increases. Any help to advocate for increased wages would be helpful

BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS – Mr. Rubingh asked if we could update the agenda as introduction of guests turned into public comment this month. He also stated that Antrim County is trying to get their own court. He states that it must be approved through the state. He states that Representative John Roth has introduced the bill in the house, but Senator Damoose has not been very helpful. He states that if it does not happen in this legislative session that the bill will die. They are trying to separate from Traverse County because funds and staff seem to be diverted to Grand Traverse County and Antrim County doesn't seem to receive anything.

Mr. Baldwin stated that Next Thursday September 24th is an open house for Rug Pond from 5-8 PM at the Kaliseum. He invited anyone interested in learning about the Dams in Michigan to come.

Mr. Iseler said that this is the time of year when he pays attention to political signs on a local basis and counts them. He states that John Damoose is up 18-1 over Kate Gallup and Callie Barrr is up 4 -1 over Jack Bergman according to his sign counting.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM by Board Chair Edward Ginop

Edward G Ginop
Ed Ginop, Board Chair