

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board
Board Meeting – October 9, 2025**

I. Call to Order

Chair Eric Lawson called the meeting to order in the Board Room at 3:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Present: Bob Adrian, Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small

Staff & Guests: Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Rebekah Duhaime, Erin Fletcher, John Galarza, Elizabeth Kowalski, Jason Lepper, Nena Sork, Kara Steinke, Jen Walburn, Jennifer Wieczorkowski, Kayla Wikaryasz, Deanna Yates

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

IV. Appointment of Evaluator

Bonnie Cornelius was appointed as evaluator of the meeting.

V. Acknowledgement of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were acknowledged.

VI. Information and/or Comments from the Public

None were presented.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Three grammar revisions will be made to the draft minutes.

After discussion and amendment, a motion was made by Terry Small, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to approve the revised minutes of the September Board meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

VIII. Consent Agenda

Board members received a handout with two additional contracts for review.

Moved by Bob Adrian, supported by Terry Small, to approve the October Consent Agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Bob Adrian, Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Kara Bauer LeMonds. Motion carried.

IX. Consent Agenda: NEMROC

Bob Adrian will abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest.

Moved by Charlotte Helman, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to approve the October Consent Agenda for NEMROC. Roll Call: Ayes: Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Kara Bauer LeMonds. Abstain: Bob Adrian. Motion carried.

Kara Bauer LeMonds entered the meeting.

X. October Monitoring Reports

1. Budgeting 01-004

Connie Cadarette reported on the Statement of Revenue and Expense and Change in Net position for the month ending August 31, 2025, with 91.67% of the year elapsed. She reviewed line items with larger variances, noting that a budget adjustment was not done due to extra funding received. The Change in Net Position is at \$527,234, which are local funds that can be kept. Medicaid is underspent by \$1,142,950 and Healthy Michigan is overspent by \$185,888, for a total underspent amount of \$957,062. The General Funds overspent amount is down to \$19,189. Behavioral Health Home has brought in \$90,190 that can be kept in local funds. The accounting department has switched over to new software and reports may look a little different until everything is settled. The Agency currently has 42 days of cash.

2. Compensation and Benefits 01-008

This monitoring report was provided as a handout at the meeting.

Moved by Kara Bauer LeMonds, supported by Bob Adrian, to approve the October Monitoring Reports. Motion carried.

XI. Public Hearing: FY 26 Budget

Chair Eric Lawson opened the Budget Public Hearing at 3:23 p.m.

Connie reviewed the FY26 Budget Proposal, which included the Revenue Budget, Expenditure Budget (by account), Expenditure Budget (by program), Capital Purchases, and Staffing. The NMRE has estimated an increase in funding of about \$3.7 million, which Connie has budgeted for. The increase is mostly due to the rate adjustments made late in FY25. The projected revenue budget for FY26 is \$42 million.

Nena reported the budget is within the per member per month model provided by the NMRE. There is a 3% cost-of-living adjustment included in the budget for staffing. The Board thanked Connie for her hard work.

Moved by Lloyd Peltier, supported by Charlotte Helman, to approve the FY26 Budget. Roll Call: Ayes: Bob Adrian, Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.

The Budget Public Hearing closed at 3:47 p.m.

XII. Board Policies Review

1. Annual Board Planning Cycle 02-007

The Board reviewed the policy and thinks they are correctly following it.

2. Executive Director Job Description 03-003

The Board reviewed the policy and noted that it is very straightforward.

3. Monitoring Executive Director Performance 03-004

The Board reviewed the policy and feels they are abiding by it.

4. Board Ends Statement 04-001

The Board made one update to the Ends in the FY26 Strategic Plan, which is reflected as a revision in this policy.

Moved by Jennifer Graham, supported by Bonnie Cornelius, to approve the revision to the Board Ends Statement Policy. Motion carried.

XIII. Linkage Reports

1. NMRE Board – September 24

Eric reported there was ongoing discussion of the issues with the MDHHS bid-out process. Nena reported that the judge should be announcing a decision later today on the injunction, and they are prepared to move on to the next step, if needed.

2. Advisory Council – October 6

The Advisory Council met, and a new member was seated. Deanna Yates introduced herself to the Board. Lloyd reported they had a quorum for the first time in months, and it was one of the better meetings they have had.

XIV. Operations Report

Erin Fletcher reported on operations for the month of September. Doctors' Services saw 389 individuals, MI ACT saw 13 individuals, and Outpatient Counseling saw 100 individuals (25 children/75 adults). The total of unduplicated individuals served for the month of September was 1,000.

XV. Board Chair's Report

1. FY26 Strategic Plan

The spiral bound FY26 Strategic Plans were presented as a handout to the Board.

2. Board Bylaws Regarding Employment

Eric reported on a situation that recently came up, where a Board member's sister was hired as a full-time employee by the Agency. The Board Bylaws state, "Employment of a Board member or any member of his or her immediate family is prohibited." The Board discussed their opinions and options. They would like to retain that Board members cannot be employed by the Agency but would like to work on the wording regarding family. Since Nena is technically the only employee of the Board, she acts as an intermediary between the Board and staff. In such a small community, it may be hard to find Board members who don't have a close connection to someone at the Agency. This will be further discussed at the November Board meeting.

3. Schedule Nominations Committee Meeting

The Nominations Committee, made up of Charlotte, Dana, Kara, and Terry, will meet at 2:30 p.m. prior to the November 13 Board meeting.

4. CMHA Fall Board Conference – Attendees and Voting Delegates

Dana, Jennifer, and Kara will be attending the conference, with Dana and Kara being the voting delegates.

XVI. Executive Director's Report

Nena introduced Kara Steinke, the new Chief Administrative Officer and Kerry Rastigue, the new Deputy Clinical Director. Nena reviewed her meetings and activities over the last month. Three of the four counties have now signed resolutions opposing the bid-out. The Agency hosted a virtual training on human trafficking that was attended by about 100 staff members and community partners.

XVII. Information and/or Comments from the Public

Kara Steinke reported she is excited to be with the Agency and she brings 30 years' experience working in substance use disorder treatment.

XVIII. Information and/or Comments for the Good of the Organization

None were presented.

XIX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

1. November Agenda Items

The proposed November agenda items were reviewed.

XX. Meeting Evaluation

Bonnie feels everyone comes prepared every time. She thinks they are all allowed to speak their minds and ask questions. She was satisfied with what the Board accomplished, and the materials were sufficient. She felt this was one of the most interactive meetings the Board has had in a long time.

XXI. Adjournment

Moved by Charlotte Helman, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

This meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

[signed by Bonnie Cornelius November 13, 2025]

Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[signed by Eric Lawson November 13, 2025]

Eric Lawson, Chair