

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board
Board Meeting – January 8, 2026**

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Lloyd Peltier 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, Jennifer Graham, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small

Absent: Bonnie Cornelius (excused), Dana Labar (excused), Eric Lawson (excused)

Staff & Guests: Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Rebekah Duhaime, Erin Fletcher, Liz Kowalski, Jason Lepper, Nena Sork, Kara Steinke, Kay Wagner, Kayla Wikaryasz

Lloyd announced that Dr. Lauren Tompkins has resigned from the NeMCMHA Board for personal reasons.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

IV. Appointment of Evaluator

Bob Adrian 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

Charlotte Helman requested a revision to the motion regarding the Executive Director's contract, noting that the months should be added. The revised motion will read "...to approve the Executive Director's contract for October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2028."

Moved by Charlotte Helman, supported by Terry Small, to approve the revised minutes of the December Board meeting. Motion carried.

VIII. January Monitoring Reports

1. Budgeting 01-004

Connie Cadarette reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expense and Change in Net Position for the month ending November 30, 2025, with 16.67% of the fiscal year elapsed. She noted that line 13, Other Revenue, will be corrected as some money was incorrectly placed under that item. Budgeting percentages are tracking well. Medicaid and Healthy Michigan funds are both underspent. General Funds are stable after going through necessary channels for a PA423 Board. BHH revenue exceeds expenses by \$9,351.

2. Emergency Executive Succession 01-006

This monitoring report was provided as a handout. Updates were made to remove the COO, as that position no longer exists. The Board discussed succession planning and how they have historically promoted from within.

IX. Board Policies Review

1. Emergency Executive Succession 01-006

The policy was reviewed alongside the monitoring report, and no further questions were raised.

2. Executive Director Role 03-001

The Board reviewed the policy and did not have any questions, noting it is very straightforward.

X. Operations Report

Erin Fletcher reported on operations for the month of December. The Access department completed 54 routine screens, and no emergent or urgent screens. I/DD Case Management served 134 individuals. One staff member from this department is on medical leave, which accounts for the below average number. A total of 938 unduplicated individuals were served during the month of December.

XI. Board Chair's Report

1. Review Revisions to Board Bylaws Article V – Officers

Rebekah and Nena reviewed Article V, Section 1. Officers; Election; Term of Office, as discussed at the previous Board meeting. Board members were presented with suggested revisions to clarify the intention of the Nominations Committee and when they meet.

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

XII. Executive Director's Report

Nena first noted that the judge has not yet issued his opinion on the lawsuit, but that they should receive it soon and they remain hopeful that it will be a positive outcome. She next reported on her activities over the last month. She and HR started the process of reviewing health insurance providers and costs in the marketplace, and she attended a meeting with the Training Team to discuss their budget and ways to increase promotion of trainings. She also met with Rehmann to discuss goals for the future. Nena announced that as of January 1, Dr. Thibault-Hladki is the new Medical Director. She and Dr. Hoffman will work together for six months to navigate the transition.

Around ten years ago, staff created a donation fund to provide gifts during the holidays for individuals served who may not otherwise receive a gift. Due to generous staff donations, every request was able to be fulfilled this year. A new quarterly meeting will be starting next week, Bridges and Breakfast, which will include Agency staff and local DHHS staff to facilitate networking and foster better working relationships. Nena shared with the Board that after the last NMRE Board meeting, she spoke with Deanna Yockey, the NMRE's CFO. Deanna praised Connie and the wonderful work she does, stating that she has a great reputation due to her knowledge and work ethic. Board members praised Connie for her ability to explain financial concepts in an approachable manner.

XIII. Information and/or Comments from the Public

None were presented.

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

Kara shared that the Mental Health Maps for all four counties have now been completed. She and Mary Schalk from Partners in Prevention are now applying for a grant that would help them complete a Sequential Intercept Model. They are hosting an open house on January 23 from 3-7 p.m. at Joshua Tree Studio to demonstrate the Mental Health Maps.

Jennifer requested that the Executive Director's contract be added to next month's agenda for further review. She would like the Board to have more discussion of the salary, as her continued research shows that the agreed upon amount is too low. Charlotte agreed to wanting more dialogue about the contract, as they had such short notice before needing to approve it. A more thorough process may need to be established for contract renewals

in the future.

XV. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

1. February Agenda Items

The proposed February agenda items were provided.

XVI. Meeting Evaluation

Bob reported members came prepared and they always have frank, open discussions. He feels the provided materials were adequate and that Lloyd did a great job running the meeting.

XVII. Adjournment

Moved by Terry Small, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

This meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

[Signed by Bonnie Cornelius on February 12, 2026]

Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[Signed by Eric Lawson on February 12, 2026]

Eric Lawson, Chair