

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board  
Board Meeting – September 12, 2024**

**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: Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Judy Jones, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small

Absent: Bob Adrian, Charlotte Helman (Excused), Gary Nowak (Excused)

Staff & Guests: Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Mary Crittenden, Rebekah Duhaime, Ruth Hewett, Mikki Manion, Brooke Paczkowski, Nena Sork

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

**IV. Appointment of Evaluator**

Kara Bauer LeMonds 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**

There were no comments from the public.

**VII. Approval of Minutes**

***Moved by Terry Small, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2024, Board meeting, as presented.*** Motion carried.

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

Board members received a handout with three additional items to approve for the Consent Agenda.

***Moved by Lloyd Peltier, supported by Terry Small, to approve the September Consent Agenda.*** Roll Call:  
Ayes: Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Judy Jones, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Bob Adrian, Charlotte Helman, Gary Nowak.  
Abstain: None. Motion carried.

**IX. FY24 Budget Amendment**

Connie reviewed the Amended Revenue and Expenditure Budgets. She budgeted for \$174,507 more in expenses due to changes in revenue and was able to move things around to correct several line items that had large variances.

**X. September Monitoring Report**

**1. Budgeting 01-004**

Connie reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expense and Change in Net Position for the month ending July 31, 2024, utilizing the amended budget. Medicaid funds are overspent by \$273,475 and Healthy MI funds are overspent by \$207,107. General Funds are overspent by \$566,516. The change in net position is negative \$206,206, which is the amount of money the Agency is unable to cover for General Funds. The General Fund shortage is across the State. Of the five boards in the NMRE, the Agency has the smallest deficit of the four who are in the negative. One CMH has some extra General Funds and will be able to provide \$75,000 to the Agency. A lot of the shortage has to do with Medicaid redeterminations. The Agency has requested extra General Funds from the State.

***Moved by Terry Small, supported by Bonnie Cornelius, to approve the FY24 Budget Amendment and the September Monitoring Report.*** Motion carried.

**XI. Endowment Fund Grant Awards**

The money in the fund comes from staff paycheck donations. Eric reported the fund is there to help those with needs to get to work or for help with their businesses, including micro enterprises.

**XII. Board Policies Review and Self-Evaluation**

**1. General Executive Constraint 01-001**

Board members reviewed the policy and did not feel it required any revisions.

**2. Compensation and Benefits 01-008**

No revisions were suggested for this policy.

**3. Committee Structure 02-006**

Eric suggested a change to 1. A to make it clear the Board will be “‘reviewing’ proposed, pending, and current legislation...” The Board feels they are executing the policy appropriately.

**4. Executive Director Search Process 03-005**

Eric reported this is a relatively new policy that works well, and they are still abiding by it.

***Moved by Les Buza, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to approve the revision to the Committee Structure Policy.***

Motion carried.

**XIII. Linkage Reports**

**1. NMRE Board Meeting – August 28**

Eric reported they are still wrestling with various changes the State is trying to make, including Conflict-Free Access and Planning (CFAP). Nena said the State will not be implementing CFAP on October 1, and they have reached out to Washington D.C. experts from CMS to see if it is needed.

**2. CMHA Fall Conference – October 21-22**

Board members need to let Rebekah Duhaime know if they plan to attend. Lloyd and Gary plan to attend.

**XIV. Operations Report**

Mary Crittenden reported on operations for the month of August. There were 57 routine requests for services and 58 crisis contacts. Outpatient counseling served 111 individuals, 17 youth and 94 adults, and that number will continue to trend upwards due to increased staffing. The total of unduplicated individuals served in August was 1,063.

**XV. Board Chair’s Report**

**1. Setting Perpetual Calendar**

The Board reviewed the annual calendar for FY25.

***Moved by Kara Bauer LeMonds, supported by Terry Small, to adopt the proposed perpetual calendar.***

Motion carried.

**2. Board Self-Evaluation Report**

The Board reviewed the 2024 Self-Evaluation Summary report. There were 9 of 12 surveys returned this year. There was a trend of less Strongly Agree answers on the report. Board members discussed possible reasons for this, including members being newer to the Board or feeling marking Strongly Agree means they don’t think there’s room for improvement. Eric briefly reviewed some write-in comments. Kara reported

that she is interested in more personalized accounts of how individuals are successfully helped. She would like to be able to see how the way the Agency helps people could also be used to help those with private insurance. There was a comment requesting further continued education, and Eric discussed upcoming educational sessions, including Peer Support, Community Living Support (CLS), Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Supported Independence Program (SIP), Behavioral Health Home (BHH), and court-ordered treatment with Dr. Spurlock.

**XVI. Executive Director’s Report**

Nena introduced Mikki Manion, the new HR Manager with Rehmann. Mikki has been in Human Resources for 24 years, with the last 12 in the private sector. She is originally from Marine City, Michigan. She said there is a great team at the Agency and the HR department is working very hard to make needed changes. She thinks everyone will be pleased with the improvements they make. Nena reported the biggest project they have tackled to start is the HR Cloud and the new onboarding process, which will be rolling out October 1.

Nena reviewed her activities over the last month, including NMORC, NMRE Operations, Rural and Frontier Caucus, NMRE Board, Cheboygan DHHS, NMRE Finance Committee, and CMHA DEI meetings. During the week of September 2, she attended the Directors’ Forum in Lansing. Both the Rogers City and Alpena Suicide Prevention Walks are coming up and Nena will be attending both.

Nena reported the PIHPs and CMHSPs are about \$93 million in the negative right now. MDHHS has \$150 million that was supposed to be released to the behavioral health system, but it is still holding onto the funds. If the funds aren’t released by September 30, MDHHS can utilize the funds elsewhere at their own discretion.

**XVII. Information and/or Comments from the Public**

None were presented.

**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, October 10 at 3:00 p.m.

**1. October Agenda Items**

The proposed October agenda items were reviewed.

**XX. Meeting Evaluation**

Kara reported Board members came prepared and were given adequate materials for review. She thinks the Agency is well-run, which can be complicated when dealing with funding from the State.

**XXI. Adjournment**

***Moved by Les Buza, supported by Kara Bauer LeMonds, to adjourn the meeting.*** Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

*[signed by Bonnie Cornelius November 14, 2024]*  
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

Rebekah Duhaime  
Recorder

*[signed by Eric Lawson November 14, 2024]*  
Eric Lawson, Chair