

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board  
Board Meeting  
February 10, 2022**

**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: Robert Adrian, Geyer Balog, Les Buza, Roger Frye, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small

Absent: Bonnie Cornelius

Staff & Guests: Lisa Anderson, Renee Ballard, Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Mary Crittenden, Rebekah Duhaime, Erin Fletcher, Nena Sork, Jen Whyte

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

**IV. Appointment of Evaluator**

Eric Lawson appointed Geyer Balog as evaluator for this meeting.

**V. Acknowledgement of Conflict of Interest**

There was no conflict of interest declared.

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

There were no comments presented.

**VII. Approval of Minutes**

*Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Pat Przeslawski, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2022 meeting as presented.* Motion carried.

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

**A. Merit Internet Service Connection**

**B. Fletcher Street Lease Extension**

*Moved by Roger Frye, supported by Gary Nowak, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.* Roll call vote: Ayes: Robert Adrian, Geyer Balog, Les Buza, Roger Frye, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Bonnie Cornelius. Motion carried.

**IX. Educational Session – CARF**

The CARF presentation is rescheduled to the April Board meeting due to staff illness.

**X. February Monitoring Report**

**1. Treatment of Individuals Served 01-002**

Pat Przeslawski reported the Recipient Rights Committee met on January 26. The current committee members all indicated a desire to continue service for another year. Pat reported Ruth Hewett informed committee members of the hiring of a new Rights Advisor beginning March 1, 2022. Pat reported the reports are consistent with past reports and the areas associated with medication issues is due to individuals refusing to take their medications as prescribed. Eric Lawson thanked committee members for their willingness to continue their service on this committee.

Eric Lawson noted the remediation of the substantiated rights violations indicates how the Agency or Provider addressed each substantiation.

## **2. Staff Treatment 01-003**

Nena Sork reported last Board meeting there was a question about open positions. She reported there are 77 openings, many of the openings are in the direct care programs. Nena Sork reported another contributing factor to the vacancies attributes to retirement of the current employees in which 56% of the Agency's staff are eligible for retirement in the next five years. There are new hires coming on Board. Nena Sork noted our salary averages have helped in recruitment. Gary Nowak questioned the number of resignations with Nena reporting this is due to the pandemic, sign on bonuses elsewhere, and other benefits we don't have to offer.

A SIP Worker attended the meeting and likes the program she works in. Eric Lawson redirected the individual to offer comments under Information and Comments from the public.

*Moved by Pat Przeslawski, supported by Lynnette Gzreskowiak, to accept the February Monitoring Reports as presented.* Motion carried.

## **XI. Board Policies Review & Self-Evaluation**

### **1. Asset Protection 01-007**

There were no revisions or comments provided related to this policy. Diane Hayka reported this policy is traditionally reviewed the same month the audit report is presented. Due to the late onset of the audit, the audit will be presented at the March meeting.

### **2. Board Committee Principles 02-005**

Board members reviewed the policy and Pat Przeslawski noted the Board is following this policy well. She reports this identifies the fact that they cannot exercise authority over staff. She also noted it addresses interaction with the community.

### **3. Delegation to the Executive Director 03-002**

Pat Przeslawski reported the Board update this policy just two years ago. The policy is clear and does not require further revision.

## **XII. Linkage Reports**

### **1. Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHAM)**

#### **a. CMHA Regional Meeting 02-23**

The regional meetings with the Community Mental Health Association have been scheduled. The northern region is scheduled from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 23. This is a Zoom meeting. Diane Hayka reserved the Administrative Conference Room for Board members wishing to attend locally. Eric Lawson will plan to attend. This is the same day as the NMRE Board meeting in Gaylord. The CMHA by-laws finals are also included with the materials distributed today.

### **2. Northern Michigan Regional Entity (NMRE)**

#### **a. Board Meeting January 26, 2022**

The draft minutes for NMRE's most recent Board meeting were distributed. Next month one member of our Board's term will expire on the NMRE Board and we will need to reappoint.

### **3. Advisory Council**

Due to a lack of quorum this meeting was cancelled.

## **XIII. Operations Report**

Mary Crittenden reviewed the service data from the January report. She noted in physician services 422 individuals received a service. In the Older Adults program 115 individuals received a service, in the MI Adult program 113 individuals received a service and in the I/DD program 174 individuals received a service. A total of 977 individuals received at least one service from the Agency in January.

**XIV. Chair's Report**

Eric Lawson reported he is in receipt of a "thank you" card from the APS School Board for their contribution of ear buds and thumb drives. The staff at Lincoln School also sent in their own "thank you" card.

**1. Strategic Plan Final Format**

The final format of the Strategic Plan was distributed and reviewed by Board members. A copy will be provided to any member wishing to have a personal copy. This document is published on the Agency's website.

**XV. Director's Report**

**1. Director Update**

Nena Sork reported she attended the OPS meeting. During the last Board meeting, it was announced by the Supreme Court of the vaccine mandate. Legal counsel was obtained and a final opinion was received and at the OPS meeting we learned we did not fall under the mandate. The federal dollars do not come directly to the agency but flow through the state. She noted we had received the 10:30 a.m. communication indicating the Agency did not need to mandate the vaccine and by 1:30 p.m. staff were alerted to the suspension of the mandate. The policy is suspended at this point.

Nena reported training related to Human Trafficking was provided with staff receiving CEs under our ACE Certification. She noted this training will be offered again and will be open to the community for the next session. This subject is a requirement of licensure. She reported another upcoming training on February 25, focused on DSM-V, is scheduled with community members able to take the training. This will be held at ACCs Granum Theatre. There will be a nominal fee for this of \$10/CE.

She participated in the webinar for the Center of Behavioral Health and Justice.

She reported we are working with the hospital on placement of an individual screened at the hospital taking a long time to find placement.

She reported Management has been working diligently to get salaries to average. Three of the five areas are now at average or above. The largest groups are at 1.9% below and 6% below. Focus will continue on these groups to get them to average as well.

The CARF accreditation survey was scheduled for May or June of this year. Due to their number of reviews, our CARF review has been pushed out to July or August.

Ear buds and flash drives have been disbursed to all schools. The crisis numbers are printed on the flash drive. She reported Johannesburg-Lewiston School is not in our catchment area; however, many of the students attending the school live in Montmorency County so they will be delivered next Tuesday.

**2. Endowment Fund Awards**

Board members received the report of grant awards for the past six months.

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

An individual in attendance noted the COVID bonuses were not applied to all programs. She asked for guidance as to whom she could meet with to discuss further. She would like to express her concerns and will meet with Nena to get additional questions answered.

**XVII. Information and/or Comments for the Good of the Board**

Pat Przeslawski commented about policies leading the actions of the Board. Roger Frye reported the supply chain may affect supplies in our area due to the truckers protests.

**XVIII. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board will be held Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

**1. Set March Agenda**

The March agenda items were reviewed.

**XIX. Evaluation of Meeting**

Geyer Balog reported the meeting started on time. He was pleased the Agency did not have to mandate vaccines. He believes this meeting was very efficient.

**XX. Adjournment**

*Moved by Geyer Balog, supported by Gary Nowak, to adjourn the meeting.* Motion carried.  
This meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

*[signed by Bonnie Cornelius on 03/10/2022]*  
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

*[signed by Eric Lawson on 03/10/2022]*  
Eric Lawson, Chair

Diane Hayka  
Recorder