Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority
Board Meeting – July 9, 2026

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

II. **Seating of New Board Member**
Dennis Bannon from Presque Isle County was seated as a new Board member.

III. **Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**

Present:	Bob Adrian, Dennis Bannon, Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Charlotte Helman, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Lloyd Peltier, Anne Ryan, Terry Small.
Absent:	Lynnette Grzeskowiak (Excused), Dana Labar (Excused)
Staff & Guests:	Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Rebekah Duhaime, Jason Lepper, Jared Kendziorski, Samantha Morrison, Nena Sork, Kara Steinke, Kay Wagner, Jen Walburn

IV. **Pledge of Allegiance**
Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

V. **Appointment of Evaluator**
Jennifer Graham was appointed as evaluator of the meeting.

VI. **Acknowledgement of Conflict of Interest**
No conflicts of interest were acknowledged.

VII. **Information and/or Comments from the Public**
Kay Wagner introduced Samantha Morrison, who will be taking over Kay's role as the HR Generalist when she retires on August 4, after 37 years with the Agency.

VIII. **Approval of Minutes**
Moved by Charlotte Helman, supported by Terry Small, to approve the minutes of the June Board meeting. Motion carried.

IX. **July Monitoring Reports**
1.Budgeting 01-004
Connie Cadarette reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expense and Change in Net Position for the month ending May 31, 2026, with 66.67% of the year elapsed. She discussed line items with variances, noting that most will smooth out over the last few months of the fiscal year.

Kara Bauer LeMonds entered the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

The Change in Net Position is $926,077, which includes county funds, NMRE incentive revenue, and interest income, which are all funds that can be kept as local money. BHH is underspent by $131,637, which can also be kept as local funds. Medicaid funds were underspent and Healthy Michigan funds were overspent, for a total underspent amount of $1.7 million. General Funds are underspent by $50,088, of which $40,093 can be carried forward. MIS will be purchasing IT equipment to stay ahead of increasing costs for next year.

2. Asset Protection 01-007
The Board received the monitoring report as a handout. They discussed capital improvement plans with Nena, including vehicle replacements and technology. Nena was able to take care of HVAC updates, roofs, and parking lots when COVID funds were available. Connie discussed the Agency's banking/credit union accounts.

3. Community Resources 01-010
Nena shared that Kara Steinke, CAO, will be taking over as the Agency's representative on the NMORC Board. Kara has also initiated Bridges & Breakfast this year, which aims to meet quarterly with community partners to build relationships and improve processes.

X. Board Policies Review

1. Community Resources 01-010
The Board thinks the policy is straightforward and that a lot of collaboration is happening.

2. Public Hearings 02-010
Connie appreciates that the policy allows for the finalized budget to be presented in September or October.

XI. Operations Report

Kara Steinke presented the operations report for the month of June. The Agency served 992 individuals. There are new clinicians in Children's Services and Outpatient Counseling, with two more starting in the fall. The Agency has served 2,120 unduplicated individuals so far this year.

XII. Strategic Plan: Review & Revise

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the FY27 Strategic Plan, which will be officially accepted during the August Board meeting. The goal regarding reducing the risk of metabolic syndrome will have information added for clarity and the NMRE's QAPIPs were updated. There will be two additions to both Barriers/Challenges and Opportunities: acute care inpatient psychiatric bed availability and H.R.1's Medicaid enrollment requirements will be added to the former, and consultation with the jail and working with elected officials will be added to the latter. The Board's Sub-Ends regarding development of additional supported independent services for two individuals currently living in a dependent setting will be removed as the Agency has well-surpassed this Sub-End. The Sub-Ends for BHH will have updated goal percentages presented to the Board at the August meeting.

XIII. Board Chair's Report

1. NeMCMHA Annual Report
The Board received the Agency's FY25 Annual Report at the meeting. Eric asked that Board members pass it on to someone else in the community after they read it.

2. Board Self-Evaluation Format
The Board's self-evaluations will be changing to three per year, instead of monthly. The Board's larger annual self-evaluation will remain in August/September. The Board will discuss a new format for the remaining yearly evaluations during their October meeting, which will then be utilized in December and April.

3. Preparing for Executive Director's Evaluation
Eric reiterated that Nena's evaluation is based on the monitoring reports. Rebekah can provide any monitoring reports that Board members may need.

XIV. Executive Director's Report

Nena provided a report on her activities over the month of June, including chairing the CMHA Member Services Committee, attending NMRE Ops, meeting with the Executive Director of PACE Northeast Michigan, meeting with Alan Bolter regarding the Rural and Frontier Caucus, attending the NMRE Finance Committee, meeting with Representative Cavitt regarding psychiatric hospital beds in rural areas, and meeting with Commander Utt from the MSP. The Agency will be providing training for the MSP troopers.

Nena reported that Elizabeth Hertel will be stepping down as the director of MDHHS as of June 30. Any additional RFPs in an attempt to privatize Michigan's behavioral health system will be on hold for now. Nena continues to work on the urban cooperative agreement, Bridge Health, which was created in response to the original RFP. When H.R.1 takes effect on January 1, many under the Healthy Michigan Plan will lose coverage. The Agency's Generals Funds budget decreased to $1.2 million in 2014, and there hasn't been an increase since then. General Funds are used to provide crisis services and inpatient hospitalization for the acutely mentally ill who do not have Medicaid. Under H.R. 1, Medicaid redeterminations will occur every six months instead of annually and there will be a work requirement. As the Agency receives funding on a per-member per-month basis, it will lose funding as the number of Medicaid enrollees declines.

The Agency's annual Employee Recognition Luncheon will be on July 30 at 11:00 a.m. All Board members are invited to attend. Staff will complete their Annual Staff Training the day before, and the Agency will close at noon to allow staff to use the building for lunch and training. Nena would like to do some additional spending on IT with the expected surplus funds. She may also ask the Board for a staff retention payment. Nena shared that they will not be doing a Rehmann staff survey this year, as Management Team is still working on items that came up during previous surveys.

XV. Information and/or Comments from the Public

Kay thanked the board for the 37 years she's been here. She loves this organization and the individuals it serves. Kay started as a direct care worker, then became a group home supervisor, and then a SIP supervisor before shifting to Human Resources for the last 18 years. She will be staying on as a CPR trainer.

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

Nothing was presented.

XVII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

1. Proposed August Agenda Items

The August agenda items were reviewed.

XVIII. Meeting Evaluation

Jennifer said yes to Board members coming prepared to govern, being offered opportunities to contribute to conversation, being satisfied with what the Board accomplished, and that the provided materials were sufficient. She liked that the Board was prepared for their responsibilities over the coming months. She appreciates Nena keeping the Board appraised of things going on outside the Agency that will have an impact on it.

XIX. Adjournment

Moved by Lloyd Peltier, supported by Jennifer Graham, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

This meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

[Signed by Bonnie Cornelius on August 13, 2026]
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[Signed by Eric Lawson on August 13, 2026]
Eric Lawson, Chair