

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board
Board Meeting – March 12, 2026**

- I. **Call to Order**
Chair Eric Lawson called the meeting to order in the Board Room at 3:01 p.m.

- II. **Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**
Present: Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Lloyd Peltier, Anne Ryan, Terry Small
Absent: Bob Adrian (Excused), Charlotte Helman (Excused), Kara Bauer LeMonds (Excused),
Staff & Guests: Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Rebekah Duhaime, Erin Fletcher, Jason Lepper, Brooke Paczkowski, Kerry Rastigue, Amanda Richardson, Debbie Sayers, Nena Sork, Kara Steinke, Kayla Wikaryasz

- III. **Pledge of Allegiance**
Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

- IV. **Appointment of Evaluator**
Lynnette Grzeskowiak 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**
Lloyd Peltier stated he saw Larry Patterson, and that he wanted to pass on a “hello.”

- VII. **Approval of Minutes**
Moved by Dana Labar, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to approve the minutes of the February Board meeting.
Motion carried.

- VIII. **Educational Session: Court Orders with Brooke Paczkowski**
Brooke Paczkowski, NeMCMHA’s Court Liaison, provided the Board with an overview of court ordered mental health treatment. She reviewed Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), deferrals, and orders. AOT is a way for adults to receive court ordered mental health treatment in the community without hospitalization, allowing individuals to get help before they harm themselves or others, or end up in the criminal justice system. Brooke reviewed the petition process. Individuals must be screened at the emergency department and then clinical certificates will be completed, which are used by the probate judge to provide reasoning for why an individual should be placed on an order. The judge must find one of three scenarios to be true for an individual to be placed on an order: the individual is a danger to themselves or others, they are unable to attend to their needs, and/or they have a lack of understanding of their need for treatment. Brooke and Agency providers have a monthly Deferral/AOT Case Review meeting where they discuss orders that are coming due for expiration. These meetings help them determine whether an individual still meets criteria for the court order.

- IX. **March Monitoring Reports**
1. Budgeting 01-004
Connie Cadarette reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expense and Change in Net Position for the month ending January 31, 2026, with 33.33% of the year elapsed. She is pleased with how line items are tracking. Line 36, Property and Liability Insurance, will smooth out this summer once the rebate is received. Medicaid is currently underspent by \$1.2 million and Healthy Michigan is underspent by \$115,251, for a total underspent amount of \$1,357,466. Behavioral Health Home (BHH) is underspent by \$45,682. BHH is looking to add more staff so they can serve more individuals.

Moved by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, supported by Bonnie Cornelius, to accept the March Monitoring Report.
Motion carried.

X. Board Policies Review

1. Budgeting 01-004

The Board agreed that the policy is still adequate.

2. Board Members' Ethical Code of Conduct 02-008

Board members discussed item 2.C., to ensure it reflected the recently revised Board bylaws regarding employment of family members. They did not find any necessary revisions.

3. Asset Protection 01-004

The Board reviewed the presented grammar revisions.

Moved by Lloyd Peltier, supported by Bonnie Cornelius, to approve the revisions to the Asset Protection policy. Motion carried.

XI. Board Member Recognition

Eric recognized Lynnette Grzeskowiak and Terry Small for reaching five years of service to NeMCMHA. They were presented with certificates for reaching the milestone.

Moved by Terry Small, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to recess the Board meeting for refreshments at 3:43 p.m. Motion carried.

Chair Eric Lawson called the meeting back to order at 3:51 p.m.

XII. Linkage Reports

1. NMRE Board

Dana reported they received positive updates regarding Northern Lakes CMHA. Their new Executive Director, Lynda Zeller, is methodically reviewing all aspects of the CMH. Northern Lakes will have a greater deficit than expected for FY25, which will pull from the NMRE's internal savings fund.

XIII. Operations Report

Erin Fletcher reported on operations for the month of February. Crisis services saw 28 individuals and completed 39 prescreens, resulting in 19 hospital authorizations. Outpatient counseling served 105 individuals, including 26 children. The total number of individuals served for the month of February was 963. Erin introduced Amanda Richardson, who just returned to the Agency as the new MI Adult Case Management Supervisor.

XIV. Report of the Nominations Committee

Jennifer reported the committee met before the meeting, and their suggestion is to keep the seats for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary the same as they currently are, with Eric, Lloyd, and Bonnie, respectively. As there is not currently a Past Chair on the Board, this seat on the Executive Committee will be changed to Member at Large. The Nominations Committee would like to nominate Charlotte Helman for this seat. Elections will occur at the April Board meeting, and additional nominations can be voiced at that time.

XV. Board Chair's Report

1. Executive Director's Contract

Moved by Bonnie Cornelius, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to open the Executive Director's contract for the sole purpose of discussing an amendment to Article II – Compensation /Contract Payments. Motion carried, as amended.

Board members and Nena discussed adding an economic opener for the third year of the contract under Article

II – Compensation/Contract Payments 2.2.c., to read, “at the September 2027 Board meeting, either party may initiate negotiations regarding the economic provisions of this agreement. Such negotiations may be opened either by mutual consent or by one party providing written notice to the Board Chair of its intent to negotiate compensation for the final year of this agreement.”

Moved by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to adopt the proposed language as an amendment to the Executive Director’s contract. Roll Call: Ayes: Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Lloyd Peltier, Anne Ryan, Terry Small; Nays: None. Absent: Bob Adrian, Charlotte Helman, Kara Bauer LeMonds. Motion carried.

2. PAC Reminder

Eric reminded Board members to review the CMHA PAC flyer. Board members typically contribute a per diem.

XVI. Executive Director’s Report

Nena detailed her activities over the last month including meeting with Cam Cavitt, attending NMRE Ops, meeting with ACC and WMU to discuss the promotion of their BSW and MSW programs they offer in Alpena, hosting the biennial community stakeholder meeting, and meeting with Judge Curtis. The five directors of the NMRE’s CMHs met to problem solve and set goals for the region. Work is starting on creating evidence-based practices for rural settings for SIP monitoring and court ordered mental health treatment. She would like the Agency to become a residency rotation for psychiatry. Jeff Wirgau hosts many PA interns, and it is a very successful program. Nena reported that she gets monthly reports on employment and this is the first time since COVID that the Agency is below 50 open positions. The Agency received over 800 applications in the last year.

XVII. Information and/or Comments from the Public

None were presented.

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

Lloyd Peltier presented a monetary donation to Bayview Center on behalf of the Hillman Knights of Columbus. Connie reported they will use the money for good as they are very creative with their community offerings.

XIX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

1. April Agenda Items

The proposed April agenda items were provided.

XX. Meeting Evaluation

Lynnette felt everyone came prepared and that it was a productive and informative meeting. She always appreciates Nena’s detailed reports. She was satisfied with what the Board accomplished, and the provided materials were sufficient. She is happy that Nena’s contract was revised and she loved the court training today. She would like to see updated questions for the meeting evaluation.

XXI. Adjournment

Moved by Dana Labar, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

This meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

[Signed by Bonnie Cornelius on April 9, 2026]
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[Signed by Eric Lawson on April 9, 2026]
Eric Lawson, Chair