

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board
Board Meeting – May 14, 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, Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Lloyd Peltier, Anne Ryan, Terry Small
Absent: Eric Lawson (Excused)
Staff & Guests: Carolyn Bruning, Rebekah Duhaime, Erin Fletcher, Liz Kowalski, Kerry Rastigue, Nena Sork, Kara Steinke

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

- IV. **Appointment of Evaluator**
Kara 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**
Nothing was presented.

- VII. **Approval of Minutes**
Moved by Charlotte Helman, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to approve the minutes of the April Board meeting. Motion carried.

- VIII. **Environmental Scan: Eric Kurtz**
Eric Kurtz, CEO of the NMRE, provided the Board with their environmental outlook. Eric briefly reviewed the NMRE, which serves as the Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) under direct contract with the State as a managed care entity for their 21-county region. He went over the NMRE’s funding sources, including Medicaid for individuals with mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, substance use disorders, and intellectual/development disabilities (\$235 million); Medicaid specifically for substance use disorder (\$19 million); Block Grant for substance use disorder (\$7 million); and liquor tax funds (\$1.9 million).

Eric reviewed Behavioral Health Home (BHH), which was fully rolled out in the region in 2020. There are currently 730 individuals enrolled in BHH across all five CMHSPs of the NMRE. Opioid Health Home (OHH) is now called Substance Use Disorder Health Home (SUDHH), as a broader range of substance use, including alcohol, now fall under its umbrella. Individuals must have Medicaid to utilize one of the health home programs.

He went over potential threats to the CMH system, including revenue fluctuations, federal Medicaid cuts, the mental health framework, the court of claims opinion/PIHP bid out, the court of claims PIHP contract, a lack of state hospital beds (for adults and children), and Conflict Free Access and Planning (CFAP).

Regional goals for FY26 include continuing to advance regional marketing and advocacy efforts regarding rural initiatives and exemptions; leaning heavily on legislators related to rural initiatives, state policy, and future bid out proposals; striving for 100% performance on MDHHS performance incentives; increasing focus on Utilization Management/implementation of Indicia; and increasing regional capacity for out-of-region clients.

Board members discussed how to make the public more aware of the implications of some of the State's decisions.

IX. Consent Agenda

1. IPfone POTSBOX

Moved by Jennifer Graham, supported by Kara Bauer LeMonds, to accept the May Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

X. May Monitoring Reports

1. Budgeting 01-004

Nena reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expense and Change in Net Position for the month ending March 31, 2026, with 50% of the year elapsed. She reported that any large variances are currently due to timing and will even out over the coming months. Though the combined amount for Medicaid shows the Agency as being \$1.3 million underspent, she is not confident that the number will hold, due to rate adjustments/takebacks. General Funds are \$6,612 underspent, and BHH is \$62,775 underspent.

2. Financial Condition 01-005

Nena reported that the Agency currently has 10.5% or 38 days' worth of unrestricted funds to operate if no further funding came in.

3. Treatment of Individuals Served 01-002

Liz Kowalski reviewed the Quarterly Recipient Rights Activity Report with the Board. There were 21 investigations and interventions, resulting in 17 substantiations. The Summary of Incident Reports was similar to last quarter, but lower than last fiscal year. Recipient Rights staff do most of their required site visits in the summer. These visits allow them to monitor contract providers and ensure sites are meeting Rights standards and that individuals' rights are protected. Rights staff work closely with the compliance team and the Contract Manager to help with sites out of the catchment area.

Moved by Charlotte Helman, supported by Jennifer Graham, to accept the May Monitoring Reports. Motion carried.

XI. Board Policies Review

1. Financial Condition 01-005

The Board discussed the provided revision and felt it improved clarity.

Moved by Bonnie Cornelius, supported by Kara Bauer LeMonds, to approve the revision to the Financial Condition Policy. Motion carried.

2. Board Job Description 02-003

Board members agreed that the policy looks good as-is.

3. Board Core Values 02-014

No revisions were deemed necessary.

4. Disclosure of Ownership 02-016

The Board has already completed their disclosure of ownership forms for the year. Board members did not feel any revisions were needed at this time.

XII. Linkage Reports

1. NMRE Board

Bob Adrian reported they discussed their court case and the potential for a new bid-out from the State. Nena

reported Northern Lakes is moving in the right direction under their new Executive Director.

XIII. Operations Report

Erin Fletcher reported on operations for the month of April. ACT had boosted numbers, serving 20 individuals. Outpatient counseling served 110 individuals, including 21 children. Kerry Rastigue has been providing support to that team as they onboard a new clinician. One youth was admitted to the state hospital. The total of unduplicated individuals served in April was 1,007.

XIV. Board Chair's Report

1. Review Meeting Evaluation Questions

The Board reviewed possible new questions and discussed the value of the meeting evaluation. Nena asked that Board members attending the summer conference ask members of other boards how they handle meeting evaluations. She will ask other directors at the NMRE Operations meeting.

Jennifer Graham departed the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

2. CMHA Summer Conference

Bonnie, Dana, and Lloyd will be attending the CMHA Summer Conference in Traverse City on June 9 and 10.

3. Selection of Voting Delegates

Lloyd and Bonnie agreed to be the voting delegates.

XV. Executive Director's Report

Nena gave a brief review of her activities over the last month, including participating in a presentation with ACC regarding the BSW/MSW program they offer in cooperation with Western Michigan University. She attended NAMI and they discussed the health endowment they received, as well as welcoming a new member, John Feys, who will be offering services for family support in the four counties. Nena attended a transportation discussion in Alcona and was also able to see a building that may be available for lease. She attended the Directors Forum at Crystal Mountain and provided a handout to the Board on The Mental Health Framework. The Mental Health Movement Run-Walk will be held this Saturday, and there are over 230 people registered. Nena continues to work with Cam Cavitt regarding rural issues. The Agency will be using Alpena Agency as their new health insurance broker as of June 1, and Nena is thrilled to now be able to keep the funds local. Kara Steinke and Kerry Rastigue are working on a grant application for the AOT program which is due by June 1.

XVI. Information and/or Comments from the Public

Nothing was presented.

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

Nothing was presented.

XVIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

1. Proposed June Agenda Items

The June agenda items were reviewed.

2. Schedule of NeMCMHA Board Meetings

The Board received a list of their meeting dates for the upcoming year.

XIX. Meeting Evaluation

Kara felt the Board came prepared to govern, they were afforded opportunities to contribute to conversation, and she was satisfied with what the Board accomplished. She felt Eric provided great information and she liked

the lively conversation the Board had. She thanked Nena for being present and always advocating for mental health.

XX. Adjournment

Moved by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, supported by Kara Bauer LeMonds, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

This meeting adjourned at 5: 05 p.m.

[Signed by Bonnie Cornelius on June 11, 2026]
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[Signed by Eric Lawson on June 11, 2026]
Eric Lawson, Chair