

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board
Board Meeting – November 13, 2025**

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: Bob Adrian, Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small, Lauren Tompkins
Staff & Guests: Carolyn Bruning, Rebekah Duhaime, Erin Fletcher, John Galarza, Elizabeth Kowalski, Jason Lepper, Nena Sork, Kara Steinke, Jen Walburn, Jennifer Wiczorkowski, 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

None were presented.

VII. Seating of New Board Member

Eric officially seated Dr. Lauren Tompkins as an NeMCMHA Board member. Lauren introduced herself and gave an overview of her many years' experience working in the public mental health system.

Bob Adrian entered the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

VIII. Approval of Minutes

Charlotte highlighted two grammar errors, which will be revised.

Moved by Charlotte Helman, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to approve the revised minutes of the October Board meeting. Motion carried.

IX. Consent Agenda

Board members received the Consent Agenda as a handout.

Moved by Terry Small, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to approve the November Consent Agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Bob Adrian, Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small, Lauren Tompkins; Nays: None. Motion carried.

X. Compliance Report and Training

Jen Walburn, Compliance Officer, provided the annual Compliance and Ethics Training. She reviewed the basics of compliance, including its purpose; the seven components of a compliance program; Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse; applicable laws; the False Claims Act; privacy and confidentiality; and compliance reporting. She reviewed the 2025 Annual Compliance Report. There were 15 major audits, including an NMRE Site Review, quarterly Medicaid Verification Audits, HSAG audits, CARF, and BHH. There were two provider disenrollments; three contract terminations; three external complaints; six internal complaints; investigations of performance improvement plans, education/training, and terminations; and one overpayment for claims of \$630.00.

- XI. November Monitoring Reports**
- 1. Treatment of Individuals Served 01-002**
Liz Kowalski, Recipient Rights Officer, presented the quarterly and annual Recipient Rights reports to the Board. During the last quarter of FY25, 18 complaints were received, of which 13 were substantiated. Charlotte observed that contracted group homes appear to have taken the suggestion to complete incident reports when challenging behaviors are happening to better show the scope of work, as the number of reports has gone up.
- 2. Ends 04-001**
This report was provided as a handout to the Board, and they reviewed the status of each of their Sub-Ends.
- XII. Board Policies Review**
- 1. Treatment of Individuals Served 01-002**
This policy was reviewed by the Advisory Council in October, and they did not note any necessary revisions, which the Board agreed with.
- 2. Staff Treatment 01-003**
The Board thinks the policy is appropriate.
- XIII. Linkage Reports**
- 1. NMRE Board**
Eric reported the urban cooperative agreement (UCA) the NMRE and NorthCare Network formed, Bridge Health, has made a bid on the RFP for the PIHPs. He also provided an update on Northern Lakes CMHA, which has hired a new Executive Director, Linda Zeller.
- 2. CMHA Fall Conference**
Jennifer, Kara, and Dana attended and gave positive reports.
- XIV. CMHA Membership Dues**
Moved by Bob Adrian, supported by Bonnie Cornelius, to approve paying the FY26 CMHA Membership Dues.
Roll Call: Ayes: Bob Adrian, Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small, Lauren Tompkins; Nays: None. Motion carried.
- XV. Operations Report**
Erin Fletcher reported on operations for the month of October. There were 49 crisis contacts, of which 46 were prescreened. The Children’s Department has two new staff members, and their numbers will begin going up. Home-Based Children’s Services saw 47 kids and MI Children’s Services saw 69. The total of unduplicated individuals served for the month of October was 949.
- XVI. Nominations Committee Report**
Charlotte reported the Nominations Committee recommends all members with expiring terms be reappointed for new terms. Letters have been prepared for the county commissioners and are ready for Eric’s signature.
- XVII. Board Chair’s Report**
- 1. Board Bylaws Regarding Employment**
The Board discussed moving forward with revising their bylaws regarding employment of family of a Board member. Due to the Board operating under the Carver Model, their only official employee is the Executive Director. The Board also does not have a personnel committee that oversees employment. The Board agreed that the language regarding employment of a family member should be removed from the bylaws at this time, and then further revisions could be made during the December meeting when a full review of the bylaws happens.

Moved by Terry Small, supported by Bob Adrian, to remove “or any member of his or her immediate family” from Article IX, Section 4: Employment of the NeMCMHA Board Bylaws. Roll Call: Ayes: Bob Adrian, Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small, Lauren Tompkins; Nays: None. Abstain: Lynnette Grzeskowiak. Motion carried.

XVIII. Executive Director’s Report

Nena reported on her activities over the last month, including her regular meetings and the Child Death Review, which she attends for each of the four counties when they have cases to discuss. She attended a meeting with MDHHS regarding crisis services. The Jim Ott evening event for community partners had a good turnout from many different areas including the schools and law enforcement. Nena attended an introductory meeting with a possible new pharmacy provider. The soft close numbers from Connie Cadarette look good. Behavioral Health Home (BHH) did very well, and the surplus funds can be kept in local match. The lawsuit regarding the PIHP bid out was filed and has been expedited.

XIX. Information and/or Comments from the Public

Nothing was presented.

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

Nothing was presented.

XXI. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

1. December Agenda Items

The proposed December agenda items were provided.

XXII. Meeting Evaluation

Lynnette reported that she feels Board members came prepared to govern and she appreciates getting the materials ahead of time. Board members always have opportunity to contribute to discussions, and she was satisfied with what the Board accomplished, stating it was a productive meeting and Jen’s training was great.

XXIII. Adjournment

Moved by Terry Small, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

This meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

[Signed by Bonnie Cornelius on December 11, 2025]

Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[Signed by Lloyd Peltier on December 11, 2025]

Lloyd Peltier, Vice Chair