

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board
Board Meeting – February 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, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Judy Jones, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Lloyd Peltier

Absent: Les Buza (Excused), Kara Bauer LeMonds (Excused), Gary Nowak (Excused), Terry Small (Excused)

Staff & Guests: Connie Cadarette, Mary Crittenden, Vicky DeRoven, Rebekah Duhaime, Erin Fletcher, Jason Lepper, Brenda Stanton

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

IV. Appointment of Evaluator

Charlotte Helman 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

There were no comments from the public.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Charlotte Helman, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to approve the minutes of the January Board meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

VIII. February Monitoring Reports

1. Budgeting 01-004

Connie Cadrette reported on the Statement of Revenue and Expense and Change in Net Position for the month ending December 31, 2024, with 25% of the year elapsed. She reviewed line items with negative variances, including Telephone and Connectivity, Staff Meals and Lodging, Property and Liability Insurance, Utilities, and Capital Equipment. The change in net position will most likely be negative for a while as incentive revenue won't be received until late spring. Medicaid and Healthy Michigan funds are overspent by \$155,788 due to the poor rate of redetermination. The Agency is working to get individuals back on full Medicaid and the General Funds committee is meeting often to review cases. BHH revenue and expenses will now be reported every month. The on-site audit happened in January and once Connie gets final reports from the auditors they will be reported to the Board.

2. Treatment of Individuals Served 01-002

Judy Jones reported that Ruth Hewett, Recipient Rights Officer, will be retiring soon. Judy commended her on doing an excellent job. The Recipient Rights Advisory Committee reviewed their budget and discussed complaint activity for the last quarter.

3. Staff Treatment 01-003

Board members reviewed the Staff Turnover Report and discussed departments with higher turnover rates.

Moved by Lloyd Peltier, supported by Dana Labar, to approve the February Monitoring Reports. Motion carried.

IX. Board Policies Review and Self-Evaluation

1. Asset Protection 01-007

Connie briefly reviewed the Agency's capital improvement plan, which mainly involves vehicles and IT equipment. Bob Adrian discussed concerns regarding plans for large expenses like roof replacements and HVAC. Mary Crittenden reported that Rich Greer, Facilities and Fleet Supervisor, does a phenomenal job of planning ahead and that he communicates well with Nena. No revisions were made to the policy.

2. Board Committee Principles 02-005

Eric stated the CARF reviewers really look at how the Board is reviewing their policies and whether they are being thoughtfully discussed. Dana and Charlotte agreed that this policy seems sufficient and does not require any revisions at this time.

3. Delegation to the Executive Director 03-002

Eric said that Lynne Fredlund told them in training that Nena represents the Agency, and the Board represents the 60,000 people served in the catchment area. Board members appreciate how well this Board runs and that they all come to the table with different perspectives.

X. Linkage Reports

1. NMRE Board

Bob reported they are continually discussing State financing and the budget issues from last fiscal year regarding unreleased funds. Work continues on the lawsuit and more entities have been added to it, now representing about half of the counties in the State. As of the last meeting, they still do not have an official response regarding the Waskul settlement.

2. Advisory Council

Lloyd reported they met on Monday, but did not have a quorum as only three members were in attendance. They viewed the recording of Zack Miller's educational session from the October Board meeting. Three Advisory Council members were reappointed for three-year terms. In June, the Council will be attending the full Board meeting to assist with Strategic Planning.

XI. Operations Report

Mary Crittenden reported on operations for the month of January. Access had 47 routine requests for services and 1 urgent request. There were 57 crisis contacts and 51 preadmission screens, of which 20 were placed in inpatient settings (19 adults and 1 child). Case management served 92 individuals for MI, 65 for Older Adult Services, and 162 for I/DD. The total of unduplicated individuals served in January was 1,010.

XII. Board Chair's Report

1. Recipient Rights Committee

Judy Jones will be retiring from the Board as of March 31, 2025. This will leave a vacant seat on the Recipient Rights Committee. Lynnette Grzeskowiak is interested in filling the open seat.

2. CARF

CARF will be coming to do their three-year survey in the summer. They will need to interview at least one Board member as part of the survey. Bonnie Cornelius is willing to do the interview, and Lloyd will be the alternate.

XIII. Executive Director's Report

Mary reported on Agency happenings for the last month. Dennis Bannon retired in January, and his position will be filled by Jason Lepper as the IS Security Officer and Mark Blandford as the IS Data Officer. The NMRE has held discussions with all five CMHSP directors regarding how to lower costs, and Nena will keep the Board informed of decisions as they move forward. The General Fund Committee continues to work through past billings to ensure everything was billed correctly and that incorrect billings or necessary retroactive payments are not missed. The committee has been working to transfer/close appropriate cases. MDHHS continues to redefine the definition of rural areas, with Alpena County now being identified as a micro urban county. These changes are ongoing and the Rural and Frontier Caucus will continue to advocate for the rural counties.

XIV. Information and/or Comments from the Public

None were presented.

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

Bonnie and Charlotte commended Mary on doing a great job filling in for Nena during the meeting. Lloyd discussed the PACE Center that is opening in the old Peebles building in Alpena. It will host adult day care programs and should be open by the end of March. They will be providing transportation, meals, and medication administration.

XVI. Next Meeting

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

1. March Agenda Items

The proposed March agenda items were reviewed.

XVII. Meeting Evaluation

Charlotte reported there was great discussion despite the small crowd. She applauded Mary and her group for their work on the General Funds budget. She noted that one area for self-improvement is on the Board self-evaluations during policy review. Eric encouraged Board members to speak up and to not be afraid to share their thoughts and opinions.

XVIII. Adjournment

Moved by Lloyd Peltier, supported by Bonnie Cornelius, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

[signed by Bonnie Cornelius March 13, 2025]
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[signed by Eric Lawson March 13, 2025]
Eric Lawson, Chair