

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority (NeMCMHA)  
Board Meeting – Strategic Planning Part III  
July 13, 2023**

**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: Robert Adrian, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small

Absent: Les Buza, Judy Jones, Terry Larson

Staff & Guests: Lisa Anderson, Renee Ballard, Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Mary Crittenden, Erin Fletcher, Lynne Fredlund, Jan Lemon, Abbey Podbielski, Nena Sork

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

**IV. Appointment of Evaluator**

Lynnette Grzeskowiak was appointed as evaluator before 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**

Rebekah Duhaime corrected the misspelling of Eric Lawson's name under the Consent Agenda.

*Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2023 Board and Advisory Council meeting with the revision to the Consent Agenda.* Motion carried.

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

Paylocity was added to the consent agenda after the Board mailing. There was no discussion of Paylocity or Rehmann prior to consent agenda approval.

*Moved by Bob Adrian, supported by Terry Small, to approve the July Consent Agenda.* Roll call: Ayes: Robert Adrian, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Lloyd Peltier, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Les Buza, Judy Jones, Terry Larson. Motion carried.

**IX. Educational Session – Strategic Planning – Ends Development**

Lynne Fredlund discussed items CARF wants the Board to take into consideration when doing strategic planning. The Board's goals are called Ends because they are the final "end" outcomes they want the organization to achieve. These Ends are the priority goals the Board will receive monitoring reports on throughout the year. The Executive Director and staff provide the Means for how the Ends will be achieved. Lynne suggested a change to the Board's Ends statement on Community Education, as "providing" is a Means word and should not be part of the End. She suggested the End be revised to, "the community will be knowledgeable about mental health information." Lynne defined "worth" as the right change for the right recipients at the Agency. The number of people affected by the Ends isn't what's important, but rather the worth to those who are effected.

**X. Strategic Plan Review**

The Board is still in agreement on their mission, vision, and core values. The Board reviewed the current forces in the environment impact behavioral health, and felt they were still relevant according to Eric Kurtz's environmental scan.

The Board's current goals were reviewed next. Nena stated the goal to reduce the risk of metabolic syndrome in both adults and children comes from the NMRE. The trauma goal is being worked on through the Agency's partnership with Partners in Prevention. Bob Adrian would like to revise the goal, stating "trauma-informed" might not be understood by community members. Nena will have the goal revised. Bob stated there is difficulty getting autism care once into adulthood. He would like the Board to increase advocacy for transitioning from children's services to adult services. Nena reported that only two of the four counties, Alpena and Presque Isle, have active suicide prevention groups. The Agency would be able to support groups once they are formed. The VA has a veteran navigator and all CMHSPs in the region work with him. Nena said many veterans served by the Agency weren't honorably discharged, so they cannot receive services from the VA. NeMCMHA is not a licensed primary SUD provider in our catchment area. Historically the Agency has not wanted to become a primary SUD provider and compete for limited funding dollars in such a small community. The Agency has preferred to contract with SUD providers in the community and provide SUD services for those individuals that we serve that have co-occurring SPMI and SUD diagnoses. The health information exchange goal is still being worked on. There has been progress, but there are still hiccups. Bob would like cyber security to be specifically included in the IT goal.

A couple of the barriers/challenges will be revised. Funding will have wording related to impending changes to children's behavioral health services added. The challenge of violence will be revised to remove "increasing." The Board next reviewed opportunities and options. Nena would like to change telemedicine to telehealth. Board members reviewed the plan and Eric stated it is well-written.

Sub-Ends were discussed and revisions were suggested. The Services to Children Sub-End will be raised from 90% to 95% "of home-based services will be provided in a home or community setting." The Sub-Ends for Services to Adults with Mental Illness and Persons with I/DD will all be revised. The former Sub-End 2.a will be replaced with expanding the Supported Independence Program (SIP) to one additional county served. Sub-End 2.b will be revised from "two individuals currently living in licensed Foster Care" to "two individuals currently living in a dependent setting." Two new Sub-Ends for Employment Services will be added. One will be to increase services by 7% and the other will be to successfully close 20 individuals to employment services by the end of the fiscal year.

The Sub-Ends for Services to Adults with Co-Occurring Disorders will be revised to raise the percentage of BHH eligible individuals enrolled in BHH from 30% to 50%. The Sub-Ends for the percentage of BHH enrollees who see their provider annually will be raised from 95% to 100%. The Sub-Ends for Financial Outcomes will remain the same. The Sub-End for Community Education will be revised per Lynne's suggestion to change it from a Means word to and Ends word.

## **XI. July Monitoring Reports**

### **1. Budgeting 01-004**

Connie Cadarette reported on the month ending May 31, 2023. The Agency is currently at negative \$14,800, and still has a goal to reach negative \$2.3 million, per the NMRE. She expects the number to get much closer to where the Agency needs to be next month, as June had many large expenses, including three pay periods. Connie reported that Larry Patterson did not see anything new or surprising on expenses for the month. Since the Agency is purposefully going over budget, they aren't going to do as large of a budget adjustment as they usually do. Funds will be shifted to make percentages more accurate. This will be shown next month along with the general ledger.

### **2. Asset Protection 01-007**

Eric told the Board these are the reports they want to look at when it comes to evaluating Nena. She has been doing a lot for the maintenance of buildings and vehicles.

### **3. Community Resources 01-010**

There were no questions or comments on this monitoring report.

*Moved by Terry Small, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to approve the July Monitoring Reports.* Motion carried.

**XII. Board Policies Review and Self-Evaluation**

**1. Community Resources 01-010**

Board members still like the policy as-is.

**2. Public Hearings 02-010**

The policy will be revised to note that the Annual Submission requires a public hearing every other year or as directed by MDHHS.

*Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Terry Small, to approve the revision to the Public Hearings Policy.* Motion carried.

**XIII. Linkage Reports**

**1. NMRE Board Meeting – June 28**

Tema Pefok did a presentation on BHH and reviewed the client survey. Northern Lakes is coming along well and they have signed an enabling agreement which allows them to partner with the NMRE.

**XIV. Operations Report**

Mary Crittenden reported on operations for June 2023. There were 69 routine requests for services, and no emergent or urgent requests. There were 29 crisis contacts and 53 prescreens were completed. Employment services served 67 I/DD individuals and 29 MI. They just went through a MiFAST review and the unofficial results show they did wonderfully. A total of 1,057 individuals were served during June.

**XV. Chair's Report**

**1. Preparing for Executive Director Evaluation**

Eric stated Board members need to prepare for Executive Director evaluation next month. They can request any monitoring reports they may need from Rebekah.

**XVI. Executive Director's Report**

The week of June 12 Nena participated in NMORC and the week after she attended NMRE OPS. The Agency's attorney, Chris Cooke, was hired by the NMRE to assist with writing a legal letter to MDHHS about the lack of hospital beds for children. She also presented to the League of Women Voters regarding the lack of psychiatric beds and they are going to participate in a letter writing campaign. During the week of June 26 she attended the NMRE Board Meeting. Nena presented her annual report to the Montmorency County Commissioners on July 6 and she will be visiting the remaining three counties and meeting with their commissioners, as well. Lloyd Peltier said it was an excellent report. During the current week, Nena met with CHS regarding wraparound services, as they are trying to get more services to kids. She attended the NMRE Finance Committee and met with the CMHAM about standards and expectations for foster care kids. Nena reported the General Funds contract from the MDHHS came through, but CMHSPs will not be signing it due to a law violation within the contract. An amendment will have to be completed before it can be signed. Nena and Lisa Anderson have union contract negotiations coming up, but they are unsure of the exact dates at this time. Employee recognition will be on August 1 at the APlex and Board members are welcome to attend. Annual Staff Training will be held the following day also at the APlex. The office will be closed from noon to five. Other upcoming projects include building little food pantries at each office to help with food scarcity.

Board members received a handout on Municipal Consulting Services, LLC. Nena would like to contract with them to do a market study of salaries in the region. This will help assess the appropriateness of wage levels. Many local organizations and several other CMHSPs have used their services. Eric said it is a CARF standard to be a competitive employer. The data will allow Nena to create a plan for the future. She will get a figure from them and bring it to the Board for approval.

**XVII. Information and/or Comments from the Public**

Renee Ballard stated she was wrongfully terminated and she has a question about providing sex education to individuals. She has a daughter who uses NeMCMHA services, and would like sex education to be provided.

Nena stated guardians would need to request or approve the individual served to participate in sex education. Nena and Eric will speak about how these concerns will be handled and what the appropriate steps will be.

Abbey Podbielski stated she has an individual who attends Clubhouse who is a fantastic woodworker and could help with the little food pantry.

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

There were no comments made.

**XIX. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NeMCMHA Board will be on Thursday, August 10 at 3:00 p.m.

**1. Set August Agenda**

The proposed August agenda items were reviewed.

**XX. Meeting Evaluation**

Lynnette reported the meeting started right on time and Lynne did a great job with her presentation. She felt the goal planning was very productive. There was 100% Board participation and she always enjoys Nena's report.

**XXI. Adjournment**

*Moved by Terry Small, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to adjourn the meeting.* Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

*[signed by Bonnie Cornelius August 10, 2023]*  
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

Rebekah Duhaime  
Recorder

*[signed by Eric Lawson August 10, 2023]*  
Eric Lawson, Chair