

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board  
Board Meeting – Strategic Planning Part III – July 10, 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: Lester Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small

Absent: Bob Adrian

Staff & Guests: Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Rebekah Duhaime, Erin Fletcher, Jason Lepper, Sarah Melching, Brenda Stanton, Jen Walburn, Jennifer Wieczorkowski

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

**IV. Appointment of Evaluator**

Kara Bauer LeMonds 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**

Sarah Melching, from Presque Isle County, thanked the Board for what they do. She has been the Emergency Manager for Presque Isle County for six years and has seen a positive trend with mental health in the county.

**VII. Approval of Minutes**

***Moved by Lester Buza, supported by Terry Small, to approve the minutes of the June Board meeting, as presented.*** Motion carried.

**VIII. July 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 May 31, 2025, with 66.67% of the year elapsed. The insurance rebate was received in June, though it was \$13,000 less than last year and may require a budget adjustment. Other line items that may also require a budget adjustment include Utilities, Maintenance, and Capital Equipment. Milliman has adjusted rates, and the State will be doing redeterminations in small chunks back to October. The Agency should start receiving those monthly payments mid-July, but the exact amounts are unknown at this time. Some larger payments were received and those will be shown on next month's report for June.

**2. Asset Protection 01-007**

The Board reviewed the monitoring report and did not have any questions.

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

**IX. Board Policies Review**

**1. Community Resources 01-010**

Kara stated the policy is short, but important, as it highlights how imperative it is for the Executive Director to work with the community.

## **2. Public Hearings 02-010**

The Board liked the policy as it is.

### **X. Linkage Reports**

#### **1. NMRE Board**

Eric reported there was continued discussion of the ongoing financial struggles at NLCMHA, and their interim director has resigned. Dana reported that the SUD Oversight Committee met and reviewed 20 requests for funding. There is still a lot of funding available for the catchment area.

### **XI. Operations Report**

Erin Fletcher reported on operations for the month of June. The home-based children's team served 10 individuals. This number only reflects the number of individuals, not the number of contacts – some may be seen weekly or daily. They had one clinician out for a couple of weeks, and they are also onboarding a new clinician. Outpatient Counseling served 96 individuals, almost half of which were children as they have stepped in to help the home-based team. I/DD case management served 49 individuals and MI case management served 46 individuals. The total unduplicated individuals served for the month of June was 949.

### **XII. Strategic Plan: Review & Revise**

The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan Proposal for FY26. They discussed and approved revisions to Payors/Payment Reform, Persons Served, Regulatory Changes, and Technology under Forces in the Environment Impacting Behavioral Health. Under Goals, the Quality Assessment Performance Improvement Projects (QAPIs) were updated to the current goals of the NMRE. The goal to utilize the Health Information Exchange will be revised due to a name change. The goal concerning IT will be revised to state "to remain current" instead of "to keep current." The Board next reviewed Barriers/Challenges, approving revisions to Funding and Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Staff. Under Opportunities, the Board asked Nena to revise the item regarding the Agency's infrastructure to better reflect how their strong position is an opportunity.

Bonnie Cornelius left the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

The Board approved suggested revisions to Options, which included adding a bullet point regarding local jails and court ordered mental health treatment, removing information about expanding telehealth services, and cleaning up grammar. Under Plan, the addition of Behavioral Health Home (BHH) expansion was approved.

The Board reviewed their Ends, and under Services to Adults with Co-Occurring Disorders, the Sub-Ends for the number of eligible individuals enrolled in BHH was raised from 25% to 35%.

### **XIII. Board Chair's Report**

#### **1. Preparing for Executive Director Evaluation**

Eric stated the Board uses the last year's monitoring reports as their guide for the Executive Director's evaluation. Board members can contact Rebekah Duhaime if they need any to review before next month.

#### **2. Annual Report**

Eric highlighted the article on Narcan distribution. He thinks it's important for everyone to have some available because you never know what might happen.

Les Buza left the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

### **XIV. Executive Director's Report**

Nena provided a review of her activities for the last month, which included attending the following meetings: NMORC Board, NMRE Operations, NMRE BHH, DHS PI Staff, NMRE Board, CMHA Member Services, CMHA Contract and Finance, NAMI, IPS Fidelity Review, and the NMRE Finance Committee. Suggested Resolutions were sent to all four county commissions regarding MDHHS's proposed PIHP bid-out. The Alcona County

Commissioners have signed and returned their resolution. As the Agency is in stable financial condition and will most likely have extra funding at the end of the fiscal year, Nena discussed the possibility of integrating the data warehouse North Country CMHA uses for analytics, which meets the requirements for state and federal reporting. The cost of setting up the data warehouse with TBD would be between \$18,000 - \$24,000.

***Moved by Terry Small, supported by Kara Bauer LeMonds, to a contract with TBD to create the Agency's own data warehouse at the cost of up to \$24,000. Roll Call: Ayes: Jennifer Graham, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Kara Bauer LeMonds, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Bob Adrian, Lester Buza, Bonnie Cornelius. Abstain: None. Motion carried.***

The extra funding the Agency is expected to receive at the end of this fiscal year will have to be used by September 30 or it must be sent back. Nena will create a list of uses for the funds, should there be a surplus available. She will be asking the Board for permission to spend the extra funds, as needed, as long as the Agency comes in under budget. She would like to provide one or two small retention payments for staff. She will ask the Board for a motion at the next meeting when they have a better estimate of the funding.

The Agency's three-year CARF survey is scheduled for July 28 - 30. One Board member will be needed for a brief interview, and volunteers have already stepped forward. The annual Customer Satisfaction Survey wrapped up with a record 238 surveys returned. The information will be compiled, and the Board will receive the feedback. Interviews are being scheduled for the new positions of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Deputy Clinical Director.

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

None were presented.

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

None were presented.

**XVII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

**1. August Agenda Items**

The proposed August agenda items were reviewed.

**XVIII. Meeting Evaluation**

Kara feels the Board came prepared to govern, there was lively discussion, and she was satisfied with what the Board accomplished. Her personal remarks were that the board is determined to keep moving forward with their Strategic Plan regardless of any fear of losing major funding.

**XIX. Adjournment**

***Moved by Terry Small, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to adjourn the meeting.*** Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

*[signed by Bonnie Cornelius August 14, 2025]*

Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

*[signed by Eric Lawson August 14, 2025]*

Eric Lawson, Chair