

Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board
Board and Advisory Council Meeting – Strategic Planning Part II – June 12, 2025

I. Call to Order

Chair Eric Lawson called the meeting to order in the Board Room at 3:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Present: Board: Bob Adrian, Lester Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Jennifer Graham, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar (via telephone), Eric Lawson, Lloyd Peltier, Terry Small

Advisory Council: Janet Freeman, Heather Miller

Absent: Board: Lynnette Grzeskowiak (Excused), Kara Bauer LeMonds (Excused)

Advisory Council: Kathleen Destromp, Angela Lane, Anne Ryan, Rebecca Stockford

Staff & Guests: Mark Blandford, Carolyn Bruning, Mary Crittenden, Vicky DeRoven, Rebekah Duhaime, Erin Fletcher, John Galarza, Chris Harper, Jason Lepper, Brenda Stanton, Jen Walburn

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

IV. Appointment of Evaluator

Bob Adrian 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 Terry Small, supported by Lloyd Peltier, to approve the minutes of the May Board meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

VIII. Educational Session: CARF

Vickey DeRoven, Quality Improvement Coordinator, presented on CARF, the Agency's accrediting body. The Agency has its three-year CARF survey coming up at the end of July. CARF stands for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and its mission is to promote best practices and continuous improvement that centers on enhancing the lives of persons served and the work experience of employees. There are over 2,400 standards that the Agency will be reviewed on in the domains of facilities, people, and documentation. A CARF review is a consultative peer review survey process. They will review all offices, a few group homes, and some community employment sites. The Agency is currently certified in 16 programs and will be adding a 17th with Behavioral Health Home (BHH) during this year's survey.

IX. June Monitoring Reports

1. Budgeting 01-004

Brenda Stanton reported on the Statement of Revenue and Expense and Change in Net Position for the month ending April 30, 2025, with 58.33% of the year elapsed. Line items with a variance greater than 5% were reviewed, and Brenda noted that some will require budget adjustments, while others are expected to even out over the coming months. She noted that the daily rate for individuals in hospitals has nearly doubled over last year. Medicaid is underspent by \$522,973 and Healthy Michigan is overspent by \$177,210, for a total underspent amount of \$345,763. General Funds are down \$50,000 from the overage last month, at a total overspent amount of \$74,698. BHH is underspent by 26,892, which can be kept as local funds.

2. Ends 04-001

The Ends Monitoring Report was provided to the Board as a handout, and numbers were also added to the Strategic Plan Review for ease of comparison.

Moved by Lloyd Peltier, supported by Lester Buza, to approve the June Monitoring Reports. Motion carried.

X. Strategic Plan Review

Eric walked Board and Advisory Council members through the FY25 Strategic Plan, noting areas that could be worked on during the next part of strategic planning in July. He asked the Board to review the strategic plan carefully and note any areas they would like to revise or add to. Nena has asked supervisors to let her know if there are any goals they would like to bring to the Board for inclusion in the new strategic plan.

XI. Linkage Reports

1. NMRE Board

Eric reported that Dana Labar attended his first NMRE board meeting and was immediately a contributor. Dana (via telephone) stated he wants to make sure goals included in the strategic plan are measurable and attainable. Bob stated one of the five entities is struggling financially and all the directors have put together a plan to get out of the financial difficulties. Nena reported the lawsuit with the State is still moving forward and in-depth discussion were had.

2. CMHA Summer Conference

Lloyd, Bonnie, and Dana all attended the conference. Lloyd said it was one of the best conferences he has attended. Alan Bolter did a good presentation on how bills work and get passed. Nena said the main theme of the conference was advocacy and there was a lot of discussion concerning privatization.

XII. Operations Report

Mary Crittenden reported on operations for the month of May. There were 45 routine requests for services and one urgent request. MI adult case management served 78 individuals, I/DD case management served 176 individuals, and outpatient counseling served 115 individuals (35 kids and 80 adults). The total of unduplicated individuals served in May was 1,019.

XIII. Board Chair's Report

1. NeMCMHA Annual Report

Annual Reports will be distributed in July. Eric shared that he had his first clear CT scan since chemotherapy.

XIV. Executive Director's Report

Nena reported on her activities for the last month, which included her regular monthly meetings. She attended the Alcona County Commissioners meeting to tell them about the closure of one of the group homes in Alcona County. She also met with Cam Cavitt in Indian River and will be meeting with him again soon. The Agency's 2K | 5K | 10K Mental Health Movement Run-Walk was very successful with over 280 registrants and 242 participants.

Though rates have increased slightly, Nena expressed concerns about next year's revenue. Revenue looks good for FY25, but it includes funds due from FY24 that weren't received on time. The region will be receiving an additional \$12 million in funding during this fiscal year, and the Agency will get a percentage.

Nena met with Eric Kurtz who referred her to an attorney, Steven Burnham, due to a conflict that arose during the beginning of the process of closing one of the Alcona County group homes. One guardian is refusing to have their ward moved from the home and won't allow staff to discuss the upcoming move with the individual. She discussed retaining the attorney, though the charges are well below the financial threshold requiring Board approval. She has a Letter of Agreement to sign and return to him, and she will

keep Eric informed as things move forward. The staffing crisis for both homes continues to worsen and the home can be closed as soon as all the individuals are moved. Mary reported the guardian in question is nervous as the individual was previously very unstable and doesn't like change. The court has been notified, and a meeting has been set up.

Nena reported that Mary's last day is tomorrow, and it will be a big shift and transition for the organization. She has made a huge impact on the Agency, starting as an outpatient therapist, then becoming a supervisor before moving into the COO position. Nena thanked Mary, stating it has been an honor and pleasure to work alongside her. Nena and HR have rewritten the COO job description, and it will become a Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) position. The CAO will focus primarily on administration duties with very limited clinical responsibilities. A job description for a Deputy Clinical Director has been created and the clinical responsibilities from the previous COO have been added to this position along with other clinical duties.

XV. Information and/or Comments from the Public

None were presented.

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

Lloyd suggested that all Board members attend the upcoming fall CMHA conference in October.

XVII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Advisory Council is scheduled for Monday, August 11 at 5:00 p.m.

1. July Agenda Items

The proposed July agenda items were reviewed.

XVIII. Meeting Evaluation

Bob reported he felt Board members came prepared for the agenda topics and good questions were raised. There was lots of discussion on most topics and everyone participated. Bob was satisfied with what the Board accomplished, as it was more of an informational meeting in preparation for next month. He liked the educational session and would like to see more programs do presentations, especially the 17 that will CARF accredited.

XIX. Adjournment

Moved by Lester Buza, supported by Terry Small, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

[signed by Bonnie Cornelius July 10, 2025]

Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[signed by Eric Lawson July 10, 2025]

Eric Lawson, Chair