

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority
Board Meeting – August 13, 2026**

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: Dennis Bannon, Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Lloyd Peltier, Anne Ryan, Terry Small.

Absent: Bob Adrian, Jennifer Graham (Excused), Kara Bauer LeMonds,

Staff & Guests: Carolyn Bruning, Rebekah Duhaime, Erin Fletcher, Jason Lepper, Jared Kendziorski, Nena Sork, Kara Steinke

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

IV. Acknowledgement of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were acknowledged.

V. Information and/or Comments from the Public

None were presented.

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

VII. MDHHS FY27 General Funds Contract – EGrAMS

The Board received a handout for the FY27 MDHHS General Funds Contract, which Nena must sign electronically in EGrAMS. The General Funds budget for FY27 will be \$1,202,787, the same as previous years.

Moved by Terry Small, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to approve signing the FY27 MDHHS General Funds Contract in EGrAMS. Roll Call: Ayes: Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Lloyd Peltier, Anne Ryan, Terry Small; Nays: None. Absent: Bob Adrian, Jennifer Graham, Kara Bauer LeMonds. Motion carried.

VIII. August Monitoring Reports

1. Budgeting 01-004

Jared Kendziorski reported on revenue and expenses for the month ending June 30, 2026, with 75% of the year elapsed. Medicaid is underspent by \$1.9 million and Healthy MI is overspent by \$116,430, for a total underspent amount of \$1,785,395. General Funds are underspent by \$114,541 and BHH is underspent by \$155,117.

2. Financial Condition 01-005

Jared reported the Agency currently has 46 days of operating expenses on hand.

3. Staff Treatment 01-003

The Board received the Turnover Report as a handout. Nena reported there has been a reduction in turnover, with an overall turnover rate of 18%.

4. Treatment of Individuals Served 01-002

The Board reviewed the Recipient Rights quarterly meeting minutes and activity report. Recipient Rights staff have been completing their annual site visits. Nena clarified that the reason intervention is grayed out for the

categories of Abuse, Sexual Abuse, and Neglect is that more serious discipline is required for these complaints. Many Confidentiality complaints do not require investigation as they are self-reported by staff.

IX. Board Policies Review

1. Chairperson's Role 02-004

Revisions will be made to Section 3 and brought back for Board approval in September.

2. Board Members' Per Diem 02-009

The Board reviewed the current per diem rates for the county commissioners in Alcona, Alpena, and Montmorency. Per the Mental Health Code, CMH board members cannot receive a higher per diem than their county commissioners.

3. Board Self-Evaluation 02-012

This policy outlines the Board's annual self-evaluation process which begins this month. There has not been a 100% return rate on self-evaluations for the last few years. Board members discussed that it is rare that a board does self-evaluations. All members were encouraged to complete their evaluation forms and return them.

X. Linkage Reports

1. Northern Michigan Regional Entity (NMRE) Board

The Board was reminded that the NMRE is the managed care entity that distributes funds to the five CMHs under their purview. The NMRE Board continued discussions of H.R.1 and progress at Northern Lakes CMHA.

2. Advisory Council

Anne reported they did not have a quorum, but they reviewed the Board's proposed FY27 Strategic Plan and discussed the upcoming Walk a Mile Rally in Lansing.

XI. Operations Report

Erin reported on operations for the month of July. Crisis walk-ins were down slightly at 20 and 52 prescreens were completed, resulting in 17 hospital admissions. Outpatient counseling numbers are going up as staffing has increased. The total of unduplicated individuals served in July was 998.

XII. Strategic Plan: Approve and Finalize

The Board reviewed the final draft of the FY27 Strategic Plan and did not have any further revisions.

Moved by Terry Small, supported by Dana Labar, to approve the FY27 Strategic Plan as presented. Motion carried.

XIII. Board Chair's Report

1. Executive Director's Evaluation

Moved by Bonnie Cornelius, supported by Charlotte Helman, to submit a positive evaluation for Executive Director Nena Sork for FY26. Motion carried.

Charlotte said it was an easy decision and that Nena models great leadership for the organization. Eric feels Nena is professional, sharp, and up to date. The Board praised her involvement in the defeat of the RFP and the creation of Bridge Health. Terry appreciates her ability to answer any and all questions and that she keeps their meetings efficient.

2. Begin Board Self-Evaluation

Board members are to return their completed forms to Rebekah Duhaime prior to the next Board meeting. The Board discussed the decrease in the return rate over the last several years.

XIV. Executive Director's Report

Nena reported on her activities over the last month. She held virtual town hall meetings for the direct care group home staff to answer questions about upcoming changes, and she will be repeating the virtual meetings in a few months. She has started presenting her annual reports to the county commissioners. The Agency closed early on July 29 to hold Annual Staff Training, and they were able to train 250 staff in one afternoon. Staff recognition, for staff who have reached milestone years of employment, was held the following day, which Terry attended. Nena will be setting up a meeting with Senator Hoitenga in September.

Terry and Nena met with the Alcona County Sheriff's Department regarding training a deputy to be a behavioral health worker. The Agency would pay half the deputy's salary, and as an employee, they would then have access to the Agency's electronic health records system, allowing them to better assist the Agency's individuals.

Nena discussed the budget surplus with the Board, and even after doing advance spending on necessary items, the Agency will still have a surplus at the end of the fiscal year. Nena asked the Board if they would approve a 3% staff retention payment for the September 3 pay date, and asked them to consider approving a staff reinvestment payment for the October 1 pay date, should there still be additional funds. These payments would help to offset the increasing healthcare costs for staff, as the Agency can only cover 80% of their premiums.

Moved by Dana Labar, supported by Bonnie Cornelius, to approve a 3% staff retention payment for the September 3 pay date, and a 3-6% reinvestment payment for the October 1 pay date. Roll Call: Ayes: Bonnie Cornelius, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Charlotte Helman, Dana Labar, Eric Lawson, Lloyd Peltier, Anne Ryan, Terry Small; Nays: None. Absent: Bob Adrian, Jennifer Graham, Kara Bauer LeMonds. Motion carried.

Nena shared a letter the ACT team received from a family, praising staff and their efforts.

XV. Information and/or Comments from the Public

None were presented.

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

Lloyd asked that the draft meeting minutes be sent to him so he can better report on the Agency in his role as a Montmorency County Commissioner.

XVII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NeMCMHA Board is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

1. Proposed September Agenda Items

The September agenda items were reviewed.

XVIII. Adjournment

Moved by Terry Small, supported by Lynnette Grzeskowiak, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

This meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

[Signed by Bonnie Cornelius on September 10, 2026]

Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[Signed by Lloyd Peltier on September 10, 2026]

Lloyd Peltier, Vice Chair