

AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Authority

D. Jay O'Farrell, Board Chairperson
Diane C. Pelts, M.A., Chief Executive Officer

Board Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024
5:00 p.m., St. Vincent's Annex
MINUTES

1. CONVENE

a. Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Authority Board was held on Monday, January 22, 2024, in the St. Vincent's Annex in West Branch. Chairperson D. Jay O'Farrell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A virtual option via Microsoft TEAMS was also offered for public attendance.

b. Roll Call

Board members physically present: D. Jay O'Farrell, Patti Casey, Rose Walsh, Chuck Varner, Bonnie Lixey, Brenda Simmons, Gary Klacking, Mark Surbrook, and Jill Gould

Board members present via video conference: Amy Knepp and Debra Welsch

Board members excused: Bobbie Roulo

Board members absent: None

Staff present: Diane Pelts, Teresa Tokarczyk, Casey Carpenter, Louise Pratt, Geri Fowler, and Joseph Chrivia

Staff present via video conference: Jennifer Carr, Regina Demetrakeas, Trish Otremba, Jennifer Warner, Laura Marentette, Shirley McMahon, Lori Enos, Martha Priebe, Michon VanWormer, Beverly Hart, Tyler Rood, Julie Patterson, Kerreen Conley, and Kathryn Cook

Staff absent: None

Guests: Amy Beard and Alan Bolter

Guests via video conference: None

A quorum was present.

c. Approval of Board meeting minutes

It was moved by Mr. Varner and second by Mr. Surbrook to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2023 Board meeting as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

d. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Casey and second by Ms. Simmons to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes, motion passed.



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e. Correspondence

Ms. Pelts shared four newsletters with the Board (Agency Quarterly Newsletter, the Download Newsletter, Recipient Rights Newsletter, and the Training Newsletter). She commended all staff involved with publishing these.

Ms. Pelts also shared flyers for upcoming training events. She explained these trainings are for staff and various members of the community and Board members are welcome to attend.

f. Legislative Updates

Ms. Pelts shared four editions of *This Week in Lansing* and said because Mr. Bolter is here, he will touch on important legislative topics during his portion.

g. Announcements – Ms. Pelts announced she will defer her reading of the CEO Report to afford more time to Mr. Bolter.

h. Public Comments

Amy Beard, former staff member, addressed the Board regarding her recent resignation, her concerns related to the transition of two COHs to Bay Human Services, and her opinions relative to the CLS Program and staffing.

Geri Fowler, staff member, shared her thoughts relative to her working relationship and rapport with Ms. Beard over the years, as she supported the COHs as a nurse.

Louise Pratt, staff member, shared her thoughts and concerns relative to the BHS transition and any other potential future changes.

2. BOARD EDUCATION

Ms. Pelts introduced Alan Bolter, CMHAM Associate Director and Legislative Liaison to the Board. Mr. Bolter thanked the Board for allowing him the opportunity to speak to them. He said the last election changed the composition in Lansing to give democrats control of the State House, State Senate, and Governorship for the first time in 40 years. Since the election, two representatives have resigned to take mayoral positions and special elections will be held. Until that time, the house is now balanced 54-54 which makes passing any bill difficult as neither party has a majority. Special elections for these two positions will be held in April and a democratic majority is expected.

Mr. Bolter said Governor Whitmer will give the State of the State address on January 24th and her legislative priorities will be made public for the upcoming year. He discussed the legislative calendar and when various bills are expected to move forward.

Mr. Bolter discussed several bills in the House and Senate that CMHAM is watching closely. He discussed pros and cons of the bills and said updates will continue as they progress.

Mr. Bolter said there are discussions for changes to the Open Meetings Act which requires physical quorums. He said HB 4693 is moving to change this for non-elected bodies and it is expected to make progress this calendar year.

Mr. Bolter said there are discussions to make social worker licensure changes. He said the state exam is a block for many candidates and it is proposed that additional supervision can be required in lieu of testing to grant full licensure. He said several groups are opposed to this while many others support it. He said, if passed, the number of fully-licensed social workers would drastically increase as evidenced by other states that have different licensure requirements.

Mr. Bolter said the Governor's budget is scheduled to be released in February. Medicaid reenrollment is impacting CMH budgets across the State. He said rate adjustments are being proposed to offset the reduction in enrollees. Due to inflationary increases, CMHs cannot afford a reduction in revenue. Furthermore, he said it is important for CMHs to review their enrollees as they can sometimes be miscategorized and funding can differ greatly between programs.

Finally, Mr. Bolter said the rural CMHs have created a caucus to represent themselves. He stated the differences between rural CMHs are the larger CMHs are immense. Making sure that the needs of all are represented is crucial.

Discussion ensued with Mr. Bolter and the Board.

Mr. Bolter departed.

3. REPORTS

a. Chairman

None.

b. Board Association

None.

d. NMRE

Mr. Klacking said the NMRE meets on Wednesday.

Ms. Pelts said she met with Clinical, Finance, and Quality to work on moving the Peer Recovery PA2 grant to a Medicaid reimbursable service as there are not enough PA2 funds to support our request any longer.

Mr. O'Farrell said an organization in Petosky is requesting PA2 funds from all counties and he would like to know what benefits it provides citizens in this catchment area before voting. He urged all to oppose this request if they cannot explain how the funding assists this area.

d. Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Pelts said she deferred her time to Mr. Bolter. The Board has a written copy of her report.

e. Committee

(1) Human Resources – January 8, 2024

Committee Chair Gary Klacking read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Klacking and seconded by Ms. Walsh to approve the IT Manager job description. All ayes; motion passed.

(2) Facilities – did not meet

(3) Program – January 11, 2024

Committee Chair Patti Casey read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions requiring Board action.

(4) Executive & Finance – January 16, 2024

Committee Chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Mr. Surbrook to accept the November financial statements as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Mr. Surbrook to approve the ROOC contract. All ayes; motion passed.

(5) Recipient Rights Advisory – January 9, 2024

Committee Chair Rose Walsh read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions requiring Board action.

(6) Recipient Rights Appeal – January 9, 2024

Committee Chair Rose Walsh read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions requiring Board action.

4. OLD BUSINESS – None.

5. NEW BUSINESS – None.

6. COMMENTS

a. Board – None.

b. Public – None.

7. MEETING DATES

a. Board

(1) Monday, February 26; 5:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

b. Committees

- (1) Human Resources – Monday, February 5; 4:30 p.m.; Virtual
- (2) Facilities – Thursday, February 8; 3:00 p.m.; Virtual
- (3) Program – Thursday, February 8; 4:00 p.m.; Virtual
- (4) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, February 20; 4:30 p.m.; Virtual
- (5) Recipient Rights Advisory – No meeting scheduled
- (6) Recipient Rights Appeal – No meeting scheduled

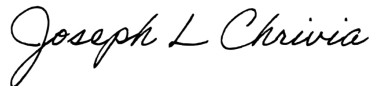
c. Other

- (1) CMHAM Winter Conference: February 6-7, Kalamazoo
- (2) CMHAM Summer Conference: June 11-12, Traverse City
- (3) Agency Picnics: July 29 – August 1, Locations TBD

8. ADJOURN

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Walsh to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph L. Chrivia
Recording Secretary