

AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Authority

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

Board Meeting
Monday, February 26, 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, February 26, 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, Rose Walsh, Chuck Varner, Brenda Simmons, Gary Klacking, Mark Surbrook, Amy Knepp, and Jill Gould

Board members present via video conference: Bonnie Lixey, Patti Casey, Roberta Roulo, and Debra Welsch

Board members excused: None

Board members absent: None

Staff present: Diane Pelts, Casey Carpenter, and Joseph Chrivia

Staff present via video conference: Jennifer Carr, Regina Demetrakeas, Trish Otremba, Jennifer Warner, Laura Marentette, Shirley McMahon, Lori Enos, Michon VanWormer, Kathryn Cook, Coral Smith, Cheryl Bronson, Laura Sisco, Mindy Rhodes, and Joshua Chrivia

Staff absent: None

Guests: None.

Guests via video conference: Missy Pehrson

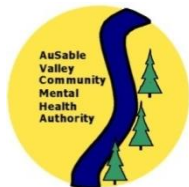
A quorum was present.

c. Approval of Board meeting minutes

It was moved by Mr. Klacking and second by Mr. Surbrook to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024 Board meeting as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

d. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and second by Ms. Gould to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes, motion passed.



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e. Correspondence

Ms. Pelts shared two newsletters with the Board (the Download Newsletter and the Training Newsletter). She reminded the Board that if they want to attend any training course, they are welcome to do so.

Ms. Pelts also shared four Employee Spotlights. She said the Employee Engagement Committee has developed a department focused approach and this month is the wraparound staff. She said a different group will be targeted each month and Board members are on the calendar for this year.

f. Legislative Updates

Ms. Pelts shared five editions of *This Week in Lansing* and said these are an excellent news source to stay current with topics in Lansing.

g. Announcements – Ms. Pelts announced Iosco County has reappointed Mr. O’Farrell, Ms. Lixey, and Ms. Welsch until March 31, 2027 and Ogemaw County has reappointed Mr. Klacking until March 31, 2027. Mr. Varner said Iosco County will vote to reappoint Ms. Knepp this week.

h. Public Comments – None.

2. BOARD EDUCATION

Ms. Pelts introduced Eric Kurtz, CEO of the Northern Michigan Regional Entity (NMRE). Mr. Kurtz explained the NMRE is composed of the northern 21 counties of Michigan and serves as the Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) for the five Community Mental Health Agencies within those counties. He explained the role of the NMRE is to receive and distribute state funding, ensure compliance, ensure an adequate provider network is in place, and manage Substance Use Disorder (SUD) funding.

Mr. Kurtz gave a detailed financial briefing and discussed funding sources and distribution of funds throughout the region. He detailed the Behavior Health Homes, Opioid Health Homes, and the Alcohol Health Homes. With each of these programs, Mr. Kurtz discussed their longevity and enrollment and goals.

Mr. Kurtz explained the HEDIS outcomes (Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set). He stated these are used by the State to grade efficiency and the NMRE exceeds statewide averages in all areas.

Medicaid reenrollment continues to be a concern throughout both the region and the state. Mr. Kurtz explained how this has affected funding and stated they are working towards mid-year rate adjustments to compensate.

Available beds for inpatient hospitalization for children is a grave concern. With the Hawthorne Center temporarily closed for reconstruction, there are only 30 beds within the state. He discussed the impact this has on Emergency Services.

Mr. Kurtz, Ms. Pelts, and the Board discussed the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) impact on CMHs. Mr. Kurtz said the push for additional CCBHCs has diverted funds that could be used for CMHs. This demonstration project has been ongoing for several years and has expanded dramatically.

Mr. Kurtz said the NMRE has a goal to maintain 100% on all performance-based incentives. He explained that not only does this mean the NMRE will receive all of their incentive money, the region can earn additional money from PIHPs that failed to meet their goals. He stated this unexpected revenue can be beneficial. Additionally, he said the NMRE is increasing partnerships and advocacy efforts with healthcare providers and working to expand crisis services.

Discussion ensued with Mr. Kurtz and the Board.

Mr. Kurtz departed.

3. REPORTS

a. Chairman -- None

b. Board Association

Mr. O'Farrell stated Ms. Lixey has completed the BoardWorks program and earned a certificate of completion. The Board applauded her effort.

d. NMRE

Mr. O'Farrell said the NMRE meets on Wednesday.

d. Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Pelts said her report this month focused on the PAC drive. She reminded the Board that she will match all contributions from Board members up to \$20. She presented a graph showing the millions of dollars contributed by insurance companies to lobby in Lansing and the CMH PAC combines for approximately \$50,000. She said AuSable Valley consistently contributes the \$500 minimum to be considered a full participant. However, many other Boards contribute far less or nothing at all. She implored everyone to consider ideas to solicit more participation.

Ms. Pelts said there was a recent amendment to the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, with a complementary change made to the Wages and Fringe Benefits Act which will allow payroll deductions to Political Action Committees (PAC). She explained the amendments just became effective in early February and more discussion relative to the administrative burden of implementing something like this still needs to be assessed. Ms. Pelts shared an example if 100 employees contributed one dollar per payday, with 26 pay periods annually, an agency would contribute \$2600. She said CMHs will never be able to fully compete with the Health Plans financial contributions, but we need to do all that we can.

e. Committee

(1) Human Resources – January 29, 2024

Committee Chair Gary Klacking read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Klacking and seconded by Ms. Knepp to agree that policy had been followed in a recent employee termination. All ayes; motion passed.

(2) Facilities – February 8, 2024

Committee Chair Mark Surbrook read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Mr. Varner to award the bid for installing a new generator at the Edwards AFC to Primary Electric for \$10,300. Additionally, the Board authorized Mr. Pallagi to request a cold-weather package upgrade to the order, not to exceed an additional \$650. Ms. Walsh asked questions pertaining to this project, Mr. Surbrook answered. All ayes; motion passed.

Mr. O'Farrell withdrew the motion he made at the February 8, 2024 Committee meeting regarding the West Branch Landscaping bid.

It was moved by Mr. O'Farrell and seconded by Mr. Surbrook to allow the Facilities Committee the final decision in awarding the West Branch Landscaping bid with costs not to exceed \$250,000. He said the Facilities Committee will meet immediately following the conclusion of tonight's Board meeting. All ayes; motion passed.

(3) Program – February 8, 2024

Committee Chair Patti Casey read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions requiring Board action.

(4) Executive & Finance – January 29, 2024

Committee Chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Walsh to accept the bid from Inspiration Studio Design for the Agency Rebranding project. All ayes; motion passed.

(5) Executive & Finance – February 20, 2024

Committee Chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

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

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Mr. Surbrook to earmark the anticipated Performance-Based Incentive dollars toward the West Branch landscaping project. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Knepp to approve the following four contracts with rate changes (Stuart Wilson, GTI, Gracik & Gracik, and Gary Sloan) and one new contract (North Country IT Mentorship). Additionally, there were four contract amendments (Compassionate Care, Lighthouse Rehab, Language Services Association, and North Shores Center) and one renewal without a rate change (Andrenette Platt). All ayes; motion passed.

(6) Recipient Rights Advisory – Did not meet

(7) Recipient Rights Appeal – Did not meet

4. OLD BUSINESS – None.

5. NEW BUSINESS – Ms. Pelts stated nearly all CMHs in the State received a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from an individual this month. The same request was received by all and nobody knows why. She stated the Agency has complied with the FOIA requirements. An itemized bill for the services requested was sent to the individual, and once

payment is received, the requested documents will be forwarded. To date, there has been no return response.

6. COMMENTS

a. Board – None.

b. Public – Ms. Pelts said that the Employee Spotlight focus on the Board of Directors which she mentioned earlier will be done in November of this year.

7. MEETING DATES

a. Board

(1) Monday, March 25; 5:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

b. Committees

(1) Human Resources – Monday, March 4; 4:30 p.m.; Virtual

(2) Recipient Rights Advisory – Tuesday, March 12; 4:00 p.m.; Virtual

(3) Recipient Rights Appeal – Tuesday, March 12; 4:30 p.m.; Virtual

(4) Facilities – Thursday, March 14; 3:00 p.m.; Virtual

(5) Program – Thursday, March 14; 4:00 p.m.; Virtual

(6) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, March 19; 4:30 p.m.; Virtual

c. Other

(1) NMRE Day of Recovery Education: May 17, Treetops Resort, Gaylord

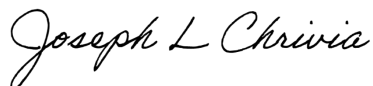
(2) CMHAM Summer Conference: June 11-12, Traverse City

(3) Agency Picnics: July 29 – August 1, Locations TBD

8. ADJOURN

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Simmons to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph L. Chrivia
Recording Secretary