

AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Authority

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

Board Meeting
Monday, April 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, April 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, Chuck Varner, Gary Klacking, Mark Surbrook, Patti Casey, Rose Walsh, Amy Knepp, Debra Welsch, Bonnie Lixey, and Jill Gould

Board members present via video conference: None

Board members excused: Roberta Roulo and Brenda Simmons

Board members absent: None

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

Staff present via video conference: Teresa Tokarczyk, Jennifer Warner, Laura Marentette, Shirley McMahan, Lori Enos, Michon VanWormer, Kathryn Cook, Laura Sisco, Inna Mason, Sydney Larsen, Regina Demetrakeas, Kerreen Conley, and Tyler Rood

Staff absent: None

Guests: Joseph "Chip" Johnston, Centra Wellness Network, Mary Crock-Ring

Guests via video conference: None

A quorum was present.

c. Approval of Board meeting minutes

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Casey to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2024 Board meeting as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

d. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Gould to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes, motion passed.



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e. Correspondence

Ms. Pelts said the Board packet contains three newsletters (the Agency Quarterly Newsletter, the Download Newsletter, and the Training Newsletter) as well as six Employee Spotlights. Ms. Pelts thanked the staff for preparing the newsletters and encouraged all to read them as they contain useful information. She also reminded the Board that the Employee Spotlights are now done by department and the submissions feature Outpatient Therapy and Wraparound.

f. Legislative Updates

Ms. Pelts said there are three editions of *This Week in Lansing* in the packet for them to read and review. She said the recent special elections have shifted political control back to democratic control of the State House of Representatives.

g. Announcements – None.

h. Public Comments – None.

2. BOARD EDUCATION

Ms. Pelts introduced Chip Johnston, Executive Director of Centra Wellness Network to the Board. Mr. Johnston said he began his career as a case manager and is now the Executive Director of his CMH, a position he has held for seventeen years. He began by discussing the history of CMHs in Michigan. Mr. Johnston explained he has consolidated this information into what he calls the “Red Book” and has given classes on it across the State. AuSable Valley supervisors received an education last year and will be receiving a “Red Book Part II” training tomorrow.

Mr. Johnston then shifted the discussion to the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model. He said this was created on the national level when other states, who do not have a county-based model like Michigan, needed a structural format. Mr. Johnston discussed the nuances of CCBHCs and why it would be difficult for a CCBHC to be successful in a rural area. In addition, the Region’s Opioid Health Home and Behavioral Health Home models have been proven to be very successful in serving the rural communities.

The Board of Directors and Mr. Johnston discussed other details of CMHs, CCBHCs, and other regional news.

The Board thanked Mr. Johnston for his presentation.

3. BOARD REORGANIZATION

a. Report of Nominating Committee

Ms. Welsch read the Nominating Committee minutes. Ms. Welsch called for other nominations three times. No other nominations were offered.

b. Election of Officers

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Gould that nominations be closed and that a unanimous vote be cast for the slate of officers designated by the Nominating Committee. All ayes; motion passed. Elected were:

- (1) Chairperson: D. Jay O’Farrell

(2) Vice-Chairperson: Gary Klacking

(3) Treasurer: Bonnie Lixey

(4) Secretary: Charles Varner

c. Conflict of Interest Statements, Confidentiality Agreement, Board Member Information

The Conflict of Interest Statements, Confidentiality Agreements, and Board Member Information sheets were distributed prior to the meeting. Those that had not yet returned them were encouraged to do so at the conclusion of the meeting or as quickly as possible.

d. Code of Ethics Review

A copy of the Code of Ethics was included in the board packets for the members to review.

e. Bylaws

Ms. Pelts stated the Bylaws were updated this month and reviewed by the Executive & Finance Committee. Afterwards, they were sent to all Board Members to review prior to today's meeting. It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Lixey to approve the updated Bylaws as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

f. Proposed Board Meeting Schedule

The Board meeting schedule was presented for May 2024 through April 2025. It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Mr. Klacking to adopt the meeting schedule as proposed. All ayes; motion passed.

4. REPORTS

a. Chairman – Mr. O'Farrell thanked Ms. Pelts for the Narcan kits. He stated he offered Narcan kits to various community partners in the Whittemore area.

b. Board Association – Mr. O'Farrell reminded the Board of the upcoming Summer Conference in Traverse City.

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

d. Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Pelts said she has included an article related to the end of state pandemic grant funding to the schools for the enhancement of mental health, social workers, nurses, and school psychologists. Statewide, close to 900 workers potentially will lose their jobs. The intention of the grant was to be a collaborative effort but many CMHs lost staff to the schools.

Ms. Pelts and the Board discussed how funding shifts have affected various programs in the past.

e. Committee

(1) Human Resources – April 8, 2024

Committee Chair Gary Klacking read the Committee meeting minutes.

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

(2) Facilities – April 11, 2024

Committee Chair Mark Surbrook read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required board approval.

(3) Program – April 11, 2024

Committee Chair Patti Casey read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required board approval.

(4) Executive & Finance – April 16, 2024

Committee Chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

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

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Gould to approve the updates to the Agency's Finance Manual as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Walsh to approve the updates to the Agency's Bylaws as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Casey to approve one new contract (Paramount Children's Therapy Center) and three renewals (Language Services, American Red Cross, and GT Independence). Additionally, there was one single-service agreement (River Crest Indiana). All ayes; motion passed.

(5) Recipient Rights Advisory –did not meet

(6) Recipient Rights Appeal – did not meet

5. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Pelts reminded the Board that the annual CMH PAC is currently collecting donations. She stated she will match any Board contributions up to \$20. Additionally, during the Summer Conference, AuSable Valley is planning to donate an item for the silent auction. We hope to get a local golf course to donate a round of golf for four and we will add a gift basket of miscellaneous golf items. Ms. Pelts asked any board member who wishes to contribute to let her know.

Ms. Pelts stated the Agency Rebranding project has commenced. While the kickoff was quiet, all the design work must happen first with the contractor. Ms. Pelts hopes to have an update soon.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and we have two incentive items to distribute. She said each Board member has a window cling as well as a lapel pin. These will also be distributed to all staff.

6. NEW BUSINESS – none.

7. COMMENTS

a. Board – Mr. Klacking commended Ms. Pelts, the AuSable Valley staff, and the Rehmann team for their good work. He stated AuSable Valley is very fortunate to have them in place.

b. Public – Mr. Johnston said he has been reviewing the math and estimates CMHs have lost nearly \$1 billion in general fund dollars since the state changed the funding methodology.

8. MEETING DATES

a. Board

(1) Tuesday, May 28; 5:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

b. Committees

(1) Human Resources – Monday, May 6; 4:30 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(2) Facilities – Thursday, May 9; 3:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(3) Program – Thursday, May 9; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(4) Recipient Rights Advisory – Tuesday, May 14; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(5) Recipient Rights Appeals – Tuesday, May 14; 4:30 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(6) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, May 21; 4:30 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

c. Other

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

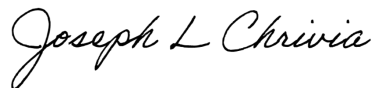
(2) CMHAM Summer Conference: June 11-12, Traverse City

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

9. ADJOURN

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Mr. Varner to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph L. Chrivia
Recording Secretary