

AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Authority

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

Board Meeting
Monday, July 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, July 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, Gary Klacking, Mark Surbrook, Patti Casey, Rose Walsh, Debra Welsch, Bonnie Lixey, Amy Knepp, Brenda Simmons, and Jill Gould

Board members present via video conference: None

Board members excused: Chuck Varner

Board members absent: None

Staff present: Diane Pelts, Teresa Tokarczyk, Regina, Trish Otremba, Regina Demetrakeas, Casey Carpenter, Andrea Hale, Shannon Davidson, and Joseph Chrivia

Staff present via video conference: Jennifer Warner, Laura Marentette, Shirley McMahon, Lori Enos, Inna Mason, Jennifer Carr, Laura Sisco, and Kathryn Cook

Staff absent: None

Guests: Charles Javor Jr, Peer Recovery Program

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. Welsch to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2024 Board meeting as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

d. Approval of Agenda

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



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e. Correspondence

Ms. Pelts said the Board packet contains several items of correspondence. First, the Oscoda County Board of Commissioners sent a letter of support for the resolution opposing MDHHS' Decision to Implement Conflict Free Access and Planning in Michigan. Second, she shared two newsletters (the Download Newsletter and the Recipient Rights Newsletter). Finally, she shared five Employee Spotlights from the Ogemaw County CLS team. Ms. Pelts discussed each with the Board and reminded the Board that the November Spotlights will be on the Board of Directors.

f. Legislative Updates

Ms. Pelts said there are two editions of *This Week in Lansing* in the packet for them to read and review.

g. Announcements – None.

h. Public Comments – None.

2. BOARD EDUCATION

Ms. Pelts introduced Charles Javor, a member of the Peer Recovery Program, to the Board. Mr. Javor further introduced himself and gave some background on his history and recovery. He stated his involvement with AuSable Valley began fifteen years ago and Trish Otremba was his case manager when he was in ACT. He thanked her for her work in helping him get the support he needed to begin his journey. He said he is doing very well now. He continued to compliment the staff of AuSable Valley for their kindness and dedication to consumers. He said the clerical staff are always polite and helpful, and some staff have gone out of their way to help him and give him tips to help him through troubling times. He pointed out a few staff specifically, Nurse Geri Fowler, Doctor Ibrahim, Sandra West, and retired staff member Dan Cole. He gave examples of each of them helping him and providing tools to assist him in his recovery. He said, "I just think the people here deserve a lot of credit."

The Board thanked him for speaking today and congratulated him on his successes.

3. REPORTS

a. Chairperson – Mr. O'Farrell said he attended a recent MAC Conference (Michigan Association of Counties) and saw Bob Sheehan of the Board Association in attendance. He said the MAC had behavioral health on the agenda and there was a lot of talk about stopping attempts to privatize Michigan's system with Mr. Sheehan answering questions. Mr. O'Farrell stated many counties don't have the resources to handle various issues that they are responsible for and share resources between community partners. Mr. O'Farrell listed several examples of communities helping each other and stated his fear of things becoming worse if privatization occurs.

b. Board Association – None.

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

d. Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Pelts said her report revolves around retirement options. Last week, during the Executive & Finance Committee meeting, Zach Karas (RPA) gave his semi-annual report on the Agency's 401(a) and 457(b) plans held by Mission Square. She reminded the Board that part of RPA's contract is to continually monitor the funds and provide a due diligence report for the Board. Ms. Pelts said the full report has been uploaded for the Board's review.

Ms. Pelts shared several takeaways from Mr. Karas's presentation. First, only 85 (38%) of the staff participate in the 457(b) plan. She said there are many possible reasons for this and she said various ideas were discussed to increase staff participation. Next, Ms. Pelts said the national average for retirement savings is \$73,000; currently AuSable Valley staff average \$28,000 in retirement savings. Ms. Pelts said this only includes money held by Mission Square so it is possible additional savings are in other accounts. She also said that since the funds have been moved to Mission Square from the previous plan, a higher level of growth is being achieved.

Ms. Pelts also shared she is reviewing the possibility of adding Roth Retirement options to encourage additional participation from Staff who do not want traditional accounts. Ms. Pelts said she is planning to release a staff survey of benefits and hopes to have everything ready before the benefits education this fall.

Finally, Ms. Pelts reminded everyone that RPA provides a certified financial planner, Tim Rozelle, to work with any staff member who has questions concerning their retirement planning. She encouraged everyone to take advantage of this benefit which the Agency pays for on their behalf.

e. Committee

(1) Human Resources – July 1, 2024

Committee Chair Amy Knepp read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Ms. Knepp and seconded by Ms. Lixey to approve two CLS Scheduler Positions. All ayes; motion passed.

(2) Recipient Rights Advisory – July 9, 2024

Committee Chair Rose Walsh read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required Board action.

(3) Recipient Rights Appeals – July 9, 2024

Committee Chair Rose Walsh read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required Board action.

(4) Facilities – July 11, 2024

Committee Chair Mark Surbrook read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Walsh to accept the bid from Horizon Sealcoating for \$3,840 for the Mio Sealcoating project. All ayes; motion passed.

(5) Program – July 11, 2024

Committee Chair Patti Casey read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required Board action.

(1) Executive & Finance – July 16, 2024

Committee Chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

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

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Mr. Klacking to approve one new contract (Propio Language Services). Additionally, there was one contract renewal (Dr. Spells) and four single-service agreements (Garden City, Munson, Doctors Behavioral Health, and Camp Fish Tales). All ayes; motion passed.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. O'Farrell stated the Rebranding Committee met and the two finalists for rebranding designs were presented to the Board. After a thoughtful discussion and consideration of both designs, a recommendation was made. It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Walsh to approve "Option T" as the winning design. All ayes, motion passed.

5. NEW BUSINESS – none.

6. COMMENTS

a. **Board** – none.

b. **Public** – Ms. Pelts reminded the Board that the Board self-evaluation is underway and only five responses have been received to-date. She urged all Board members to complete the surveys as soon as possible.

7. MEETING DATES

a. **Board**

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

b. **Committees**

(1) Human Resources – Monday, August 5; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(2) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, August 20; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(3) Facilities – No meeting scheduled

(4) Program – No meeting scheduled

(5) Recipient Rights Advisory – No meeting scheduled

(6) Recipient Rights Appeals – No meeting scheduled

c. **Other**

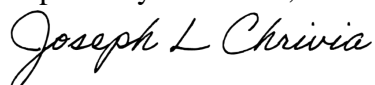
(1) Agency Picnics: July 29 – Oscoda; July 30 – West Branch; July 31 – Tawas City; August 1 – Mio.

(2) CMHAM Fall Conference: October 21-22, Traverse City

8. ADJOURN

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Casey to adjourn the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph L. Chrivia
Recording Secretary