

Board Meeting
Monday, October 28, 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, October 28, 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, Mark Surbrook, Patti Casey, Rose Walsh, Chuck Varner, Bonnie Lixey, Amy Knepp, Matt Jordan, and Jill Gould

Board members present via video conference: Debbie Welsch

Board members excused: Brenda Simmons and Gary Klacking

Board members absent: None

Staff present: Diane Pelts, Teresa Tokarczyk, Tyler Rood, and Joseph Chrivia

Staff present via video conference: Laura Marentette, Regina Demetrakeas, Trish Otremba, Sydney Larsen, Kathryn Cook, Lori Enos, Elizabeth Harrington, Julie Henika, Karrie Bishop, Debra Webber, Tuya Bayonjargal, and Michon VanWormer

Staff absent: None

Guests: None

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 September 23, 2024 Board meeting as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

d. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Varner and seconded by Ms. Knepp to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

e. Correspondence

Ms. Pelts said the Board packet contains three newsletters: The Agency Quarterly Newsletter, the Download and the training Newsletter. Next, she shared the CMHAM Committee Meeting Calendar, seven Employee Spotlights from the CEO's staff. Finally, she presented the

regional data from the NMRE Satisfaction Survey. Ms. Pelts reviewed each item with the Board.

f. Legislative Updates

She stated there are four editions of *This Week in Lansing* in the packet to read and review. She said there are four bills addressing amendments to the Open Meetings Act.

g. Announcements – None.

h. Public Comments – None.

2. BOARD EDUCATION

Ms. Tokarczyk, Chief Clinical Officer, gave a presentation on the Importance of Service Integration to the Board. She began by giving a brief history on the experiences people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) have had and explained the Olmstead Act and the meaning of community inclusion and engagement.

Ms. Tokarczyk said people want to belong to the community, but due to stigma, years ago people were hidden from the community at large, state hospitals and adult foster care homes. The Olmstead Act in 1999 required people with mental disabilities be treated in the community, not in isolation. The rules instituted in 2014 with Home and Community Based Services require people who get services to be treated as equal parts of the community.

Ms. Tokarczyk explained four steps of community: participation, inclusion, integration, and life engagement. She explained why being part of the community is important.

Ms. Tokarczyk explained how Wellvance is moving forward to better integrate people into the community. She reviewed her plan and the progress taken, so far. Ms. Pelts asked how the changes have been received by staff and consumers/guardians. Ms. Tokarczyk explained there has been some confusion and need for additional explanations in many cases. She reiterated she is moving to ensure Wellvance is in compliance.

3. REPORTS

a. Chairperson –None.

b. Board Association – Mr. O’Farrell stated the Fall Conference was last week and there was much discussion around the \$93 million of funding appropriated for behavioral health that was never released and returned to the State’s general fund. Another topic was opioid settlement money that may never be received due to various pharmaceutical companies closing business. Mr. O’Farrell discussed future initiatives between CMHs and schools need to require more collaboration as the last initiative created competition between the groups. Finally, Mr. O’Farrell said the local health department, DHD2, has hired a dental hygienist who will be visiting all of the schools in the district’s catchment area. He said Delta Dental approved a grant to help them purchase a van for this program.

d. NMRE – Mr. O’Farrell said they met last week and discussed the surveys and budgets.

e. Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Pelts said her full report has been uploaded for review and contains two attachments for additional reading. Ms. Pelts referenced a PowerPoint presentation given by the State at the CMHAM conference highlighting Behavioral Health Homes and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics. There is still a large push for the entire state of Michigan to become CCBHCs, but it is difficult for rural areas to meet the requirements. However, rural areas have successfully implemented the care coordination model of Behavioral Health Homes. Wellvance has a Behavioral Health Home program called PATH. Ms. Pelts said Laura Marentette, Health Services Program Director, supervises PATH and thanked her for providing the data and information included in her report.

Ms. Pelts reviewed the PATH data and reviewed the number of enrollees since the program began in FY21 through today as well as the incentive monies earned through the process, which are reinvested into the program.

Ms. Pelts concluded by stating it doesn’t make sense to pursue a model of care that does not work in the community, when another model is a better fit and is very successful in providing positive outcomes, as evidenced by the success story provided.

e. Committee

(1) Facilities – October 10, 2024

Committee Chair Mark Surbrook read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Lixey to accept the bid from Smitty’s Tree Service for the Mio office snow removal for \$5,425. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Walsh to approve the auction of five vehicles with minimum bids of \$500 for each sedan and \$1000 for the van. All ayes; motion passed.

(2) Program –October 10, 2024

Committee Chair Patti Casey read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required Board action.

(3) Executive & Finance – October 15, 2024

Committee Chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

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

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Gould to approve the Finance Policy Manual Updates as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Walsh to adopt a new Mission and Vision Statement to coincide with the rebranding to Wellvance. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Knepp to approve three (3) contract renewals with rate changes (Healthsource, Dr. Barba, Iris Telehealth) and one (1) new contract (Dr. Raval). All ayes; motion passed.

(4) Human Resources – did not meet

(5) Recipient Rights Advisory – Did not meet

(6) Recipient Rights Appeals – Did not meet

4. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Pelts said that the Board voted unanimously to rebrand the Agency but, because the new name was not ready to be publicly shared, the vote was for “Option T.” Ms. Pelts explained that filing paperwork with state agencies as well as financial entities has been hindered by this. Ms. Pelts requested a resolution from the Board stating: “The Board of Directors of AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Authority hereby resolve that as of Monday, September 30, 2024, the Agency is officially doing business as Wellvance for all intents and purposes and does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer or designee to effectuate any and all requirements and necessary documentation to ensure the continuation of all Agency and business practices as Wellvance.” It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Lixey to adopt the resolution as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

5. NEW BUSINESS – none.

6. COMMENTS

a. Board

Ms. Casey stated she enjoyed the Open House in the West Branch office last month.

Mr. Surbrook commented that the Fall Conference was outstanding this year.

b. Public – None

7. MEETING DATES

a. Board

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

b. Committees

- (1) Human Resources – Monday, November 4; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex
- (2) Recipient Rights Advisory – Tuesday, November 12; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex
- (3) Recipient Rights Appeals – Tuesday, November 12; 4:30 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex
- (4) Facilities – Thursday, November 14; 3:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex
- (5) Program – Thursday, November 14; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex
- (6) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, November 19; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex

c. Other

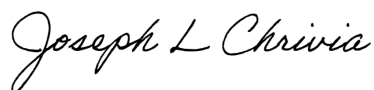
- (1) CMHAM Winter Conference: February 4-5, Kalamazoo
- (2) CMHAM Summer Conference: June 10-11, Traverse City
- (3) CMHAM Fall Conference: October 27-28, Traverse City

Reminder: Committee meetings in January, February, and March will be virtual. Board meetings, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, will still require an in-person forum to conduct business.

8. ADJOURN

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Welsch to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph L. Chrivia
Recording Secretary