

Board Meeting  
Monday, November 25, 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, November 25, 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, Brenda Simmons, Gary Klacking, Amy Knepp, Debbie Welsch, Matt Jordan, and Jill Gould

**Board members present via video conference:** None

**Board members excused:** None

**Board members absent:** None

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

**Staff present via video conference:** Laura Marentette, Jennifer Carr, Regina Demetrakeas, Teresa Tokarczyk, Cheryl Bronson, Sydney Larsen, Lori Enos, Coral Smith, Joshua Chrivia, Jennifer Warner, and Adel Astala

**Staff absent:** None

**Guests:** Alan Bolter, Associate Director CMHAM

**Guests via video conference:** Susan Hartz

A quorum was present.

**c. Approval of Board meeting minutes**

It was moved by Ms. Knepp and seconded by Ms. Lixey to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2024 Board meeting as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

**d. Approval of Agenda**

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

**e. Correspondence**

Ms. Pelts said the Board packet contains three newsletters: The Recipient Rights Newsletter, the Download, and the training Newsletter. She briefly discussed each with the Board. Next, she shared five Employee Spotlights from the Board of Directors and thanked them for participating.

**f. Legislative Updates**

She stated there are three editions of *This Week in Lansing* in the packet to read and review. Additionally, there is a MHSa Election Report and Unofficial House Results. She stated since Mr. Bolter is here to give a post-election update, she would let him review this during his presentation. Finally, Ms. Pelts shared an article discussing the Department of Justice's investigation into Michigan's State Psychiatric Hospitals as well as Mr. Sheehan's response.

**g. Announcements** – None.

**h. Public Comments** – None.

**2. BOARD EDUCATION**

Mr. Bolter, Associate Director CMHAM, presented a post-election update to the Board. He began by giving an overview of election results, both in Michigan and nationally, and addressing trends. He said voting in urban areas was down in many areas and rural voting was up. He discussed the changing dynamics in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Bolter then focused on Michigan results and explained that the House of Representatives in Lansing changed from a Democratic majority to a Republic majority. He said Michigan's House was the only legislative body in the nation to change control, but because Democrats maintain a majority in the State Senate, Michigan will have a divided Congress. He explained that due to this, as well as having a Democratic Governor, it will be very difficult for any bill of a substantive nature to get passed.

CMHAM contacted all election winners and provided information on what the Board Association does and gave points of contact for legislators. He hopes they can establish a good working relationship with this body to discuss important issues related to behavioral health.

In the short term, Mr. Bolter does not believe much, if anything, will be accomplished during the lame duck session. He said any bill not passed before the end of this term must be reintroduced next term and begin the process anew. He said this includes items such as the Naloxone Bill, updates to the Open Meetings Act, and Social Worker Licensure changes.

Mr. Bolter said the incoming House Speaker is requesting additional oversight on governmental agencies, including MDHHS. He explained how that could affect CMHs across the State.

Regarding the budget, Mr. Bolter said there is still hope a supplemental rate change may be forthcoming that will provide some relief. He stated that during the reenrollment process for Medicaid, following the public health emergency, many errors have been discovered with citizens being miscategorized, which resulted in a decrease in funds and services. Discussion ensued between Mr. Bolter and the Board as they questioned how these errors occurred and the lengthy timeline to correct them.

Ms. Pelts shared that Pontiac General Hospital has had their contract with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services revoked. Ms. Pelts said this is the only community hospital

in the State that will take IDD consumers for inpatient treatment. She and Mr. Bolter discussed the ripple effect this will have to the system.

Mr. Bolter and the Board discussed different legislative issues, the Waskul settlement, school funding, and other budgetary impact.

Mr. Bolter departed.

### 3. REPORTS

**a. Chairperson** –None.

**b. Board Association** – None.

**d. NMRE** – Mr. Klacking said the NMRE CEO’s contract is up for renewal and the region is fortunate to have him in place. Ms. Pelts briefly spoke on the issues surrounding Northern Lakes CMH.

**e. Chief Executive Officer**

Ms. Pelts said she deferred most of her time to Mr. Bolter but would read her CEO’s report to the Board. Ms. Pelts stated she has reached the decision to retire and will do so on August 1, 2025. She reviewed her reasons for retiring at this time and expressed her gratitude to the Board for the incredible opportunities and support they have given her. Ms. Pelts detailed several important milestones the Agency has achieved during her tenure and stated what an honor it has been to contribute to the Agency’s success during this time.

She again thanked the Board for the trust and confidence they placed in her and assured them she is committed to ensuring a smooth transition takes place and pledged to work diligently with her successor.

**e. Committee**

**(1) Human Resources – November 5, 2024**

Committee Chair Amy Knepp read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required Board action.

**(2) Recipient Rights Advisory – November 12, 2024**

Committee Chair Rose Walsh read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Lixey to accept the 2024 Annual Report, pending any additional comments and/or goals from the Board. All ayes; motion approved.

**(3) Recipient Rights Appeals – November 12, 2024**

Committee Chair Rose Walsh read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required Board action.

**(4) Facilities – November 14, 2024**

Committee Chair Mark Surbrook read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Casey to approve the high bids for the five vehicles auctioned, or the next highest bid if the winning bid fails to complete the transaction. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Welsch to approve the bid from Signature Signs to produce signage for three buildings at a cost of \$13,122 per sign. 11 Ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention (Mr. Klacking). Motion passed.

**(5) Program – November 14, 2024**

Committee Chair Patti Casey read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required Board action.

**(6) Executive & Finance – November 19, 2024**

Committee Chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

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

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Knepp to approve contracting with Rehmann to provide an Executive Search for Chief Executive Officer. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Welsch to approve three (3) contract renewals with rate changes (Fun First Therapy, Harbor Oakes, and Bay Human Services). All ayes; motion passed.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Pelts informed the Board that a federal court struck-down the FLSA rules projected to take effect in January. Furthermore, the Court reversed the FLSA rules implemented this past July. Ms. Pelts said Wellvance already took action to be in compliance with the July requirements and would not be reversing the changes.

**5. NEW BUSINESS – none.**

**6. COMMENTS**

**a. Board – None.**

**b. Public – None.**

## 7. MEETING DATES

### a. Board

(1) Monday, January 27; 5:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

### b. Committees

(1) Human Resources – Monday, January 6; 4:00 p.m.; Virtual

(2) Facilities – Thursday, January 9; 3:00 p.m.; Virtual

(3) Program – Thursday, January 9; 4:00 p.m.; Virtual

(4) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, January 21; 4:00 p.m.; Virtual

(5) Recipient Rights Advisory – No meeting scheduled

(6) Recipient Rights Appeals – No meeting scheduled

### c. Other

(1) CMHAM Winter Conference: February 4-5, Kalamazoo

(2) CMHAM Summer Conference: June 10-11, Traverse City

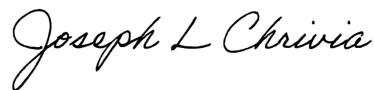
(3) CMHAM Fall Conference: October 27-28, Traverse City

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