

Board Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2025
5:00 p.m., St. Vincent's Annex
MINUTES

1. CONVENE

a. Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Wellvance Board of Directors was held on Monday, January 27, 2025, 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, Gary Klacking, and Matt Jordan

Board members present via video conference: Amy Knepp and Debbie Welsch

Board members excused: None

Board members absent: None

Staff present: Diane Pelts, Teresa Tokarczyk, Trish Otremba, Jennifer Carr, Casey Carpenter, and Joseph Chrivia

Staff present via video conference: Laura Marentette, Cheryl Bronson, Lori Enos, Jennifer Warner, and Michon VanWormer

Staff absent: None

Guests: None

Guests via video conference: Christine Gebhard

A quorum was present.

c. Approval of Board meeting minutes

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

d. Approval of Agenda

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

e. Correspondence

Ms. Pelts said the Board packet contains two newsletters: the Download and the training Newsletter. She briefly discussed each with the Board. Next, she shared three Employee Spotlights from the Quality Department and thanked them for participating.

f. Legislative Updates

Ms. Pelts said several of these items are now obsolete as the lame-duck session has ended and a new legislative term has begun. She recapped the lame-duck session by stating that no bills relating to Social Worker licensure or supervision requirements were passed. At this time it is uncertain if they will be reintroduced as their sponsor is no longer in office. Furthermore, anticipated changes to the Open Meetings Act also failed to move during the session.

Ms. Pelts shared documentation outlining the fiscal crisis caused by misclassifying citizens during the Medicaid reenrollment process. She stated over \$35 million from this region was lost due to this. Additionally, issues with the Hab-Support Waiver (HSW) program has resulted in another \$2.7 million lost from this region. Discussion ensued on the extent of this issue and the lengthy correction attempts to correct the issue that have persisted for over seven years.

Ms. Pelts shared five issues of *This Week in Lansing* with the Board for their information.

Finally, Ms. Pelts shared a proposal for a Learning Collaborative. She explained this comes from the Rural Caucus in conjunction with leadership from MDHHS. She reviewed the details of the proposal with the Board and said she hopes it advances this summer.

g. Announcements – Ms. Pelts announced that due to Ms. Gould’s resignation from the Board, Mr. Jordan will take her seat on the Recipient Rights Advisory Committee as well as the Recipient Rights Appeals Committee.

h. Public Comments – None.

2. BOARD EDUCATION

Ms. Pelts introduced Trish Otremba, Chief Quality Officer, to the Board and stated her presentation would be Harm Reduction. Ms. Otremba began by defining what Harm Reduction is and said it begins by recognizing that all people deserve safety and to be treated with dignity.

She stated funding is received from several sources including the Opioid Settlement Fund. The Opioid Crisis was named an epidemic and Wellvance has been involved for nearly ten years to help people in crisis. She stated that before 2015, substance use disorder (SUD) treatment was the only service offered by Wellvance. Then, in 2015, Co-Occurring Services were added. She explained that many people who are diagnosed with SUD also have a mental

illness and Medicaid covers Co-Occurring treatment. Ms. Otremba explained the issues involved with funding for consumers with only a diagnosis of SUD.

Substance Use Disorder funding, without a Co-Occurring diagnosis, comes from a variety of sources which she explained. Due to these differences, services vary widely from one location to another across the State. Furthermore, SUD funding continues to decrease making services more difficult to access.

In this area, Ogemaw County has established a coalition to disburse Opioid Settlement monies. She said Iosco and Oscoda Counties are working to establish theirs; however, there are efforts to combine resources into one coalition with representatives from all three counties.

Ms. Otremba shared several services and initiatives being offered throughout the area. She gave a detailed list of locations where Narcan is available. She said other initiatives such as fentanyl testing strips, safe syringe kits, xylazine testing strips, and needle disposal boxes are being discussed. Additionally, she described a Tawas School initiative, Students Leading Students, to the Board and said she hopes it can be adopted in more areas.

Ms. Otremba concluded her presentation by commenting on the successes. She shared stories from people in recovery and announced overdoses have declined.

Discussion ensued between the Board and Ms. Otremba.

3. REPORTS

a. Chairperson –None.

b. Board Association – None.

d. NMRE – Mr. O’Farrell shared the difficulties the region is facing when tasked to establish a budget when funding has so many uncertainties.

e. Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Pelts offered a tribute to retiring Board member, Patti Casey, after 20 years of service to the Agency. She reflected on Ms. Casey’s time on the Board and the lasting impact she made. She said Ms. Casey served on nearly every Committee on the Board and, most recently, served on the Rebranding Committee where she helped transform AuSable Valley to Wellvance.

Looking at Ms. Casey, Ms. Pelts was able to illuminate the traits that make her an outstanding addition to the Board. Ms. Pelts said Wellvance is fortunate to have Board members who have been members for years and shared her admiration for everyone who would commit so much of their lives to the community.

Ms. Pelts said with Ms. Casey’s retirement, there is a 25% vacancy rate on the Board. She said she is working with the County Boards of Commissioners to fill each position. Anyone

with a suggestion for an appropriate candidate should let her know. Ms. Pelts said Board members must match the purpose of the organization they represent. We have been fortunate to have this as all members work together for the betterment of the citizens we serve.

Ms. Pelts invited everyone to enjoy a piece of cake at the conclusion of tonight's meeting.

Ms. Casey said this has been a wonderful Board. She stated she began working in the mental health field in 1971. She said it is her time to retire but it has been a privilege to be a part of this Board.

e. Committee

(1) Human Resources – January 6, 2025

Committee Chair Amy Knepp read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Ms. Knepp and seconded by Mr. Surbrook to approve the proposal to add one Community Health Worker position as a full-time employee and the corresponding job description. All ayes; motion passed.

(2) Facilities – January 9, 2025

Committee member Gary Klacking read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Klacking and seconded by Ms. Lixey to approve the bid from K&J Excavation to replace the septic system at the Antelope COH for a cost of approximately \$6,000. All ayes; motion passed.

(3) Program – January 9, 2025

Committee Chair Patti Casey read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required Board action.

(4) Executive & Finance – January 21, 2025

Committee Chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

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

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Welsch to approve six (6) contract renewals with rate changes (Ken Werner, McBride Main Street Living, Nooks & Crannies, Diamond Shine, Gary Sloan, and Andrenette Platt) and four (4) new contracts (Hope Network, Beacon, Eagle Pointe Plaza, and Crystal Davis). All ayes; motion passed.

(5) CEO Search – January 9, 2025

Committee Chair Jay O’Farrell read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required Board action.

(6) CEO Search – January 24, 2025

Committee Chair Jay O’Farrell read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. O’Farrell and seconded by Mr. Surbrook to delegate responsibilities outlined in the Succession Planning Policy to the CEO Search Committee with the Search Committee overseeing the candidate selection process. The Search Committee will be responsible for identifying, screening, and evaluating qualified candidates and will bring forward the top candidates for Board interviews, presentations, and final selection. All ayes; motion passed.

(7) Recipient Rights Advisory – Did not meet

(8) Recipient Rights Appeals – Did not meet

4. OLD BUSINESS – none.

5. NEW BUSINESS – none.

6. COMMENTS

a. Board – None.

b. Public – None.

7. MEETING DATES

a. Board

(1) Monday, February 24; 5:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex

b. Committees

(1) Human Resources – Monday, February 3; 4:00 p.m.; Virtual

(2) Recipient Rights Advisory – Tuesday, February 11; 4:00 p.m.; Virtual

(3) Recipient Rights Appeals – Tuesday, February 11; 4:30 p.m.; Virtual

(4) Facilities – Thursday, February 13; 3:00 p.m.; Virtual

- (5) Program – Thursday, February 13; 4:00 p.m.; Virtual
- (6) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, February 18; 4:00 p.m.; Virtual
- (7) CEO Search – to be determined

c. Other

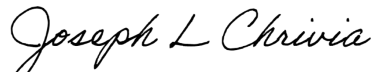
- (1) CMHAM Winter Conference: February 4-5, Kalamazoo
- (2) CMHAM Summer Conference: June 10-11, Traverse City
- (3) CMHAM Fall Conference: October 27-28, Traverse City

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 Ms. Casey and seconded by Ms. Walsh to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph L. Chrivia
Recording Secretary