

Board Meeting
Monday, March 24, 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, March 24, 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.

Board Chair Mr. O'Farrell recognized two new Board members: Charles Wiltse, Ogemaw County and Renee Diener, Iosco County. He and the Board welcomed the new members to their first meeting.

b. Roll Call

Board members physically present: D. Jay O'Farrell, Mark Surbrook, Rose Walsh, Chuck Varner, Matt Jordan, Charles Wiltse, and Renee Diener

Board members present via video conference: Debbie Welsch

Board members excused: Amy Knepp, Bonnie Lixey, and Gary Klacking

Board members absent: None

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

Staff present via video conference: Jennifer Carr, Trish Otremba, Regina Demetrakeas, Cheryl Bronson, Lori Enos, Teresa Tokarczyk, Michon VanWormer, Laura Marentette, and Jennifer Warner.

Staff absent: None

Guests: Representative Hoadley, District 99

Guests via video conference: Rob Pallarito, Senator Hoytenga's Office

A quorum was present.

c. Approval of Board meeting minutes

It was moved by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Varner to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2025 Board meeting as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

d. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Walsh 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 explained what these are for the new Board members and reminded everyone that they are welcome to sign up for any training.

Next, Ms. Pelts stated there are six employee spotlights for review.

f. Legislative Updates

Ms. Pelts said the State issued an RFP to change the number of PIHPs in the State from 10 to 1. She briefly explained this proposal and the possible effects it will have.

Ms. Pelts shared a presentation on Medicaid. She said this was a presentation by the Senior Deputy Director for MDHHS to the State Senate showing the positive impact of Medicaid to Michiganders, numerous data elements in support of Medicaid, and the potential negative impact that federal cuts will have to Michigan's Medicaid program.

g. CMH PAC

Ms. Pelts reminded everyone that she is accepting contributions and will match all Board contributions up to \$20 to reach the goal of \$500 for Wellvance. She said she obtained a donation of five Detroit Tigers tickets, game date to be determined, that she would like to use as Wellvance's contribution to the CMHAM silent auction in June. The Board concurred.

h. Announcements

Mr. O'Farrell wished Ms. Walsh a happy birthday and led the Board in song.

i. Public Comments

Rob Pallarito from Senator Hoytenga's office thanked the Board for the invitation to attend.

2. BOARD EDUCATION

Ms. Pelts introduced Representative Mike Hoadley from the 99th House District to the Board.

Representative Hoadley said he enjoys attending any event and has a few items to say and then would like to hear any questions the Wellvance's Board has for him. He began by saying he's made the Standish prison a priority item. He stated he has been working to repurpose that building into something useful and stop the empty building from being a burden on the taxpayers. He said getting the property transferred from the Department of Corrections has been difficult but he is making progress on that task. He has met with many community partners, inclusive of Wellvance's CEO, with discussions centered around a potential health-related campus inclusive of both physical and behavioral health.

Representative Hoadley said his current focus is the State Budget in Lansing. He said there are many things in discussion for this budget and he wants to get everything he can for the citizens he represents while working in a fiscally responsible manner.

Representative Hoadley said he has worked with Ms. Pelts on various projects in the past and enjoys working with community organizations to improve services. He said he is honored to be a part of these discussions. Representative Hoadley asked if the Board had questions for him.

Mr. O'Farrell said the State Legislature approved \$90 million last year and MDHHS only released \$40 million. He asked what happened to the other \$50 million that was approved for behavioral health. Representative Hoadley said they are currently drafting the FY26 budget and he can't access FY24 monies. He stressed that it is important to contact him as these issues occur to prevent something like this from happening again.

Ms. Pelts echoed Mr. O'Farrell's question and asked how the legislature feels knowing the money they appropriated was never released to those who need it and the money was subsequently lost back to the general fund. Representative Hoadley agreed and said he currently has three FY26 budgets, the House Budget, the Senate Budget, and the Governor's Budget, and they are trying to mesh them into one budget that can get passed.

Mr. O'Farrell said everyone is working on budgets and he asked how a CMH can prepare a budget when our funding is so uncertain. Furthermore, getting money appropriated doesn't actually mean it will be received.

Mr. O'Farrell and Ms. Pelts outlined the current budget problem in the NMRE and causes. Ms. Pelts stated the Medicaid reenrollment process has not been smooth and many people were erroneously denied or misclassified. She explained the difference in funding we receive for Medicaid enrollees based on their classification. Representative Hoadley confirmed MDHHS is responsible for the reenrollment and there has been renewed attention to more oversight of their department by the legislature. He said there will be more oversight and accountability of all departments: MDHHS, EGLE, DNR, et cetera.

Ms. Pelts referenced MDHHS mandates that are not compatible with CMHs. First, she referenced a recent mandate to increase funding of autism providers without funding the CMHs to cover the increased cost. Second, she reviewed the push for Conflict-Free Access and Planning and explained how there is no conflict in a managed care system. She said this will increase costs and slow service delivery in rural areas. Representative Hoadley said he would like to invite Ms. Pelts to Lansing as an advocate for CMH funding.

Ms. Pelts asked Representative Hoadley to direct collaboration in future bills involving behavioral health services and the schools so that the CMHs are not negatively affected.

Mr. Wiltse returned to the budget issues and said he appreciated the idea of inviting Ms. Pelts to Lansing to advocate for behavioral health. Ms. Pelts added, if anything at MDHHS can be fixed, it needs to be fixed back to the beginning of the fiscal year, ensuring proper reimbursement.

Representative Hoadley closed by discussing how the appropriations process works and said everyone needs to be informed. He says northern Michigan seems to be ignored in the process and he is trying to rectify that.

3. REPORTS

a. Chairperson –None.

b. Board Association – None.

d. NMRE

Mr. O’Farrell stated they next meet on Wednesday. Ms. Pelts said she will be in Lansing but will connect virtually. All members of the NMRE Board said they intend to ensure all five CMHs are committed to the cost-containment process. Discussion ensued.

e. Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Pelts said she was deferring her time this month. However, she wanted to briefly explain a key part of her report. Wellvance conducted a safeTALK training recently and there was a success story where students helped a struggling student. Everyone is safe and the outcome could have been tragic if the students didn’t know how to respond when they heard the distress.

Representative Hoadley asked how our trainings occur. Ms. Pelts explained. Representative Hoadley was highly complimentary of Wellvance’s community trainings and services.

e. Committee

(1) Human Resources – March 3, 2025

Committee member Matt Jordan read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Jordan and seconded by Mr. Surbrook to adopt a front-loaded procedure for the required 72 hours of sick-time to comply with the Earned Sick Time Act. All ayes; motion passed.

(2) CEO Search – March 12, 2025

Committee member Debbie Welsch read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required Board action.

(3) Facilities – March 13, 2025

Committee Chair Mark Surbrook read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Mr. Varner to approve the bid from Denstedt’s Tree Service for \$2,500 for the Antelope COH tree removal project. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Welsch to reject all bids for the Riverbed Flooring project and approve the Wellvance Facilities crew to complete this project with a budget of \$11,500. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Walsh to upgrade the alarm panel in the West Branch office for a cost of \$1,643. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Mr. Varner to approve an authorized tow company list. Discussion ensued on why some companies did not make the list. All ayes; motion passed.

(4) Program – March 13, 2025

Committee Chair Debbie Welsch read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required Board action.

(5) Recipient Rights Advisory – March 13, 2025

Committee Chair Rose Walsh read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions which required Board action.

(6) Executive & Finance – March 18, 2025

Committee member Chuck Varner read the Committee meeting minutes.

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

It was moved by Mr. Varner and seconded by Mr. Surbrook to approve the updated Board Bylaws as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

(7) Recipient Rights Appeals – Did not meet

4. OLD BUSINESS – None.

5. NEW BUSINESS – None.

6. COMMENTS

a. Board – Mr. Surbrook thanked Representative Hoadley and Rob Pallarito for attending.

b. Public – None.

7. MEETING DATES

a. Board

(1) Monday, April 28; 1:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

b. Committees

(1) Human Resources – Monday, April 7; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(2) Recipient Rights Advisory – No meeting scheduled

(3) Recipient Rights Appeals – No meeting scheduled

- (4) Facilities – Thursday, April 10; 3:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex
- (5) Program – Thursday, April 10; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex
- (6) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, April 15; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex
- (7) CEO Search – to be determined

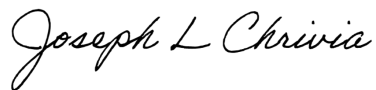
c. Other

- (1) CMHAM Summer Conference: June 10-11, Traverse City
- (2) CMHAM Fall Conference: October 27-28, Traverse City

8. ADJOURN

It was moved by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Varner to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph L. Chrivia
Recording Secretary