

Board Meeting  
Monday, September 22, 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, September 22, 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, Gary Klacking, Bonnie Lixey, Mark Surbrook, Matt Jordan, Renee Diener, and Debbie Welsch

**Board members present via video conference:** Charles Wiltse and Chuck Varner

**Board members excused:** Amy Knepp and Rose Walsh

**Board members absent:** None

**Staff present:** Trish Otremba, Casey Carpenter, and Joseph Chrivia

**Staff present via video conference:** Mike Ehinger, Jennifer Carr, Jennifer Warner, Laura Marentette, and Coral Kujawski

**Staff absent:** None

**Guests:** None

**Guests via video conference:** Lacey Selman and Cherie Long

A quorum was present.

**c. Approval of Board meeting minutes**

It was moved by Mr. Klacking and seconded by Mr. Surbrook to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2025, 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. Otremba shared the Training Newsletter and one Employee Spotlight with the Board. She encouraged everyone to review upcoming training courses and to sign-up for anything they find interesting.

**f. Legislative Updates**

Ms. Otremba shared the "Myths vs Facts" flyer published by the CMHAM. She said there have been several articles published recently concerning the MDHHS decision to bid-out the



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PIHP process and everyone should stay involved with this process.

**g. Announcements** -- None.

**i. Public Comments** -- None.

## **2. PUBLIC HEARING**

a. It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Mr. Klacking to suspend the regular monthly board meeting and convene the annual public meeting. Roll call vote taken; all ayes. Motion passed.

b. Ms. Otremba presented the Agency's 2026 Needs Assessment, Long-term Plan, and Fiscal Year 2026 budget for discussion. She detailed each to the public. She reminded everyone that because the State Budget has not been approved, this budget is based on the best information currently available. She stated it will be amended if necessary.

c. Mr. O'Farrell asked if there were any public comments or questions concerning these items. No comments or questions were voiced.

d. It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Mr. O'Farrell to adjourn the public meeting and resume the regular monthly board meeting. All ayes; motion passed.

e. It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Mr. Klacking to accept the Fiscal Year 2026 Needs Assessment, Long-term Plan, and FY26 Budget as proposed. Roll call vote taken. All ayes; motion passed.

## **3. REPORTS**

**a. Chairperson** – None.

**b. Board Association** – None.

**c. NMRE**

Mr. O'Farrell reminded the Board of Wednesday's meeting.

**d. Chief Executive Officer**

Ms. Otremba said she had the privilege to attend the Walk-a-Mile Rally in Lansing this month. She said there were more than 2,500 people in attendance and various agencies and groups participated. She said we will be certain to have "Wellvance gear" available for next year's rally so everyone will know who we are.

Ms. Otremba stated we have had staff participation for years in this event. She said when you check in, you receive a county flag to carry so people will know where you are from. Years ago, she learned Ogemaw County did not have a flag in Lansing so the members made a hand-stitched flag themselves and carried that until the State made their own Ogemaw flag.

Ms. Otremba said that besides consumer participation, there was a legislative presence including (retired) Senator Stabenow and representatives from the Board Association. She said she was able to speak with several people who are opposed to the PIHP Bid-out RFP.

She said the event is important to show the State how many people need services and decisions impact the lives of so many. She was proud to be part of the event and hopes next year will be even larger.

**e. Committee**

**(1) Program – September 11, 2025**

Committee Chair Debbie Welsch read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions that required board action.

**(2) Facilities – September 11, 2025**

Committee Chair Mark Surbrook read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Welsch to accept the bid for the Mio Snow removal from Smitty's. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Diener to accept the bid for Sunday Cleaning from Service Masters for the Tawas Office, AuSable Center, Oscoda Office, Mio Office, Mio Annex, St. Vincent A, and St. Vincent B. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Lixey to accept the bid for Sunday Cleaning from Mr. Sloan for the West Branch Office. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Welsch to approve the FY26 Priority Projects as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

**(3) Executive & Finance – September 16, 2025**

Committee Chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Mr. Jordan to accept the July Financial reports. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Welsch to approve the following resolution: The Governing body of AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Authority elects to comply with the requirements of 2011 Public Act 152, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, by adopting the Annual Exemption Option for the medical benefit plan coverage year January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. Roll call vote. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Mr. Surbrook to approve seventeen (17) contract renewals with hospitals that had a rate change (BCA Stonecrest, Harbor Oaks,

Havenwyck, HealthSource, McLaren Bay Region, McLaren Flint, McLaren Greater Lansing, McLaren Lapeer Region, McLaren Macomb, McLaren Northern Michigan, McLaren Oakland, McLaren Port Huron, MyMichigan Alma, MyMichigan Alpena, MyMichigan Midland, MyMichigan Sault, and Pine Rest); three (3) hospital renewals without rate changes (Cedar Creek, Forest View, and Trinity Mercy St Mary's); one (1) new hospital contract (Henry Ford Kingswood); six (6) contract renewals without rate change (MyMichigan Gladwin Lease, ACORN, Autism Systems, North Arrow, North Shores Norway Lease, and ROOC); and one (1) new contract (Cheryl Kobernik). 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 – None.**

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Otremba shared the FY26 Wellvance/NMRE contract with the Board. She said this is the same contract as previous years and submitted it to them for their review and approval.

After review and discussion, it was moved by Mr. Klacking and seconded by Mr. Jordan to approve the FY26 NMRE contract as presented. Roll call vote taken. All ayes; motion passed.

## **6. COMMENTS**

### **a. Board –**

Mr. Surbrook stated Public Health has issued 23 lay-off notices to union employees because of the State budget impasse. He said this goes into effect on October 2 unless the state budget is approved before then. Discussion on the public health staffing issues ensued.

### **b. Public – None.**

## **7. MEETING DATES**

### **a. Board**

(1) Monday, November 3; 5:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

### **b. Committees**

(1) Human Resources – Monday, October 6; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(2) Recipient Rights Advisory – No meeting scheduled

(3) Recipient Rights Appeals – No meeting scheduled

- (4) Program – Thursday, October 9; 2:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex
- (5) Facilities – Thursday, October 9; 3:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex
- (6) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, October 21 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex

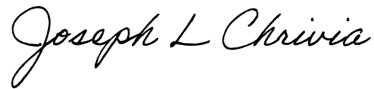
**c. Other**

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

**8. ADJOURN**

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Welsch to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph L. Chrivia".

Joseph L. Chrivia  
Recording Secretary