

Board Meeting
Monday, November 3, 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, November 3, 2025, in the St. Vincent's Annex in West Branch. Chairperson D. Jay O'Farrell called the meeting to order at 5:01 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, Chuck Varner, Amy Knepp, Rose Walsh, and Debbie Welsch

Board members present via video conference: None

Board members excused: Renee Diener and Charles Wiltse

Board members absent: None

Staff present: Trish Otremba, Teresa McGee, Kereen Conley, Tyler Rood, Casey Carpenter, and Joseph Chrivia

Staff present via video conference: Mike Ehinger, Jennifer Carr, Laura Marentette, Lori Enos, Regina Demetrakeas, Kathryn Cook, and Coral Kujawski

Staff absent: None

Guests: None

Guests via video conference: None

A quorum was present.

c. Approval of Board meeting minutes

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Mr. Klacking to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2025, Board meeting as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

d. Approval of Agenda

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

e. Correspondence

Ms. Otremba shared three newsletters with the Board: IT Download, Training Newsletter, and Empowering Connections. She reviewed each and highlighted several articles. She also shared Employee Spotlights and mentioned they are a great way for staff to learn about each other.

f. Legislative Updates

Ms. Otremba shared the latest information regarding the PIHP Bid-out situation. She stated Ogemaw County has signed a resolution opposing the move so all counties in our catchment area have now signed resolutions.

g. Announcements -- None.

i. Public Comments -- None.

2. BOARD EDUCATION

Tyler Rood, IT Manager shared a presentation on the recent IT Security Audit. Mr. Rood said the Agency hires a company to come in every two or three years and attempt to hack our system and find possible vulnerabilities. He said they conducted their audit in August and these are the key findings. Mr. Rood said there is no external exposure, a low exploitability risk, and a low physical security risk. He said Wellvance's internal systems caught all their testing activities. Mr. Rood was proud to declare that no employee passwords were compromised; he stated in the past 30 to 40 passwords were hacked in just a few seconds. This accomplishment shows staff are listening to advice on passwords and doing the right thing.

Mr. Rood said recommendations include a server firmware patch, a printer firmware issues, and office phones security. All recommendations are being considered, and corrections are being implemented.

Mr. Rood said our security rating is 8.1 out of 8.5. He said Wellvance has been consistently achieving 8.1 for the last few audits. Wellvance ranks above average compared to similar agencies.

Mr. Rood answered questions from the Board and assured them the recommendations will be implemented as quickly as possible.

The Board thanked Mr. Rood and the IT Team for their work.

3. REPORTS

a. Chairperson – Mr. O'Farrell reminded everyone that the judge overseeing the CMHAM v MDHHS Lawsuit regarding the PIHP Bid-out is expected to rule on December 8th. He said the Michigan Association of Counties opposes the bid-out proposal but, as a back-up, submitted bids to ensure local control remains.

b. Board Association – None.

c. NMRE – None.

d. Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Otremba shared her report with the Board and reviewed the highlights. She said she focused on leadership and what it means to her. She reviewed the tenets of transparency, authenticity, consistency, and empathy. She said transparency leads to trust and trust is essential in leadership. She explained the virtues of being authentic and consistent as staff need to know their leader makes good decisions and follows the same approach each time. She said empathy guides as decisions must be tailored to include the human element. Responses must understand the situation our people are in and take everything into consideration.

e. Committee

(1) Recipient Rights Advisory – September 24, 2025

Committee Chair Rose Walsh read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Lixey to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 ORR budget as proposed. All ayes; motion passed.

(2) Human Resources – October 6, 2025

Committee Chair Amy Knepp read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Ms. Knepp and seconded by Ms. Welsch to approve the amended Substance Testing Policy as presented.. All ayes; motion passed.

(3) Programs – October 9, 2025

Committee Chair Debbie Welsch read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions that required Board action.

(4) Executive & Finance – October 21, 2025

Committee Chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

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

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Walsh to approve the following contracts: four contract renewals with hospitals (Forest View, MyMichigan, Trinity Mercy St. Mary, Cedar Creek); one new contract (Service Master of Alpena); and five contract renewals with rate change (St. John Lutheran Church, Gary Sloan, Bay Human Services, North Shores Center – Alpine, Lighthouse Rehab). All ayes; motion passed.

(5) Recipient Rights Appeals – Did not meet

(6) Facilities – Did not meet

4. OLD BUSINESS – None.

5. NEW BUSINESS -- None

6. COMMENTS

a. Board –

Ms. Knepp asked for an update on Northern Lakes CMH and their financial situation. Mr. Varner said the NMRE is paying for a forensic audit going back to Fiscal Year 2017. He stated they have hired a new CEO and the situation seems to be under control at this time. Discussion ensued.

b. Public – None.

7. MEETING DATES

a. Board

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

b. Committees

(1) Human Resources – Monday, November 3; 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, November 13; 2:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(5) Facilities – Thursday, November 13; 3:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(6) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, November 18; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

c. Other

(1) CMHAM Winter Conference: February 2-3, Kalamazoo

(2) CMHAM Summer Conference: June 8-10, Traverse City

(3) CMHAM Fall Conference: October 26-27, Traverse City

8. ADJOURN

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Welsch to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph L. Chrivia
Recording Secretary