

Board Meeting
Monday, March 23, 2026
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, February 23, 2026, 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, Matt Jordan, Mark Surbrook, Amy Knepp, Renee Diener, Jeanette Leathorn, Debbie Welsch, and Charles Wiltse

Board members present via video conference: Chuck Varner

Board members excused: Bonnie Lixey and Rose Walsh

Board members absent: None

Staff present: Teresa McGee, Laura Zettel, Tyler Rood, Martina Pratt, Elizabeth Harrington, and Joseph Chrivia

Staff present via video conference: Regina Demetrakeas, Jennifer Warner, Coral Kujawski, Michon VanWormer, Kathryn Cook, Lori Enos, Cheryl Bronson, Jennifer Carr, and Sydney Larsen.

Staff absent: None

Guests: None

Guests via video conference: None

A quorum was present.

c. Approval of Board meeting minutes

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Mr. Jordan to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026, Board meeting as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

d. Approval of Agenda

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

e. Correspondence

Ms. McGee shared four newsletters with the Board: Training Newsletter, CARF Newsletter, the CLS Newsletter, and the Empowering Connections Newsletter. She reviewed each and highlighted several key points for the Board. She reminded the Board that training's listed are available to them if they wish to attend.



Ms. McGee said the Employee Spotlight has changed from a personal account to an interview style. She hopes the Board enjoys the new format.

f. Legislative Updates

Ms. McGee said there are three editions of *This Week in Lansing* for the Board to review. She said there are several items worth noting and highlighted a few for the Board. Specifically, she commented on changes to what is considered child abuse and neglect which may impact our mandated reporting requirements. This legislation will continue to be monitored to determine if changes in the expectations of reporting are impacted.

g. Announcements

Mr. O'Farrell welcomed Ms. Leathorn to her first Board meeting.

Mr. O'Farrell announced the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners has reappointed Ms. Walsh to the Board for another three years. Ms. Walsh is absent today as she celebrates her birthday.

i. Public Comments -- None.

2. BOARD EDUCATION

Ms. McGee introduced Elizabeth Harrington and Martina Pratt, Recipient Rights Officers, to the Board. Ms. Harrington began the presentation by reminding the Board what essential duties the Office of Recipient Rights provides. She stated their duties include prevention, complaint resolution, education, and monitoring.

Ms. Harrington gave a detailed explanation of the annual and semi-annual reporting process and stated specifics would be shared later in the presentation. The Board inquired on how staff training is completed; Ms. Harrington answered.

Ms. Pratt gave an in-depth account of how complaints are resolved. She explained that when complaints are received, they are first reviewed to ensure there is a code-protected right, then to see if we have appropriate jurisdiction. She gave examples of common situations that occur that do not involve a code-protected right or how something outside of our jurisdiction is handled. She stated that once a complaint meets the above criteria, it is acknowledged and investigated. The office reaches a conclusion and the CEO reviews the process. She explained what happens with substantiated complaints and each report that is sent throughout the process.

After discussing complaints, Ms. Pratt explained the appeals process. She reviewed the reasons why a complaint can be appealed and who has the right to appeal.

Ms. Pratt shared the FY25 annual report statistics and explained the numbers from every category.

Ms. Harrington reviewed goals for the office for 2026.

Discussion ensued on the complaint process and what is being done to ensure recipient rights are not violated.

Mr. Surbrook stated he had an opportunity to read a completed report and was impressed with the thoroughness and detail of the reports.

3. REPORTS

a. Chairperson – Mr. O’Farrell appointed Mr. Jordan, Mr. Surbrook, Ms. Knepp, and Ms. Welsch to the Nominating Committee which will be held at 4:30 on Monday, April 27, 2026.

b. Board Association – Mr. O’Farrell reminded everyone that the PAC drive is underway and anyone who wishes to contribute should forward their donation to the Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Chrivia will accept contributions during her absence.

c. NMRE – Next meeting on Wednesday.

d. Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Otremba was not present to share her report, but Ms. McGee asked the Board to review it thoroughly and ask any questions when Ms. Otremba returns. She stated the report focuses on four bills currently in Lansing, HBs 4902, 4903, 4904, and 5074. She explained how each of these bills affect behavioral health and/or the licensure process for providers. She asked everyone to read up on these and to reach out with questions or comments.

e. Committee

(1) Human Resources – March 2, 2026

Committee chair Amy Knepp read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions that required Board action.

(2) Recipient Rights Advisory – Did not meet

(3) Recipient Rights Appeals – Did not meet

(4) Program – March 12, 2026

Committee chair Debbie Welsch read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Ms. Welsch and seconded by Mr. Surbrook to approve the Quality Improvement Program Plan as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

(5) Facilities – March 12, 2026

Committee chair Mark Surbrook read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Welsch to approve the Driver Selection Policy. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Mr. Wiltse to approve the Distracted Driver Policy. All ayes; motion passed.

(6) Executive & Finance – March 17, 2026

Committee member Debbie Welsch read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Ms. Welsch and seconded by Ms. Diener to accept the January Financial reports. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Ms. Welsch and seconded by Mr. Surbrook to approve the two new contracts (Beacon and SRS). All ayes; motion passed.

4. OLD BUSINESS – None.

5. NEW BUSINESS – None.

6. COMMENTS

a. Board – None.

b. Public – None.

7. MEETING DATES

a. Board

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

b. Committees

(1) Human Resources – Monday, April 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, April 9; 2:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(5) Facilities – Thursday, April 9; 3:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(6) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, April 21; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(7) Nominating – Monday, April 27; 4:30 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

c. Other

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

(2) Walk-a-Mile: September 23, 2026, Lansing

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

8. ADJOURN

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Welsch to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Joseph L. Chrivia
Recording Secretary