

Board Meeting
Monday, April 27, 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, April 27, 2026, in the St. Vincent's Annex in West Branch. Vice-Chairperson Matthew Jordan 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: Matt Jordan, Mark Surbrook, Amy Knepp, Renee Diener, Jeanette Leathorn, Debbie Welsch, Bonnie Lixey, Rose Walsh, and Charles Wiltse

Board members present via video conference: None

Board members excused: D. Jay O'Farrell and Chuck Varner

Board members absent: None

Staff present: Trish Otremba, Teresa McGee, Laura Zettel, Scott Izzo, Casey Carpenter, Jennifer Carr, and Joseph Chrivia

Staff present via video conference: Regina Demetrakeas, Jennifer Warner, Tyler Rood, Michon VanWormer, Lori Enos, Cheryl Bronson, and Laura Sisco

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 Ms. Lixey to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2026, Board meeting as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

d. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Wiltse and seconded by Ms. Diener 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 the Empowering Connections Newsletter. She reviewed each and highlighted several key points for the Board.

Ms. Otremba said Michon VanWormer, applied for the BellSeal for Workplace Mental Health. She stated our application was reviewed and we were awarded the Gold Seal. Ms. Otremba briefly explained this program to the Board.



Ms. Otremba shared an update on the financial situation of Northern Lakes CMH. She said they have more reliable information to share; unfortunately, the information is not positive. She stated they are forecasting a \$13 million deficit this fiscal year. She stated their newly hired CEO is trying to correct a lot of historical bad practices and decisions that have led to this issue. Ms. Otremba and the board discussed the financial situation and how it impacts the region.

Ms. Otremba shared three employee longevity spotlights. She discussed each staff member's submission with the Board.

f. Legislative Updates

Ms. Otremba said there is one edition of *This Week in Lansing* for the Board to review. She highlighted several key points in the article for the Board.

Ms. Otremba gave an overview on the Rural Caucus in Michigan. She stated there are five CMHs in the U.P., the five CMHs in the NMRE, and a couple of others from various parts of the state. She stated their purpose is ensuring a rural perspective is considered when decisions are made at the state level. She said everyone in the rural areas are working together to ensure the voice of rural communities is heard. Ms. Otremba said the conversation is gaining traction and urges everyone to advocate. She stated there is a proposed resolution and presented it to the Board for their consideration.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Welsch to adopt the Resolution in Support of Rural Advocacy as proposed. All ayes; motion passed.

g. Announcements

Mr. Surbrook announced Ogemaw County hired a new County Administrator and they began working last week.

i. Public Comments -- None.

2. BOARD REORGANIZATION

a. Report of Nominating Committee

Ms. Welsch read the Nominating Committee minutes. Ms. Welsch called for other nominations three times. No other nominations were offered.

b. Election of Officers

It was moved by Ms. Welsch and seconded by Mr. Surbrook that nominations be closed and that a unanimous vote be cast for the slate of officers designated by the Nominating Committee. All ayes; motion passed. Elected were:

- (1) Chairperson: D. Jay O'Farrell
- (2) Vice-Chairperson: Matt Jordan
- (3) Treasurer: Bonnie Lixey
- (4) Secretary: Charles Varner

c. Conflict of Interest Statements, Confidentiality Agreement, Board Member Information

The Conflict-of-Interest Statements, Confidentiality Agreements, and Board Member Information sheets were distributed prior to the meeting. Those that had not yet returned them were encouraged to do so at the conclusion of the meeting or as quickly as possible.

d. Code of Ethics Review

A copy of the Code of Ethics was included in the board packets for the members to review.

e. Bylaws

A copy of the Bylaws was included in the board packets for the members to review.

f. Proposed Board Meeting Schedule

The Board meeting schedule was presented for May 2026 through April 2027. Ms. Otremba noted that there will be some meetings in other offices this year. It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Lixey to adopt the meeting schedule as proposed. All eyes; motion passed.

3. REPORTS

a. Chairperson – Mr. Jordan stated new Board Member, Jeanette Leathorn, has been appointed to the Human Resources Committee and the Program Committee.

b. Board Association

Mr. Jordan reminded everyone to sign up for the Summer Conference if they plan to attend.

Ms. Otremba thanked everyone who has participated in the PAC drive.

c. NMRE

Mr. Surbrook explained that when the State outlined the performance incentives, the NMRE was projected to earn \$538,000. However, when other PIHPs failed to meet their goals, the region's incentive increased to approximately \$1.5 million. Ms. Otremba explained how goals are calculated and stated we earned this incentive due to the outstanding work of the Wellvance employees. Wellvance's share of the incentive will be approximately \$359,000.

d. Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Otremba said she was shifting her report this month from her personally written narrative to the CMHA narrative of the Mental Health Framework. She said, the politics on this issue never seem to end and a new angle for privatization is being drafted. Ms. Otremba explained the proposed system of hospitals managing mild/moderate inpatient admissions and stated the Hospital Network also opposes this framework. Ms. Otremba explained various issues with the system, including a disregard for a recipient rights, due process for consumers, appeals, and testing criteria like LOCUS and MichiCANS requirement for other private providers or FQHC's (Federally Qualified Health Centers). She stated this draft, if enacted, would negatively impact services to consumers. Ms. Otremba said we will once again need advocacy efforts to fight these changes.

e. Committee

(1) Human Resources – Did not meet

(2) Recipient Rights Advisory – Did not meet

(3) Recipient Rights Appeals – Did not meet

(4) Program – April 9, 2026

Committee chair Debbie Welsch read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions that required board action.

(5) Facilities – April 9, 2026

Committee chair Mark Surbrook read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Welsch to approve the bid from MAGA Sealcoating (\$4,940) on the Oscoda sealcoating project. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Walsh to approve the bid from North Degree Construction (\$14,552) on the Lupton bathroom project. Ms. Walsh inquired about the bid and scope of the project, Mr. Surbrook answered. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Lixey to approve the bid from Northeaster Windows (\$3,418) on the Norway windows project. All ayes; motion passed.

(6) Executive & Finance – April 21, 2026

Committee chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

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

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Knepp to approve one new contract (Beacon Woodland Home). All ayes; motion passed. Additionally, there were two single-service agreements (Safehaus CRU and Metropolitan Behavioral Health).

4. OLD BUSINESS – None.

5. NEW BUSINESS – None.

6. COMMENTS

a. Board – Today is “Autism Supermom Day.”

b. Public – Scott Izzo, newly hired Health Services Supervisor, introduced himself to the Board.

7. MEETING DATES

a. Board

(1) Tuesday, May 26; 5:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex

b. Committees

(1) Human Resources – Monday, May 4; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex

(2) Recipient Rights Advisory – Tuesday, May 12; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex

(3) Recipient Rights Appeals – Tuesday, May 12; 4:30 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex

(4) Program – Thursday, May 14; 2:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex

(5) Facilities – Thursday, May 14; 3:00 p.m.; St. Vincent’s Annex

(6) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, May 19; 4:00 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 Ms. Welsch and seconded by Mr. Surbrook to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph L. Chrivia
Recording Secretary