

Board Meeting
Monday, June 22, 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, June 22, 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, Bonnie Lixey, Amy Knepp, Renee Diener, Jeanette Leathorn, Debbie Welsch, Charles Wiltse, and Rose Walsh

Board members present via video conference: Mark Surbrook and Matt Jordan

Board members excused: Chuck Varner

Board members absent: None

Staff present: Trish Otremba, Laura Zettel, Casey Carpenter, Jennifer Carr, and Joseph Chrivia

Staff present via video conference: Tyler Rood, Regina Demetrakeas, Sydney Larsen, Laura Sisco, and Jennifer Warner

Staff absent: None

Guests: Captain Brian Golden, Iosco County Jail Administrator

Guests via video conference: None

A quorum was present.

c. Approval of Board meeting minutes

It was moved by Ms. Knepp and seconded by Ms. Lixey to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2026, Board meeting as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

d. Approval of Agenda

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

e. Correspondence

Ms. Otremba shared two newsletters with the Board: Training Newsletter and the WAG Newsletter. She reviewed each and highlighted several key points for the Board.

f. Legislative Updates

Ms. Otremba shared one edition of *This Week in Lansing* with the Board. She highlighted several portions for the Board.



Tawas City
1199 W. Harris Ave.
Tawas City, MI 48764
Phone: 989-362-8636

Access: 844-225-8131

West Branch
511 Griffin Rd.
West Branch, MI 48661
Phone: 989-345-5571

24/7 Crisis: 844-865-5569

Oscoda
5805 Cedar Lake Rd.
Oscoda, MI 48750
Phone: 989-739-1469

Visit us Online at [Wellvance.org](https://www.wellvance.org)

Mio
42 N. Mt. Tom Rd.
Mio, MI 48647
Phone: 989-826-3208

g. Announcements – none.

i. Public Comments – none.

2. BOARD EDUCATION

Laura Zettel, Chief Operations Officer and Captain Brian Golden, Iosco County Jail Administrator, presented information on the Jail-based Opioid Treatment and Recovery Initiative. Ms. Zettel began by stating the Agency applied for several grants from the Opioid Settlement grant funding and this was one that was approved. Captain Golden explained this is a partnership between the Iosco County Jail, Wellvance, Health Management Associates, the Iosco County Opioid Settlement Steering Committee, and the Iosco County Board of Commissioners. He briefly explained the role of the various parties involved in this endeavor.

Captain Golden said he became aware of this initiative from other officers who have used treatment resources to prevent inmates from returning to jail after release and returning to previous habits. He stated this is an evidence-based program and it produces results.

Captain Golden shared the project goals: (1) Expand access to Medication Assisted Treatment in the Iosco County Jail; (2) Integrate therapeutic supports; (3) Ensure continuity of care post-release; (4) Reduce overdose risk and improve health outcomes; and (5) Build a sustainable jail-based therapeutic model.

Captain Golden explained that approximately 10% of those arrested each year have a substance use disorder and released individuals are 100 times more likely to die from overdose. Additionally, they are 40 times more likely to die of overdose in the first two weeks of release and are at high risk for opioid withdrawal syndrome.

Ms. Zettel explained the funding for the initiative and what trainings are required for Wellvance and Jail staff members.

Captain Golden said he has contacted providers in the county who will assist with medication for those in the program after they are released from jail for ongoing treatment.

Ms. Zettel shared the project timeline.

Launch: June/July 2026
Implement: July – December 2026
Expansion and Evaluation: 2027
Sustainability and integration: 2027

Ms. Zettel gave a detailed account of how monies will be used and said there is a total budget of approximately \$200,000 for this grant.

Ms. Zettel and Captain Golden answered questions from the Board.

3. REPORTS

a. Chairperson – None.

b. Board Association – None.

c. NMRE

Mr. O’Farrell said this month’s meeting has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

d. Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Otremba shared an article focusing on substance use disorders. She said she wanted to expand upon Captain Golden and Ms. Zettel’s presentation with additional data.

Ms. Otremba said overdose deaths have decreased for the fourth consecutive year. Michigan overdoses have declined by 47% since 2021 – preliminary 2025 data is projecting an even lower death rate. She stated this progress reflects Michigan’s strategy and efforts to address substance use disorders and using Opioid Settlement money to combat the issue.

Ms. Otremba said the numbers are encouraging, but the work is not done. She said we will continue to push for treatment options. She discussed the opioid task force efforts to expand access to treatment and recovery.

Ms. Otremba said current concerns include drugs such as fentanyl, xylazine, and medetomidine which are mixed with other drugs for a potentially fatal effect.

Mr. O’Farrell applauded the efforts and said for years the sentiment had been that “overdoses are the consequence of bad decisions” but efforts have proven that treatment is more cost-effective than incarceration and people are changing their thinking on the issue.

e. Committee

(1) Human Resources – June 1, 2026

Committee chair Amy Knepp read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions that required board action.

(2) Program – June 11, 2026

Committee chair Debbie Welsch read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions that required board action.

(3) Facilities – June 11, 2026

Committee member Debbie Welsch read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions that required board action.

(4) Executive & Finance – June 16, 2026

Committee chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

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

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Diener to approve the annual renewal of the Huron Community Bank line of credit. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Mr. Wiltse to approve three single-service agreements (Camp Fish Tales and two from Munson Medical Center).

(5) Recipient Rights Advisory – did not meet

(6) Recipient Rights Appeals – did not meet

4. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Otremba reminded the Board that we have a vacancy from Iosco County and if anyone has any suggestions for a candidate, to please let her know.

5. NEW BUSINESS – None.

Ms. Otremba reminded the Board that the self-evaluation survey will be released tomorrow. She asked them to be aware of an email from Jennifer Carr or Survey Monkey and to complete it as soon as possible.

Ms. Otremba said that the Agency annual training is usually a two-day event with half of the staff attending day one and the other half attending day two. She asked for their consent to close the office and do the entire training on one day. She outlined various ideas for the day of training. The Board expressed their support for the proposal.

6. COMMENTS

a. Board

Mr. Wiltse asked about the delay in approving an additional staff member for the facilities team. Ms. Otremba stated she and Mr. Pallagi need to sit down and make a well-thought-out proposal before moving forward. She stated that while an additional person would be very helpful today, it might not be needed next year, and she wants to ensure we are not rushing the decision.

b. Public

Ms. Zettel announced the CARF assessors will be here from July 22 through July 24 and they will want to speak with a few board members. Ms. Otremba elaborated and said she will reach out when we have more information.

7. MEETING DATES

a. Board

(1) Monday, July 27; 5:00 p.m.; Oscoda Office

b. Committees

(1) Human Resources – Monday, July 6; 4:00 p.m.; Oscoda Office

(2) Program – Thursday, July 9; 2:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

(3) Facilities – Thursday, July 9; 11:00 a.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

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

(5) Recipient Rights Advisory – No meeting scheduled

(6) Recipient Rights Appeals – Monday, June 29; 4:00 p.m.; Virtual

c. Other

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

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

8. ADJOURN

It was moved by Ms. Knepp and seconded by Ms. Welsch to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph L. Chrivia
Recording Secretary