

Board Meeting
Monday, August 24, 2026
5:00 p.m.,
MINUTES

1. CONVENE

a. Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Wellvance Board of Directors was held on Monday, August 24, 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, Bonnie Lixey, Chuck Varner, Renee Diener, Debbie Welsch, Amy Knepp, Rose Walsh, and Mark Surbrook.

Board members present via video conference: Jeanette Leathorn and Charles Wiltse

Board members excused: None

Board members absent: None

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

Staff present via video conference: Teresa McGee, Regina Demetrakeas, Jennifer Carr, Sydney Larsen, Jennifer Warner, Scott Izzo, Michon VanWormer, Cheryl Bronson, Tyler Rood, Lori Enos, Jennifer Verbeke, and Kathryn Cook

Staff absent: None

Guests: Rob Mangano and Hayden Nickell, RPA

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. Knepp to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2026, Board meeting as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

d. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Otremba stated the consumer presentations scheduled for part of the Board Education will be canceled as the consumers are not available. It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Diener to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes, motion passed.

e. Correspondence

Ms. Otremba shared the Training Newsletter and the Recipient Rights Newsletter. She reviewed key portions and on each.

Ms. Otremba read two staff longevity spotlights. One for a staff member of 15 years and one for a staff member of 25 years with the Agency. She read through both in their entirety and expressed her appreciation for their time in service to the Agency and its consumers.

f. Legislative Updates

Ms. Otremba shared an infographic from the Board Association stating the opposition for House Bill 6022. Ms. Otremba explained how HB6022 adds new complications to the system.

Ms. Otremba presented a recap on primary races. She announced the winners of both major political parties for key races and overall takeaways. She said this information comes from the Board Association, and she will distribute other information as it arrives.

Mr. Wiltse asked if there are any endorsements from the Association on the Governor's race. Conversation ensued.

g. Announcements

None

i. Public Comments

None

2. BOARD EDUCATION

Ms. Otremba introduced Rob Mangano, VP of Plan Consulting with Retirement Plan Advisors (RPA) and Hayden Nickell, Financial Advisor with RPA. Mr. Mangano said his role at RPA is to review funds at a high level to ensure they meet the needs and Mr. Hayden is a local representative who can work with individuals on their personal plans.

Mr. Mangano shared RPA's mission statement and said they are not Mission Square. They serve as our fiduciary to ensure Mission Square provides the best possible options for staff.

Mr. Mangano said the total investment in the Agency's 401(a) has increased by \$750,000 in 2026 and the 457(b) has increased by \$100,000 in the same period. He reviewed statistics showing staff participation in both programs. Mr. Mangano said 95% of staff use the Target Date Fund strategy for 401(a) accounts while the other 5% use a do-it-yourself strategy and choose their own funds. He said the 457(b) accounts have 91% using the target date fund strategy, 8% using do-it-yourself, and 1% using a managed account strategy.

Mr. Mangano shared RPA's Due Diligence Report and said two plans are currently on watch, Touchstone Mid Cap R6 and MFS International Diversification. No plans are currently on a warning. He explained RPA's strategy for offering funds to the menu of options and their oversight to ensure plans that are not meeting expectations are removed. He reviewed the different fund options and their goals.

The Board thanked the RPA Representatives for their work.

3. REPORTS

a. Chairperson – None.

b. Board Association – None.

c. NMRE

Mr. O’Farrell said they will meet next on Wednesday, August 26th.

d. Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Otremba said the state has allocated \$50 billion over the next four years for the Rural Health Transformation Program. She said a state committee will determine where and how money will be spent and two CMHs are on this committee. Ms. Otremba said \$1.8 million is to be awarded to CMHSPs for two initiatives (\$900,000 for each).

Initiative 1: Inoperability in Action – Rural Data Integration and Infrastructure Fund

Initiative 2: Care Closer to Home

Ms. Otremba explained how funding is allocated and the application process and stated partnerships between CMHs is allowed. She discussed sample projects and gave examples of expenses that are and that are not eligible for funding through this grant.

Ms. Otremba shared the state map showing which counties have been designated as rural, partially rural, and metropolitan. Wellvance’s three-county catchment is all rural.

e. Committee

(1) Human Resources – August 3, 2026

Committee chair Amy Knepp read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions that required board action.

(2) Program – August 13, 2026

Committee chair Debbie Welsch read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions that required board action.

(3) Facilities – August 13, 2026

Committee chair Mark Surbrook read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Mr. Varner to approve the bid from Smitty’s Tree Service to remove trees from the Mio Office and to add one stump removal to the bid. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Ms. Walsh to approve the FY27 Priority Projects and their priority order as submitted. All ayes; motion passed.

(4) Executive & Finance – August 18, 2026

Committee chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

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

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Diener to approve the update to the Agency Financial Policy Manual, as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Mr. Jordan to approve one new contract (Grand Traverse Industries) and eight contract renewals without a rate change (Lighthouse Rehab, Lafear Consulting, Stuart Wilson, Locum Tenens, Northshore Norway, Northshore Alpine, Bay City CRU, and Hospital Psychiatry). All ayes; motion passed.

(5) Recipient Rights Advisory – August 11, 2026

Committee chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Ms. Lixey and seconded by Ms. Walsh to approve the FY27 Recipient Rights budget as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

(6) Recipient Rights Appeals – August 11, 2026

Committee chair Bonnie Lixey read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions that required board action.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. O’Farrell reminded the Board that there is still a vacancy from Iosco County. Everyone is encouraged to recommend a candidate and to inform Ms. Otremba.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None

6. COMMENTS

a. Board

None

b. Public

None

7. MEETING DATES

a. Board

- (1) Monday, September 28; 5:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex

b. Committees

- (1) Human Resources – Monday, September 14; 4:00 p.m.; Virtual
- (2) Program – Thursday, September 10; 2:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex
- (3) Facilities – Thursday, September 10; 3:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex
- (4) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, September 15; 4:00 p.m.; St. Vincent's Annex
- (5) Recipient Rights Advisory – No meeting scheduled
- (6) Recipient Rights Appeals – No meeting scheduled

c. Other

- (1) Walk-a-Mile: September 23, 2026, Lansing
- (2) CMHAM Fall Conference: October 26-27, Traverse City
- (3) Agency Picnics
 - August 25: Oscoda Beach Park; 5:00 – 7:00
 - August 26: Dewey Durant Park, Tawas; 5:00 – 7:00
 - August 27: West Branch Office; 11:00 – 1:00
 - August 28: Mio Office; 11:00 – 1:00

8. ADJOURN

It was moved by Mr. Surbrook and seconded by Mr. Varner to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph L. Chrivia
Recording Secretary