

MINUTES OF THE BOARD
December 21, 2017
North Country Community Mental Health
1420 Plaza Drive
Petoskey, MI

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Boyd, Patty Cox, Ed Ginop, Ron Iseler, Paul Liss, Christian Marcus, Michael Newman, Dennis Priess, Karla Sherman, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Betsy White

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Joel Evans, Caroline Loper, Louis Scholl

STAFF: Christine Gebhard, Brian Babbitt, Joe Balberde, Stacy Chipman, Kim Rappleyea, Scott Shearer, Carol Balousek

Mr. Ginop called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Ginop welcomed the Board Members and staff to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. Ms. Gebhard distributed gift to board members in recognition of the Winter Solstice.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Statement

Balance on Hand, Oct. 31, 2017	\$5,082,097.92
Receipts, Adjustments & Transfers, Nov.	\$4,824,786.95
Total Disbursements & Adjustments, Nov.	\$4,255,146.84
Increase in Cash Balance	\$ 569,640.11
Balance, Nov. 30, 2017	\$5,651,738.03

Information (I) Items from Committee reports

Privileging Recommendations

There were no privileging recommendations this month.

MOTION BY DENNIS PRIESS, SECOND BY PAUL LISS, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION

Program Committee

Mr. Ginop reported the Program Committee met at 10:00 a.m. on December 20, 2017. Topics discussed included the Emergency Services System, Transitional Residential Program,

and Medicaid Reinvestment Plan. All received the recommendation of the Program Committee.

Emergency Services System

Adding four additional masters-level clinicians to provide after-hours on-call services on weekdays was proposed. North Country staff will also discontinue conducting inpatient screenings for persons with private insurance. North Country CMH will participate in an RFP issued by the NMRE to purchase after-hours crisis phone services.

Transitional Residential Program.

Revamping the North Country Crisis Residential program into a transitional residential program for persons with challenging behaviors was proposed. The change would be an effort to maximize capacity and offer services to challenging individuals within the region.

Medicaid Reinvestment Plan

A plan to spend North Country CMH's portion of the NMRE's FY17 carry forward (\$1.2M) was presented. This is consistent with regional spending approved by the NMRE Operations Committee and Board. The reinvestment plan consists of one-time investments in the amount of \$502,000 and some ongoing expenses totaling \$192,000. It was noted some additional expenses may be identified during the year.

Finance Committee

Mr. Liss reported the Finance Committee met at 2:30 p.m. on December 21, 2017. The Revenue and Expenditure Report and Bills through November 30, 2017 was reviewed and approved by consensus. The Interim Financial Statements of October 31, 2017 were reviewed and approved.

The Emergency Services System proposal was discussed as described under "Program Committee" update. The Finance Committee recommended: 1) Hire four additional master-level clinicians to provide after-hour weekday on call services, 2) Participate in an RFP issued by the NMRE to secure after hours crisis phone services from ProtoCall. A third proposal, to discontinue inpatient screenings for individuals with private insurance was tabled pending further research.

MOTION MADE BY PAUL LISS, SECOND BY ROBERT BOYD, TO APPROVE THE TWO RECOMMENDATIONS AS STATED ABOVE TO RESTRUCTURE THE EMERGENCY SERVICES SYSTEM. MOTION CARRIED.

Revamping the existing North Country Crisis Residential facility into a Transitional residential program for individuals with challenging behaviors was proposed.

MOTION MADE BY PAUL LISS, SECOND BY KARLA SHERMAN, TO APPROVE DISCONTINUING THE CRISIS RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM AND RE-PURPOSING THE FACILITY AS A TRANSITIONAL RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS, WITH AN ESTIMATED COST SAVINGS OF THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$322,000.00). MOTION CARRIED.

The Medicaid Reinvestment plan was approved by the Finance Committee as described under the “Program Committee” update. Ms. Gebhard reminded the Board that all expenditures over \$10,000 will come to the Board for approval.

MOTION MADE BY PAUL LISS, SECOND BY CHRISTIAN MARCUS, TO APPROVE THE MEDICAID REINVESTMENT PLAN RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THIS DATE. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION ITEMS – WITHOUT COMMITTEE REVIEW

PRESENTATION

Kim Rappleyea was in attendance to present on the FY17 Recipient Rights Report and to provide an Overview of the Rights System as part of the Board Members’ annual training.

Responsibilities of CEO and Board were defined. The Board appoints a Recipient Rights Advisory Committee; would like to add additional members. Functions of the Right office were defined as Consultation → Education → Complaint Resolution → Monitoring. Ms. Rappleyea identified the elements of a complaint: 1) recipient, 2) accused person an employee, volunteer, or agent, 3) allegation of violation of Michigan Mental Health Code. She then discussed the Recipient Rights Complaint and Resolution process. 18% of complaints received in FY17 were for Abuse & Neglect Class I & II. Ms. Rappleyea noted that North Country CMH is second in the state in substantiated complaints.

Ms. Rappleyea outlined the recipient rights training requirements and goals developed for FY18. She next discussed the recipient rights appeals process; there have been zero requests for appeals in the last couple of years.

Mr. Iseler asked what changes she would like to see in the next year. Ms. Rappleyea responded the ability to do targeted training would be beneficial. A discussion of direct care staff compensation followed. Ms. Rappleyea recognized it is a factor. North Country CMH is supportive of a certification initiative and certification bonus(es). Ms. Gebhard added that she would like to be more engaged with partners/contract providers, and more concerned with providers who don’t report. She would like to offer help to them, in terms of training, education, and support to be successful.

Mr. Priess referred to the statewide comparative data for FY16, noting it’s “all over the map”. Ms. Rappleyea acknowledged the state has only recently begun sharing the data. Mr. Priess added it would be interesting to see the rankings by allegation.

Mr. Ginop expressed the need to get the Recipient Rights Advisory Committee filled. Ms. Gebhard has put out a call to center supervisors for recommendations and also advised Board members to contact Ms. Rappleyea with suggestions.

Sr. Augusta Stratz asked whether there is education for clients in the home (behavioral training/de-escalation). Ms. Rappleyea responded, “absolutely”. She added, behavioral analysts are consulted routinely.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Gebhard included her CEO report in the materials packet for the meeting. She drew attention to a meeting held on December 13th with Emmet County Prosecutor, Jim Linderman. She described it as a very good meeting but noted the lack of understanding about community mental health’s responsibilities in the community. She will meet with him again in January.

Mr. Priess asked about the meeting on November 30th with an attorney from Plunkett Cooney regarding the Unemployment Insurance audit. Ms. Gebhard clarified that audit results were received indicating some individuals retained as “Contractors” should be classified as “Employees” (medical doctors, paraprofessionals, respite providers). North Country was requested to pay back \$5500; however, Ms. Gebhard is appealing regarding the respite workers based a similar occurrence at Centra Wellness Network. Ms. Gebhard expressed she consulted an attorney to be clear on her flexibility to write Employee Agreements vs. Contracts. The Unemployment Audit report will be provided to the Board next month.

Ms. Gebhard discussed the statewide issue of DAB and TANF eligibles falling off their benefit and on to Healthy Michigan Plan. The impact to NMRE was 995K for FY16 and \$2.9M for FY17. If HMP goes away (via repeal of the Affordable Care Act), the entitlement for these individuals will be lost. Reenrollment for DAB would seem unnecessary. It was emphasized that individuals have not lost any services, but the matter requires close monitoring.

Two documents regarding Section 298 were also included in the materials packet. One discusses “Barriers to Implementation” and the other is a “White Paper”. An RFI was posted today by the Department for any CMHSPs willing to become a pilot (in addition to Kent County’s “Demonstration Project”). Mr. Iseler asked whether there is enough experience in the legislature to move this forward. Ms. Gebhard commented that the NMRE CEOs are meeting, in January, with Senator Booher who has been supportive of northern efforts. Mr. Priess added that the handling of substance use disorder services in the “White Paper” was not well thought out.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Ms. Gebhard announced that no update will be provided this month as Amy Christie is working off-site. Quality Improvement initiatives currently focus on getting NorthStar up and running. To date, the feedback from staff has been primarily positive.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY

Mr. Priess noted that the CMHSPs and the NMRE are working in a very amicable way. Ms. Gebhard agreed. As CEOs have turned over, other CEOs have offered support and the group has worked in a very collegial manner. Ms. Gebhard added that the NMRE is leading an effort to put forth an RFI to bring an institute for mental disease (IMD) into the region (basically, an inpatient psychiatric unit not tied to an emergency department).

OLD BUSINESS

There was no “Old Business” listed on the meeting agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Gebhard reminded Board Members they are invited to the staff Recognition Event taking place from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on January 19, 2018 at the Otsego Club in Gaylord.

The North Country Board Calendar for 2018 was requested for the January meeting.

**MOTION BY CHRISTIAN MARCUS, SECOND BY KARLA SHERMAN, TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:18 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.**

Ed Ginop, Board Chair

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