

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD**  
**June 15, 2017**  
**North Country Community Mental Health**  
**Board Room**  
**1420 Plaza Drive**  
**Petoskey, Michigan**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Louis Scholl, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Paul Liss,  
Dennis Priess, Ed Ginop, Bob Boyd,  
Ron Isler, Joel Evans, Christian Marcus,  
Karla Sherman, Michael Newman,  
Caroline Loper, Betsy White

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Patty Cox

**STAFF:** Christine Gebhard, Brian Babbitt, Scott Shearer,  
Joan Booth

**GUEST:** Eric Kurtz, CEO, NMRE

Mr. Ginop called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Ginop welcomed the Board members and staff to the meeting. He also welcomed and introduced Caroline Loper, a new Board member, and everyone introduced themselves.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Financial Statement – Provider Operations - North Country CMH:**

Balance on Hand, April 30, 2017	\$4,711,697.05
Receipts, Adjustments & Transfers, May	\$4,055,418.89
Total Disbursements & Adjustments, May	\$4,415,788.67
Decrease in Cash Balance	\$ 360,369.78
Balance, May 31, 2017	\$4,351,327.27

\*Approximately \$1,970,896 has been advanced from various funding sources and has been encumbered for outstanding bills.

\*\*Received Healthy Michigan Plan for April 2017, \$227,437, and B/B3 for April 2017, \$2,067,296 on May 5, 2017.

\*\*\*Received Healthy Michigan Plan for May 2017, \$229,517, and B/B3 for May 2017, \$2,054,593, on June 2, 2017.

**MOTION BY DENNIS PRIESS, SECOND BY BOB BOYD, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Information (I) Items from Committee Reports**

Information items were included in the committee minutes.

### **Privileging Recommendations**

There were no privileging recommendations this month.

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION**

There were no committee meetings this month.

### **ACTION ITEMS – WITHOUT COMMITTEE REVIEW**

Ms. Gebhard reported that the agency has received a new offer on the Beacon property but the purchaser is asking that the agency pay \$2,000 in closing costs.

**MOTION BY SR. AUGUSTA STRATZ, SECOND BY BOB BOYD, TO ACCEPT THE OFFER TO PURCHASE THE BEACON PROPERTY WITH NORTH COUNTRY CMH TO PAY \$2,000 OF THE CLOSING COSTS. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **PRESENTATION**

#### **“Pilot to Address Specific Rural Health Disparities and Specialty Services Needs In Michigan’s Northern Lower Peninsula”**

Eric Kurtz, CEO, NMRE, introduced himself and described his background. His presentation was also made to the NMRE board at its recent strategic planning session. Mr. Kurtz talked about the Affordable Care Act vs American Health Care Act. There are three initiatives under the ACA currently being implemented in Michigan including: dual eligible (Medicare/Medicaid) pilots, health homes, and behavioral health homes. He explained that the ACA Market Place provides low income individuals and small business the ability to purchase health care coverage while receiving certain tax breaks and subsidies. The bigger piece of the ACA was Medicaid expansion. It waived the disability requirements to access Medicaid and allowed states the option to create a means and/or gross income test to allow individuals with incomes up to 135% of the FPL to receive Medicaid coverage. Healthy Michigan (Medicaid expansion) provides NMRE and the CMHSPs approximately 6.5% of total funding for behavior health and SUD services.

The American Health Care Act, as it stands now, is just a bill. The Market Place would be dismantled or reconfigured with tax subsidies and employer mandates removed. It repeals the essential health benefits requirement in Medicaid by 2019. It limits Medicaid presumptive eligibility and allows states to impose work requirements for continued benefits. An estimated \$880 billion in Medicaid funding will be cut over ten years. Possible state impacts from federal changes were described as were options the State may consider. .

Mr. Kurtz described several current state initiatives including: the status of the State's application of Section 1115 Waiver; Parity legislation for behavioral health; SUD reform and expansion of evidence based practices including Opioid treatment; and the 298 budget boilerplate.

Mr. Kurtz described the pilot proposal that the five CMH CEOs and Mr. Kurtz developed in response to the House and Senate 298 Boilerplate. The 298 calls for dismantling the entire PIHP system which would be three times as costly as revamping the current system. The CEOs are continuing their advocacy with legislators. Ms. Gebhard will be meeting with Representative Cole and Senator Schmidt next week.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Gebhard indicated that her report was included in the Board packet. She described Scott Shearer's new position as CFO and provided the Board members with his background. He will be working with Donna Wheeler for the next few months until she retires. She also introduced Brian Babbitt, Chief Operating Officer, for the benefit of any Board members who had not met him previously.

Ms. Gebhard reviewed her vision for the organization and showed a picture of the tie that Dr. Lapo had made with the vision symbol: **c1C/S**

## **QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

Ms. Gebhard stated that the most significant quality improvement effort underway is the implementation of the new electronic health record, which is in high gear. Numerous staff are involved in work groups on form development and process mapping. This is an opportunity to improve staff efficiency and interface with contractual providers. Mr. Balberde is heading up a contest to pick a name for it.

## **NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY**

Ms. Gebhard referenced the NMRE minutes in the board packet. Mr. Marcus talked about a presentation that Sara Sircely made at the NMRE meeting, which was not mentioned in the minutes. Sara did a great job.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business this month.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Gebhard shared the results of the board survey on meeting days and times. The majority of responses (73%) were to keep it as is; however, 56% preferred a starting time of 4:00 PM. It was agreed to leave the meeting on the third Thursday but begin at 4:00 PM.

A question was asked about the new information technology implementation. Ms. Gebhard indicated that the Surface laptops are being distributed in conjunction with staff training, and the virtual servers are being installed. Both should be completed in July.

A question was asked about the new jail diversion agreements with city police departments. Mr. Babbitt explained that the agency has historically maintained agreements with the Sheriff departments, but needed to expand this to community law enforcement agencies per the MDHHS contract.

Ms. Gebhard discussed the Boardworks DVD training that the Association developed for new CMH board members (or as a refresher). The series has been put on the NCCMH internet for board member access ([www.norcocmh.org](http://www.norcocmh.org)). She offered that these could be watched at a board meeting, if desired.

Mr. Liss reported that John Burt, Otsego County Administrator, is leaving and Rachel Frisch is going to be the new Administrator.

**MOTION BY KARLA SHERMAN, SECOND BY PAUL LISS, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:05.**

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Ed Ginop, Board Chair