MINUTES OF THE BOARD
March 17, 2016
North Country Community Mental Health
Board Room
1420 Plaza Drive
Petoskey, Michigan

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Christian Marcus, Gary Averill, Sue Allor, Sr. Augusta Stratz, Paul Liss, Karla Sherman, Dan Plasencia, Robert Boyd, Louis Scholl, Ron Iseler

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dennis Priess, Ed Ginop, Craig Crambell, Joel Evans

STAFF: Alexis Kaczynski, Donna Wheeler, Dr. Andrew Sahara, Christine Gebhard, Joan Booth

GUESTS: Trina Edwards and Mary Krantz, Dennis, Gartland and Niergarth; Dan CasaSanta, Rochester Hills Group Home; Diane Denholm

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

ROLL CALL

Mr. Plasencia welcomed the Board members, staff and guests to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. CasaSanta thanked everyone for the advocacy efforts taken to get the Section 298 language taken out of the Governor's budget.

Mr. Plasencia indicated that he would need to leave at 5:30 and asked Sr. Augusta Stratz to chair the meeting at that time.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Statement – Provider Operations - North Country CMH:

Balance on Hand, Jan. 31, 2016	$4,461,153.88
Receipts, Adjustments & Transfers, Feb.	$5,422,491.17
Total Disbursements & Adjustments, Feb.	$3,335,863.40
Increase in Cash Balance	$2,086,627.77
Balance, Feb. 29, 2016	$6,547,781.65

*Approximately $3,824,045 has been advanced from the State of Michigan and has been encumbered for outstanding bills.
**Received January 2016 B/B3 Payment of $1,909,423.43 on February 3, 2016 and January 2016 Healthy Michigan Plan of $206,261.62 on February 3, 2016.

MOTION BY LOUIS SCHOOL, SECOND BY KARLA SHERMAN, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Plasencia appointed members to the Nominating Committee to meet prior to the Board Meeting in April as follows: Louis Scholl, Sue Allor, Karla Sherman, Joel Evans, Craig Crambell and Gary Averill.

Information (I) Items from Committee Reports

Information items were included in the committee minutes.

Privileging Recommendations

There are no privileging recommendations this month.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – BOARD ACTION

There were no committee meetings this month.

ACTION ITEMS – WITHOUT COMMITTEE REVIEW

Mr. Plasencia reappointed Ed Ginop to the Northern Michigan Regional Entity Board.

PRESENTATIONS

FY 2015 Audit Report and Compliance Exam

Trina Edwards, from Dennis, Gartland and Niergarth, introduced herself and Mary Krantz and provided the highlights of the audit and referred to the Financial Statements and Compliance Examination. She reviewed the management summary and explained that the analysis is the summary of results for the year. Their opinion was an unmodified opinion and the highest level of assurance they can provide. She reviewed the summary of assets and the liabilities and broke these down. She reviewed the revenues and expenses and explained the increase which is down from last year and explained the reason for this. She provided several highlights of this audit and indicated in that in 2015 some Medicaid savings were transferred back to NMRE because NCCMH underspent its Medicaid budget. She explained that General Fund money was down 46% last year.

The CMH Compliance Report was reviewed and it was explained that this is the final cost settlement and there were no financial adjustments as a result of this. There was one deficiency in a funding item and it was not a material weakness. The finding relates to procurement regarding bids and they must look at vendors to make sure they have not been suspended from government fixed asset purchases.

Ms. Krantz reviewed the following information. She explained that there is a separate communications audit letter which includes required language and she reviewed this language. The auditors found everything to be properly organized and there were no recommendations. There were no difficulties in performing the audit and no disagreements with management.

She explained the accounting estimates and that most were fixed assets, cash settlements and accountability of receivables. There is a new accounting standard for this year but if the agency sticks with certificates of deposit this will not be a problem. There were no adjustments that had to be made because of the audit.

Ms. Kaczynski drew the Board's attention to the fine work done by NCCMH financial staff and the Board complimented Finance Officer, Donna Wheeler, on a job well done. Ms. Wheeler said that the finance staff is a team and all of them do great work.

MOTION BY KARLA SHERMAN, SECOND BY CHRISTIAN MARCUS, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE AUDIT AND CMH COMPLIANCE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

25 Years in Community Mental Health

Dr. Andrew Sahara introduced himself and explained that he came to Michigan in 1990 from New York; completed his doctorate and worked for a large out patient clinic that was in the basement of a building. He started with this agency as an outpatient therapist in Gaylord. The first agency presence in Charlevoix County was in the basement of the East Jordan Family Health Center, and Andrew staffed this office, so he was back in the basement. Once a month they had a visiting nurse. Eventually, mental health shared office space with the Health Department in the City of Charlevoix and a much larger staff was stationed in these offices and he became the supervisor. After a while there were staff changes and he became the acting director of acute care and then the official director of acute care services (outpatient and emergency services). A lot was achieved during that time; the agency became accredited by the Joint Commission on Health Care Organizations (JCAHO), managed care, and the Northern Affiliation.

The Northern Affiliation was dissolved and Northern Michigan Regional Entity was developed. Dr. Sahara said that he has been proud to work for the agency and has appreciated the opportunity to work with the Board and Administration. He feels it is very important to do good work and Administration has always backed the clinicians and their work. They could always operate to make the best decisions for the client. They review risk all the time. He explained the risk of suicide in the jails. He has worked with a lot of great, dedicated staff, both administrative and clinical. The agency serves a lot of clients that no one else will see.

Mr. Plasencia read a resolution honoring Dr. Andrew Sahara as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dr. Andrew Sahara is retiring from his position as Clinical Services Director for Persons with Mental Illness after more than 25 years of distinguished service, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sahara has dedicated his career to improving the quality of life for the clients served by North Country Community Mental Health, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sahara's dedication has been recognized by his peers, resulting in an agency wide achievement award of excellence for the years 2007 and 2015, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sahara has played a leadership role in the management of the emergency services system for the agency, including supervision and training of staff members, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sahara also has played a leadership role in implementing milestone evidence-based practices such as trauma-informed care, motivational interviewing, suicide prevention, integrated behavioral and primary health care, Parent Management Training (Oregon Model), home-based services, wraparound services, and infant mental health, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sahara has further distinguished himself through other efforts, including physician recruitment, clinical leadership, mentoring staff, jail services, and participation in the human services collaboratives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Country Community Mental Health Board extends its most sincere gratitude to Dr. Sahara for his commitment, dedication and service and its congratulations to him on his retirement from North Country Community Mental Health.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING DR. ANDREW SAHARA ON HIS RETIREMENT WAS APPROVED ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES 10 – SUE ALLOR, GARY AVERILL, ROBERT BOYD, RON ISELER, PAUL LISS, CHRISTIAN MARCUS, DAN PLASENICIA, LOUIS SCHOOL, KARLA SHERMAN AND SR. AUGUSTA STRATZ. NAYS – NONE.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Kaczynski referred to Section 298 in the Governor's budget proposal. She feels this wording is going to be voted down by the House and Senate. She referred to the information included in the Board mailing. The Lt. Governor has impaneled a committee to study the reform of the mental health system and this is a concern. He made a statement that PIHPs are not cost effective. Ms. Kaczynski explained the duties of a PIHP and how they are necessary to the prepaid, capitated funding in the public mental health system. She feels the Lt. Governor is misinformed. Currently there are about 100 members of the committee. A discussion was held about health departments vs. health plans, such as Molina, Meridian, etc. Mr. Marcus asked if this would affect the health departments.

Ms. Kaczynski informed the Board members that she had submitted a RAP (Risk Avoidance Program) grant to MMRMA for the canopy building project, but it was not funded.

She also reported on the Mental Health Block Grant that the agency submitted.

Ms. Kaczynski reminded the Board members that the PAC campaign is still accepting money if anyone would like to contribute.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Ms. Gebhard referred to the March QI Update. This month is a report from NMRE and she explained how claims are evaluated. Only 39 claims were found to be invalid. She referred to the audited services. If valid services are under 95%, a plan of correction must be submitted.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY

Ms. Kaczynski referred to the minutes of the last meeting. The chairmanship will move and the board will be looking for a new chairman.

OLD BUSINESS

Sue Allor announced that she will be running for the 106th house seat which covers the northeast section of the state, including Cheboygan and Alpena Counties.

Ms. Sherman had a question about the audit and wondered why the Medicaid budget was underspent. Ms. Kaczynski explained that the Medicaid budget was underspent but capitation was overspent. NMRE is still overspending capitation, which meant that money had to be taken from the risk fund to balance the budget for last year.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business this month.

Mr. Liss reported that his family had a tour of Building 51 from the old Traverse City Regional Psychiatric Hospital, because his granddaughter is a student and it was part of a class she was enrolled in. He reported that it was very interesting and indicative of the progress that has been made in treatment since that time.

MOTION BY KARLA SHERMAN, SECOND BY GARY AVERILL, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:55 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

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Dan Plasencia, Board Vice-Chair