



Administrative Office, 105 Hall Street, Suite A, Traverse City, MI 49684

## Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

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May 20, 2021

12:30 PM

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### 1. ATTENDANCE:

Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Authority, remote virtual meeting. Rose Denny called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

Board Members Present: Nina Zamora, Angie Griffis, Ben Townsend, Al Cambridge, Dean Vivian, Greg McMorrow, Mary Marois, Nicole Miller, Pam Babcock, Penny Morris, Randy Kamps, Rose Denny Sherry Powers, Ty Wessell

Board Members Absent: Lorelei King (advance notice), Dan Lathrop (advance notice)

Others Present: Joanie Blamer, Chief Population Officer for Mental Health Services; Deb Lavender, Executive Secretary; Tracy Andrews, Director of Integrated and Managed Health Services; Kari Barker, Director of Quality and Compliance; Darryl Washington, Director of Long Term Care and Support Services; Lauri Fischer, Chief Financial Officer; Matt Leiter, Director of Human Resources; Dan Mauk, Chief Information Officer; Carrie Gray, Chief Population Officer for Intellectual/Developmental Disability Services; Dr. Curt Cummins, Medical Director; Janell Briggs, IDD Children's Operations Manager; Marie Jones, Child & Family Specialist; Amy Johnson; Anonymous Citizen Attending Via Phone; Aaron Fader, Executive Administrative Specialist

### 2. RECEIVE AND REVIEW April 15, 2021 MINUTES:

Moved to Board meeting.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

### 4. UPDATE ON RECIPIENT RIGHTS:

Joanie Blamer reviewed the statistical information and activities that have occurred since the last meeting. ORR continues to prepare for CARF and the Triennial Audit. As far as training, all NLCMHA offices are at 100% compliance, contracted providers are at 88% which is up from the target of 80% last year and up from the target of 85% this year, and Board Operated Homes are at 75% which reflects only one home that is not at 100% compliance. Refresher trainings are being offered to providers to further raise the completion percentage.

### 5. Follow-Up Information from Roslund Prestage, Financial Auditors

Al Cambridge asked that approval of the financial audit report be postponed last meeting until the Board was able to review the Management Letter and NLCMHA's Management Representation Letter. Al read through all materials and found them sufficient and asked other Board Members had any questions before approval during the Board Meeting. There were no questions.

### 6. CEO Compensation

The Board agreed that discussion on this topic would be postponed until the CEO could be

present. The Board considered a closed session for the June Board Meeting.

## **7. SUMMARY OF GRANT ACTIVITIES**

Joanie Blamer informed The Board of some grant proposals that have been recently submitted. She mentioned that some of these grants will include purchasing or leasing property and noted that certain requests may be presented to The Board at a later date. We were approved for a grant to provide Juvenile Justice Diversion in Grand Traverse and Leelanau County. This program is going very well and has been receiving many referrals from the Prosecutor's Office and expects even more from the schools. The challenge has been the inability to provide treatment, as the grant funds only allow for assessment and referral. Another grant was written for the PA2 Liquor Tax dollars which was approved by the NMRE SUD Board. Joanie expects that we will soon be able to do treatment for the families assisted by the Juvenile Justice Program. The received funds total \$95,000 which allows for one master's level position to help.

As a result of the good work done through the Juvenile Justice Program, Judge Stanton of Traverse City reached out and asked if NLCMHA would be interested in partnering with her in the family court to provide Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) Services to youths who are on intensive probation that are charged with or exhibiting problematic sexual behavior. We agreed to work with her on that and wrote a grant for \$435,000 for four position which has a tentative approval as MDHSS clarifies a few things regarding the program.

We were also approached by MDHSS for adult block grants. Through these we sought to create four more new positions to assist Mental Ill Adults (MIA). This will include two masters level positions and two peer supports. These employees will work in pairs – one pair in the Southeast Counties (Wexford, Missaukee, Roscommon, Crawford) and the other pair will work in the Traverse City and Leelanau areas. We are identifying these services to work with Justice Diversion as well through the Prosecutor's Office. They will also work on Hospital Diversion and Discharge Planning so people can be released from hospitals which follows MDHSS's mission to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

We were also successful in writing a grant for three positions for the Behavioral Health Home (CHAT) with an additional position coming next year. These will include an operations manager, a master's level clinician, a peer support, and a children's worker. These positions will help spread the CHAT program to counties outside of Grand Traverse and Leelanau.

Another grant was approved by MDHSS for a crisis engagement center to serve people in the community through jail diversion, inpatient diversion, etc.

Yesterday we submitted a \$5 million grant to SAMHSA for the crisis center mentioned earlier. This will allow us to develop a crisis residential unit with six beds and divert more individuals from jails and hospitals. This center will be used to treat anyone in a crisis, with the understanding that a crisis is self-defined and that no one in crisis will be turned away.

There was another recent submission for a children's block grant which will provide two more positions, though there has not yet been a response for that.

In total, we have applied for \$7.3 million in grants with approximately 40 positions with \$2.3 million already approved.

Mary asked if all counties would be included in the provisions of these grants. There will be a mix of both through these grants. The block grants have no limitations, and the crisis center will be in Grand Traverse County and open to all regions. The Behavioral Health Home will be focused on the Southeast counties. Mary expressed her reservations with the purchasing of property through grant funding and asked that The Board be included in this decision. Joanie is aware of the executive limitations and wanted to present this to Board Members before a decision is made. The SAMHSA Grant to fund the crisis residential center will not be decided/awarded until August which leaves ample time for discussion. Randy asked about Joanie's confidence in being able to fill the newly added positions and noted the scarcity of mental health workers across the nation. He was appreciative of being informed so early and applauded the efforts of the teams involved in writing and receiving these grants. Joanie does recognize the volume of positions and did note that not all of the positions are clinical – the split being about 50/50. She mentioned that she is about 80% comfortable and that comfort is rising day to day as discussion continue. As far as sustainability, many of these services will be billable to third party insurances to the maximum capacity and the reduction of inpatient days will add to the sustainability as well. Many community partners, including Munson, are interested in supporting this as well through referrals and staffing. Lauri noted that none of the block grants received include capital expenditures nor

rent, however, the SAMHSA grant does not allow expenditures but does allow for a onetime \$75,000 minor renovation budget and does allow for rent towards a lease a line item. We included two years of rent or lease payments in an estimate within the SAMHSA grant on top of the \$75,000.

## **8. PRESENTATION: SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH I/DD**

Carrie Gray introduced Janell Briggs, the Operations Manager of the Children's Services for I/DD across the six counties. There has been a huge increase in Autism Services since Janell has joined the Children's Team and she is please to say that there are no families waiting on services in any capacity which was not the case when she first started. The Children's Team has a strong relationship with their contracted providers and meets with them monthly as a team to review services, supports, and how they can better work together. Janell invited Amy Johnson, a mother of a child who receives services and their case manager, Marie Jones. Marie provides services in Roscommon and Crawford County.

Amy's son David has been seeing Marie since she started two years ago. David receives several services through NLCMHA and attends school at the Roscommon COOR ISD. David is twelve years old and has been receiving services for the last five years. When Amy began seeking services for David there was a big issue with finding services and waitlists which is no longer an issue. Amy and her partner work with professionals on CPI training as David exhibits violent behaviors towards himself and others. They work to identify triggers in different environments and how best to avoid these triggers. They have also been practicing tolerance training which helps to prepare him for independence by providing responsibilities through repetition and consistency.

Mary asked what ABA stands for and what the treatment entails. ABA stands for Applied Behavioral Analysis and includes different assessments with a goal of decreasing negative behavior and increasing positive behaviors through communication, occupational therapy, tolerance training, independence, etc. Randy noted the importance of family through this process and Amy noted that family therapy is also a part of Davids plan of service. Randy asked that in the future Amy give constructive criticism if services can be improved in any way.

## **9. MEETING EVALUATION/COMMENTS:**

It is Randy's hope that The Board will be able to meet in person next month.

## **10. OTHER/ADJOURN:**

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Fader  
Executive Administrative Specialist

apf (6/8/2021)