



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

## Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

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**August 19, 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 12:50 p.m.

Board Members Present: Cadillac – Pam Babcock; Ty Wessell; Dan DeKorse; Mary Marois; Justin Reed; Randy Kamps; Rose Denny; Dean Vivian; Penny Morris; Ben Townsend; Al Cambridge; Barb Selesky; Sherry Powers; Virtual – Greg McMorrow; Nina Zamora; Angie Griffis; Nicole Miller

Board Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Cadillac - Andy Babcock; Lauri Fischer, Chief Financial Officer; Matt Leiter, Director of Human Resources; Brian Newcomb, Director of Recipient Rights; Tracy Andrews, Director of Managed and Integrated Care; Joanie Blamer, Interim CEO; Deb Lavender, Executive Secretary; Karl Kovacs; Alan Bolter, CMHAM; Spanky Meeuwes, Building Grounds Coordinator; Aaron Fader, Executive Administrative Assistant; Virtual – Dr. Curt Cummins, Medical Director; Dan Mauk, Chief Information Officer; Darryl Washington, Long Term Care and Supports Director; Kari Barker, QI Compliance Director; Carrie Gray, Chief Population Officer; Judge Marian Kromkowski, Leelanau County Probate Court; Brie Molaison, Customer Service Specialist; Chris Biggar, Finance Manager; Jessica Williams, Performance Improvement Specialist; Kate Dahlstrom

### **2. PRESENTATION – ALAN BOLTER, CMHA:**

There has not been much new going on in the state. Budget – the FY22 budget is not yet complete. The legislature did pass the school aid budget in June. The DHHS budget will not be done until after Labor Day. They have received around \$25 Billion in COVID Relief funds. The House has proposed to eliminate the 10 PIHPs and create one single state entity. The Senate proposed a bill very similar to the 298 model and is seen as the larger threat. The MI Medicaid Health Plan has had the second worst medical loss ratio in the nation with 79% spent on services, 18% administrative rate, and 3% profit. Average PIHPs across the state have an average administrative cost of around 6%. This cost ends up being totaled around \$450,000,000. The Governor has said that this will be vetoed, through Alan hopes that this will not get to that point. Once the Senate Bills get called for a hearing, they will broadcast their message as far and as often as they can – touching on the key points of the high cost, the lack of public oversight, record profits for health plans, etc. This may begin moving in early Autumn this year. We should be changing commercial insurance to look more like insurance on the Medicaid side.

Randy asked about Budgets of CCBHCs and how we do not have any here and none are planned. Centra Wellness explored it and concluded that it was not viable because of staffing issues. Perhaps there could be something in the budget to establish CCBHCs. As we continue to expand this across the state and continue to work with the departments, the discussion will be on how to make this work in more rural settings. The Health Home money is proposed to go up to about \$33 million. Joanie mentioned CCBHCs and Health Homes and the similarities between them. She wondered if we may be able to lobby to expand health homes in the rural areas since they are more cost effective and have similar outcomes to CCBHCs. We are already showing the State what successful integrated care looks like throughout the Behavioral and Opioid Health Homes.

Randy mentioned that the health homes have been shown to save \$104 per member per month and that could also be added to the \$450,000,000 comment. Pam said that she has Managed Neglect fatigue and how and feels that the 298 bill could bring about these struggles again. Randy discussed the value of quality, access, and cost in the quality of life of citizens.

**3. RECEIVE AND REVIEW July 15, 2021 MINUTES:**

Moved to Board meeting.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Karl Kovacs came to thank the Board about the support that they have given him throughout the years. He also wanted to thank Greg Paffhouse for hiring him back in 2011. He assured that Board that NLCMHA is in good hands with the interim CEO, Joanie Blamer.

**5. UPDATE ON RECIPIENT RIGHTS:**

Tracy is currently serving as the interim director of recipient rights. She had previously served as the ORR Director for 6 and a half years. Brian Newcomb is the incoming Director and has been working with Tracy for the past month. She then reviewed the monthly ORR statistics. The Triennial review will be next year in June or July. Tracy came with follow up information on the semiannual report that were discussed at the last meeting. As reported last meeting, of the 58 substantiations, 25 were against 19 different NLCMHA employees. Of those 19 staff, two of them had been with the agency for less than a year. ORR has been working with IT to be able to pull this data more readily for the future.

Randy mentioned that he really liked the graph that was provided with this month's report. Randy then asked if we are in communication with the State to keep them apprised of what is happening so there are no surprises. Joanie was in touch with the state and let them know of the change in leadership and

**6. FY 2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT, INITIAL FY 2022 BUDGET, 2022 CAPITALIZATION PLAN:**

Lauri went through the details of the budget information that was provided to the Board. Randy noted the importance of the extra 25 cents included in the Direct Care Worker wage and how that does not go to the worker and the 25 cents is used for reimbursement. He also noted that this doesn't sound like a lot, but it is substantial when multiplied by many workers. Dean asked if MERS benefits will be affected – Lauri answered that 15 years ago additional funding was used in a deposit to MERS. There was a clause added to the contract adding a section stating that the minimum required payments could only be made with current capitation and any additional has to be advertised over the value of that time. Lauri mentioned that during the public hearing, SRS workers expressed relief that the direct care worker wage increase will be included in the budget. Al asked about the capitol plan and how these projects will be carried out over multiple years and wondered if there is cashflow to support these projects. Lauri said that today, yes there is sufficient cashflow due to COVID funds. These projects would not have been possible in the past though she believes.

**7. BOARD MEMBER PER DIEM/COST OF GOVERNANCE:**

There was a discussion on the per diem rate and Mary asked that we find what the rates are from each of the counties that NLCMHA serves, as it is policy for the Board per diem to match the highest paid county board.

**8. SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 AGENDA PLANNING OPTIONS:**

- Update on Recipient Rights
- Presentation – Services for Adults with Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders
- PCP and Self-Determination Training
- Compliance, Quality and Customer Services Report
- Annual Compliance Training

**9. MEETING EVALUATION/COMMENTS:**

Penny mentioned that it might be beneficial to stick closer to the times set be the agenda in the future.

**10. OTHER/ADJOURN:**

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Fader  
Executive Administrative Specialist

apf (8/23/2021)