



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

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2020

12:30 PM

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: Grayling - Sherry Powers and Lorelei King. Virtual or by Phone - Nicole Miller, Nina Zamora, Pam Babcock, Ben Townsend, Ty Wessell, Al Cambridge, Betty Bushey, Dan Lathrop, Mary Marois, Angela Griffis, Rose Denny, Dean Vivian, and Randy Kamps.

Board Members Absent: Sherise Shively (advance notice).

Others Present: Virtual - Karl Kovacs, Chief Executive Officer; Joanie Blamer, Chief Population Officer for Mental Health Services; Aaron Fader, Executive Administrative Specialist; Deb Lavender, Executive Secretary; Tracy Andrews, Director of Integrated and Managed Health Services; Carrie Gray, Chief Population Officer for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities 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; Paul Keller, Recipient Rights Director; Brie Molaison, Customer Services Specialist; Jessica Williams, Performance Improvement Specialist; and Chip Johnston, Executive Director Centra Wellness.

2. RECEIVE AND REVIEW NOVEMBER 19, 2020 MINUTES:

Moved to Board meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

4. UPDATE ON RECIPIENT RIGHTS:

Paul reviewed the statistical information and activities that have occurred since the last meeting for 2020/2021. He has been compiling the Annual Report for submission to MDHHS and he reviewed the attached Desired Outcomes for FY 2020, Outcomes established by the office for FY 2021, and Recommendations to the Governing Board. Responded to question about providing to the Board a bi-monthly report and there was agreement to change to monthly. Request to provide a summary report for the last five years of the seven items in Paul's report by year so that we can look at the trends. Paul has been working with IT to develop several charts for submission for this year's annual report and to include trends for 2021 in areas of allegations, substantiated or not substantiated or pending, and provide totals. Randy would like the data as part of an annual summary with the seven items on Paul's report.

5. P.A. 166 OF 2020:

Karl introduced Chip Johnston, Executive Director for Centra Wellness. Chip presented at the NMRE Board meeting about the local contribution required by the State. MDHHS had promised to decrease that amount by 20% over 5 years. They did it last year but are not doing it this year.

MDHHS identified that if you do not make this payment they will take away the amount from your General Fund dollars. He referenced a federal law called the Upper Payment Limit 42CFR 447. He reviewed the history. Referenced P.A. 166 of 2020. He referenced the handout included in the packet regarding the MDHHS Line-Item Appropriation. He noted you cannot move budget line items. He identified that Centra Wellness decided not to make this payment of \$12,000. MDHHS is reviewing their response. The NMRE supported Centra Wellness's decision. Responded to questions – did the State give a reason why they changed their mind? Chip has identified that MDHHS responded they have not heard back from legal. He noted the Association said they would try to advocate on their behalf. It was mentioned that Northern Lakes has already remitted the first quarter payment. Lauri noted that our original allocation was \$574,848 of local funds to draw down the extra Medicaid. In 2020 it went down to \$458,756. Within the budget approved for 2021 it would move down \$110,000 to \$340,000. However, when we received our bill it was the same as FY 2020. At risk is \$110,000 of local funds. We always spend all of our General Funds. We have benefited in that the Department has not been implementing spend downs which is worth \$600,000. We did not overspend General Funds in FY 2020. At risk is the possibility of earmarking General Funds in order to pay this local funds. We have paid since 2006. Lauri identified she is not as confident in fighting with the Department. The other Board that has not paid in our region is AuSable Valley because they do not have the funds. Centra Wellness has identified it is a contract issue. Other Boards that are refusing to pay are Genesee and Lifeways. Lifeways does not have the resources to generate local funds and has to deal with a payback. Northern Lakes uses local funds to subsidize General Funds which requires 10% local match. We also subsidize the jail and match grants. Chip referenced the proportional funding which changed in 2002 when we were with our separate affiliations. He noted he sends \$253,000 of local funds and gets back \$250,000 in Medicaid. Lauri referenced language from Jeff Wieferich that was communicated from Eric Kurtz which identified that it was not enforceable. Chip noted that they cannot move a line item when the legislature sets the budget. They are not meeting their Chapter 3 obligations. He asked the Board to support his efforts.

6. COMPLIANCE AND QUALITY REPORT FY END:

Kari presented the 4th Quarter Compliance and Quality Report. She noted that they have had many audits and with the COVID restrictions, many things that usually happened did not happen. She reviewed the quality events, performance indicators were not available, other agency quality projects. Reviewed the compliance inquiries and outcomes. We have an HSAG audit coming up and the MDHHS annual submission is coming up the first of 2021.

7. COUNTY COMMISSION SURVEY:

Karl referenced the survey results. Karl reviewed the responses by county. He appreciated the efforts in completing the reports. He noted that in comparing 2019 to 2020 we went up in terms of awareness of services from 3.86 to 4.2; there was a decrease in how you rate the job we are doing in your community from 4.2 to 4.0; the use of community resources went down from 4.3 to 3.9. Overall the total mean went down from 4.1 to 4.0 this year. Comments were listed. There was discussion about comment #7, we need to educate better and know what services are available, suggested assigning a Board and staff Tiger Team. It is alarming that we were not able to have 100% county commissioner participation, county commissioner representatives were disappointed on the response and asked for assistance. There is a feeling that there is a possibility of survey fatigue and that they do not know if we use our full name rather than an acronym. People forget or do not remember the services that we provide.

Karl identified that we are always looking at ways to improve and has no problem developing a Joint Tiger Team or Ad Hoc Committee. It would be good if every county commissioner responded to questions #1, #2 and #3.

Other comments – grateful for our county commissioner representatives attending our meetings, people are so busy, disappointment on lack of response and may be related to counties told by the State that they have the responsibility as well as they are being told how much they are responsible for, we need to fulfill our duty, how effective we are, what are we looking for, what can be expected and what should be expected, more important to make sure we are doing a good job, there is still some stigma that people do not value the people we serve, we need to

identify successful stories and disseminate to the public so that the value of the person's lives and their successes are at the forefront and who is behind those successes and support of those goals. Public education about the CMH system to everyone is needed.

Interest in serving on the Joint Tiger Team/Ad Hoc Committee should be communicated to Deb.

8. BOARD MEMBER TERMS:

Referenced the document included with the agenda. Karl identified terms that are ending in March – Sherry Powers, Sherise Shively, Nina Zamora, Betty Bushey, Pam Babcock, and Angela Griffis. Ty identified that the Leelanau County Commission reappointed Betty for another term. Nina identified that she is interested in being reappointed. There was discussion about the process for reappointment. Sherry identified that Crawford County reappointed her and she would like to serve again. Betty indicated that she reported to the county that she did not want to be reappointed and would be done the end of March. Suggestion that letters be sent out to the counties.

9. BOARD LEADERSHIP JOURNAL:

Included in the packet for information and discussion. Comment – does not find freedom in discipline.

Randy congratulated the organization on its success in mitigating the risk associated with COVID. He thought it was minimal in comparison with other organizations. We pivoted quickly, were able to provide services and to enhance services. He asked Karl to pass congratulations on to staff.

10. ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS/TRAINING TOPICS AND EDUCATION:

The NLD discussed how we could get to know each other since we are not able to have a Board Retreat. Lorelei wanted the Board to see the comments about how we felt about each other and the handout was included in the packet. We had discussed having a small portion of our meetings for education and identified topics that the Board would like to have training. What are the topics and the questions? Al identified that he could outline the areas related to finance and with Karl's permission discuss with Lauri what we could come up with. Randy suggested that we start with finance and that may provide a framework of how we look at other pieces of the puzzle. Suggestion to begin the meeting earlier with the education topics.

11. AGENDA PLANNING OPTIONS FOR JANUARY 21, 2021:

Reviewed the agenda topics for January 21, 2021: Update on Recipient Rights; FY 2021 Ownership Linkage Plan; Annual Review.

12. MEETING EVALUATION/COMMENTS:

Comments – referenced background on screen and the positions of the screens; tougher to chair the meetings on the screen and nice job; get rid of our self-centeredness and things are much more important in the world; need to think on the good things in life; find everyone's passion and that is how we get the stories out that we catch the genuineness of the people we serve; challenges of accessing our health care system and importance of quality of life. Karl referenced his video in the NOW Newsletter that is sent out to staff and Board Members. Possibly invite the media to the Ad Hoc meeting or identify the importance with the Association.

13. OTHER/ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Lavender
Executive Secretary