



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

**Committee of the Whole Meeting
Minutes**

September 15, 2022

12:30 PM

Kirtland Community College 4800 W. Four Mile Rd, Grayling Mi 49738

ATTENDANCE:

Rose Denny called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Tony Lentych, Dan Dekorse, Penny Morris, Ben Townsend, Rose Denny, Barb Selesky, Ty Wessell, Al Cambridge, Lynn Pope, Greg McMorrow, Mary Marois, Tom Bratton, Kate Dahlstrom, Angie Griffis, Sherry Powers, Pam Babcock

Virtual: Greg McMorrow

Others Present: Joanie Blamer, Interim Chief Executive Officer; Lauri Fischer, Chief Financial Officer; Tracy Andrews, Director of Integrated and Managed Health Services; Heather Sleight, Administrative Specialist; Deb Lavender, Executive Secretary; Stacy Maiville, Executive Secretary; Jeremiah Williams, Information Technology Supervisor; Eric Kurtz, CEO of NMRE; Andy

Virtual –Ann Ketchum, Programmer Analyst II; Jessica Williams, Performance Improvement Specialist; Kari Barker, QI Compliance Director; Aimee Horton Johnson, Office Administrator; Brie Molaison, Customer Service Specialist; Alyssa Hansen, Human Resources Supervisor; Chris Biggar, Finance Manager; Matt Leiter, Director of Human Resources; Dean Baldwin, Network Administrator; Kasi Morse, Customer Service Provider; Kellee Hoag, Administrative Specialist – Finance; Melissa Bentgen, Accounts Payable Team Lead; Michelle Dosch, Compliance Secretary; Michelle Michalski, Human Resources Specialist; Hilary Rappuhn, Project Coordinator; Jan Pytlowany, Customer Service Provider

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment

2. UPDATE ON RECIPIENT RIGHTS:

The written report is in your packet. MDHHS review is complete. Provided a verbal exit interview. Reports were thorough, RRAC was strong. In June of last year, Paul (Director of RR at the time) provided report to the board that between the months of January '21 and May '21, he had fallen behind on some very critical things – site reviews and timeliness of investigations. We mentioned it to the reviewers. We expect that this will come out in this review. If anyone has any questions, please direct to Joanie and she will answer what she can.

3. DISCUSSION WITH ERIC KURTZ – CEO of NMRE

Eric was asked to move forward with contractual oversight of your CEO search. He was also asked to provide name and credentials of proposed interim CEO, to identify an appointment period on interim CEO, to look at transition of the new interim CEO, meet with staff, work with current interim CEO, and look at search committee process and how that might move forward.

As for the interim role – as early as today, Eric is willing to assume that role until the end of Sept. Brian Martinez will then take over on October 1st. The appointment term will be 6 months or until a CEO is put into place. Eric is familiar with NLCMHA and its current projects. Eric is requesting the bylaws and the governance policies of the board to see how we can expedite the process and to see how it operates currently. NMRE is willing to take on the CEO search process as the independent entity. Has contacted 2 external search firms and has heard back from one of them.

Discussion as to needing consultation with our attorney about a possible conflict of interest with Brian Martinez being the Interim CEO since he is an employee of the NMRE and the NMRE is the fiduciary. Eric explained the NMRE's payment process and stated that this would not be a conflict of interest, even with any new contracts as they should be approved by the board. Board chair or CEO has the power to sign the new contracts. NMRE is the keeper of just the Medicaid money – not all the funds that come into NLCMHA.

There is no contract in place for this new interim CEO. Why not? Eric states that the NMRE has leased employees to NLCMHA before and this could be done in the same manner. Interim CEO would continue to be an employee of the NMRE for benefits purposes. Again, we could do an employee lease. Interim would have all powers of the actual CEO. Tony L would like a contract as he has concerns about the authority the Board is turning over to the NMRE, including the Interim CEO being supervised by the Board and Eric. It was stated that a contract would be good as an avenue for recourse should something go wrong.

There is a special meeting scheduled next week to address a specific issue but if something (a lease agreement) is brought up, a second special meeting can take place before or after if necessary. We could approve it today, contingent upon review/approval by our attorney rather than take two special meetings to get it completed. The NMRE board would not do any vetting of candidates. That process would take place by the NLCMH board or a designated search committee. Need to decide today whether or not we want the NMRE to proceed with the process or if the board itself will get quotes from a few agencies for the search. Either way, Eric would like the NMRE to be involved, not in the decision, but in the application process.

Small discussion as to the NMRE's role once the counties split if that happens. Eric feels it is best that NLCMHA stay together. Would be a very bumpy path forward but a path forward, nonetheless.

Barb spoke about the difficulty of finding a CEO with the uncertainty of whether or not the authority will be dissolved. Eric agreed and the best thing we can do is assume that we are going to stay together and get on with things.

Tom questioned whether Brian will have any military obligations during his time as interim CEO and if he does, will Eric then step in as interim CEO. Yes, that is what will take place if he is sent away.

Discussion as to the evidence of service disruption in the last year as well as the state of the behavioral health field at this time. We did really well through the pandemic. Our customer service does get questions about what is going on with NLCMHA. We are in a statewide behavioral health care crisis. It is not just Northern Lakes. There are no disruptions at this time, but the NMRE wants to continue to ensure that there is not.

4. ROLE OF THE BOARD CHAIR:

Reading aloud/discussion of a letter of support for Dan authored by Penny Morris with permission and support of the GT Commission. The letter was mailed to Dan and there was an article in the TC Record Eagle regarding the letter which did not seem to line up with what the county was saying. Dan wants to know if there are any issues/concerns about communications from any members of the NLCMHA board. Dan would be willing to step aside, or elections could be held next month or today. But he felt that the board did not need another internal distraction at this time. Discussion turned to whether-or-not Penny's letter was a violation of the Open Meetings Act. Dan then spoke to the topic of what is appropriate for him to share and what is not. He stated that he will not respond to group emails for a couple of reasons. It was then suggested by Tony that Dan have access to legal counsel for guidance on this issue and that they vote on this at the board meeting.

5. AGENDA PLANNING OPTIONS:

October 20, 2022 at the Gateway Center in Traverse City

6. MEETING EVALUATION/COMMENTS:

- #1 – We spent our time on the most important governance topics – excellent
 - #2 – We encouraged diversity of viewpoints – excellent
 - #3 – Our decisions were made collectively – excellent
 - #4 – The Board used it's time effectively – excellent
 - #5 – What is the most important thing the Board could do to improve our function as a Board?
- Comment – Al – we, as a board, have to unite and come together as a board and in our communications. We all need to get on the same page.

7. OTHER/ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Sleight,

Administrative Specialist