



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

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Shawn Kraycs, Lynn Pope, Kim Morley, Christal Frost Anderson, Ruth Pilon, Mark Nyman, Dean Smallegan, Ben Townsend, Al Cambridge, Penny Morris, Vince Cornellier, Ty Wessell, Dave Freedman, Tony Lentych, Mary Marois, Greg McMorrow

Others Present: Lynda Zeller, Kim Silbor, Erica Longstreet, Joe Barkman, Jeremiah Williams, Victoria McDonald, Cassie Beard, Chad Koehn, Jennifer Colvin, April Weinrick, Marsha Brown, Alexandra Coon

Virtual Attendees: 4 Unknown, Ann Ketchum, Daniel Mauk, Becky Brown, Kirstie Maier, David A, Neil Rojas, Aimee Horton Johnson, Sophorn Klingelsmith, Gina Schlegel, Terri Henderson, Somer Quinlan, Tiffany Fewins, Rob Veale, Michael Corby, Lisa Jones, Abby Schonfeld, Kaitlin Merritt, Kari Barker, Christina VanHouten, Amanda Ritchie, Erin Barbus, Lisa Woodcox, Traverse House, Rob Palmer, Kellee Hoag, Ashley Cross, Bobbi Hudson, Sue Hamel, Brooke Clarke, Meryah Martin, Jordan Byington, Kelly Christian, Heather Rose, Jillian Smithingell, Dr. Curtis Cummins, Kiley Fields, Lauren VanHulle, Teri Dougherty, Dawn Galbraith-Kantz, Danielle Oswald, Jodi Schwind, Amber Cowley, Robert Ordiway, Tammy Heitkamp, Tessa Rheaume, Heather Sleight, Manda Clements, Bria Brunette, Melissa Trout, Kayla Sklener, Mark Draeger, Lisa Holmes, Karen Cass, Amanda Link, Lori Stendel, Caleb Gomez, Erica Smith, Donna St. Germain, Justin Reed, Leanne Sleder, Trapper Merz, Angie Shroader, Jennifer Edwards, Tracy Brown, Mats Andtbacka, Haylea Campbell, Amy Kotulski, Molly Caminata, Pamela Sparks, Jason Bont, Erika Solomonson, Laura Field, Kenneth P. Watson.

Call to Order: 1:00 p.m.

Conflict of Interest: None

Timekeeper: Mary Marois

Approval of Agenda: Yes, no changes requested.

Public Comment: None.

Celebrate Northern Lakes: The Board of Directors and the Leadership team at Northern Lakes CMHA recognized the excellent work of the Crisis and Access Specialists Team of Cadillac. The team is made up of Jenn Edwards, Cassie Beard, Season Longoria, Chad Koehn and is led by Joe Barkman.

Report of Officers:

Recipient Rights Report: Brian Newcomb, Director of the Office of Recipient Rights, has prepared a report. The report is presented in the board packet. Mr. Newcomb shared that there is an open position in recipient rights for a recipient rights advisor. Mr. Newcomb thanked Mark Drager, the former recipient rights advisor, for his work on the team.

Chief Executive Officer's Report: Lynda Zeller, Chief Executive Officer of Northern Lakes, presented her report to the Board. The full report is included in the packet. The report included the KPI report, upcoming meetings, agency updates, media, and more. Ms. Zeller shared that the CFO, Kevin Hartley, has resigned and that Melissa Bentgen, finance manager, has accepted the role of Interim CFO. The Board and Staff wish Mr. Hartley well. Northern Lakes CMHA is also receiving support via associate agreements from the PIHP and Centra Wellness' CFO free of charge to aid in the transition. Ms. Zeller spoke about her future aspirations to maximize revenue and to bring on more employees to help lower case loads once the Agency is more financially healthy. The Agency is making progress on this front and is headed in the right direction.

Chief Financial Officer's Report: Melissa Bentgen, Interim Chief Financial Officer of Northern Lakes, presented the financial report created by Mr. Hartley (former CFO). The report included a summary of variances and fluctuations, which highlighted the operating revenues, such as the Medicaid capitations, Healthy Michigan capitation, and general fund capitations. Ms. Bentgen touched on the importance of lowering the spending from General Fund which had an overspend of \$3.5 million this past Fiscal Year.

Chief Information Officer's Report: Dan Mauk, Chief Information Officer of Northern Lakes, presented the security report. This contained the quarterly report from the Agency's response provider. Mr. Mauk included a monthly report that contained 15 investigations in the month of September. Ms. Zeller spoke about her hope to eventually fill the senior administrator role that was not kept due to cost containment if the Agency's finances continue to trend up. This would help to quicken response time.

Committee Reports:

NMRE:

Ms. Pilon reviewed updates regarding the NMRE committee meeting. Ms. Pilon shared that the NMRE Board is going to work with Rehman to audit Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019. Ms. Zeller added that the NMRE have placed FY 2021 and 2022 in escrow. Northern Lakes is going to pursue a lookback with RPC within a timeline of 60-90 days. Mr. Freedman shared that the NMRE had recently voted to pay NLCMHA \$3 million dollars with a unanimous vote. Mr. McMorrow added that Mr. Cambridge started the motion that led to the awarding and thanked the NMRE for working with NLCMHA.

Executive:

Mr. Greg McMorrow, Board Chair, gave praise to the new CEO Lynda Zeller. Mr. McMorrow stated that in a little over 30 days the information flow has been fantastic, the relationships with the community is

going in the right direction, and that more work is getting done faster in the committees. Mr. McMorrow spoke about how grateful he is to the Board for their commitment to the committee model.

Finance: Mr. Cambridge shared that the finance committee met before the Board meeting. The finance committee welcomes Melissa as the interim CFO and is very comfortable working with her. Ms. Zeller spoke about the impact of not opting out of Public Act 152 and gave insight into what the act means. The act's original intention was to limit public employers from paying more than they should into employees' health insurance. The Board opted out last year. Due to the Agency trending in a positive direction financially, Ms. Zeller supports opting out of PA 152 again this year. Ms. Marois, Mr. Smallegan, Mr. Lentych, Ms. Morley, Mr. Wessell and Mr. McMorrow showed support for opting out.

MOTION: The Board opts out of PA 152.

RESULT: ROLL CALL, ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: D. Smallegan

SECONDER: A. Cambridge

Mr. Cambridge brought forth the Agency's existing purchasing policy. The policy has been cleaned up but there has been no change in the limits. This policy was presented at this Board meeting to give a 30-day notice to review before voting on policy changes at the next Board meeting in December 2025.

Policy: Mr. Freedman shared that the policy committee has not met and is deferring meetings until after January to give time for adjustment.

Personnel: Ms. Pilon shared that the personnel committee met on October 24 when they discussed the workplace culture survey and made recommendations. There was discussion about PA 152 and waiting to send out the culture survey once that decision is solidified. The next meeting will be February 27 in Traverse City.

Unfinished Business: There was a request for future Board meetings to have the option of ordering lunch. Mr. Cambridge shared that any time the Board meetings are in Houghton Lake, Mr. Cambridge and Kim will provide lunch.

Public Comment: None

Announcements/ Board Member Reports/ Board Association: Ms. Marois shared that this was one of the best Board meetings that she had been to and that she feels there is a connection between the CEO and the Board. Ms. Marois is proud to be a part of that and thinks the Agency is headed in a positive direction.

Next Meeting: January 15, 2026 – Cadillac

Adjournment: 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Coon, Interim Executive Administrator

Greg McMorrow, Board Chairperson

Lynn Pope, Secretary
