Northern Lakes
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

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

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2026	NLCMHA Traverse City 105 Hall Street, Traverse City, MI	1:00pm

Board Members Present: Al Cambridge, Lynn Pope, Penny Morris, Greg McMorrow, Ruth Pilon, Dave Freedman, Ty Wessell, Ben Townsend, Dean Smallegan, Dan Buron, Kim Morley, Mary Marois (Virtual)- Mary requested a reasonable accommodation for a qualifying disability and is attending this meeting virtually. She is joining from her home at 2975 Wild Juniper Trail Traverse City MI 49686

Board Members Absent: Christal Frost Anderson, Vince Cornellier, Shawn Kraycs, Mark Nyman

Quorum was confirmed. Mary Marois is attending virtually as a reasonable accommodation to a qualifying disability. She is attending from home at 2975 Wild Juniper Trail Traverse City MI.

Others Present: Neil Rojas, Melissa Bentgen, Erica Longstreet, Jessica Williams, Jeremiah Williams, Chris VanWagoner, Tony Comden, Justin Reed, Hannah Driver, Lynda Zeller, Hilary Rappuhn

Virtual Attendees: 40 virtual participants

Call to Order: 1:00 p.m. by Board Chair, Greg McMorrow
Conflict of Interest: None
Timekeeper: P. Morris
Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: Approval of Agenda:

MOVED: D. Freedman
SECONDED: R. Pilon

RESULT: Carries (Unanimous)

DRAFT

MOTION: Approval of Minutes

MOVED: K. Morley
SECONDED: D. Smallegan

RESULT: Carries (Unanimous)

Public Comment: Justin Reed Speaking on staffing vacancy in clubhouse and concern with process of approval for a potential shared position. Danielle Fox from Balance Mental Health and Wellness expressing concerns with referrals and access to services.

Report of Officers:

Recipient Rights Report: Recipient Rights has a written update in packet.

Chief Executive Officer's Report: Lynda Zeller, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Northern Lakes, presented the CEO Report. The full report can be found in the Board packet on pages 8-9. Items highlighted during the meeting included:

- Lynda provided a handout containing legal advice regarding the Governance Policy Change (to allow meeting at more than one NLCMHA location, simultaneously, during winter months).
- In addition to the written ORR report in the packet, there was also a short handout containing additional information regarding the close out of FY 2026.

Chief Financial Officer's Report: Melisa reported on information provided under the finance committee. See below.

Committee Reports:

NMRE: Will report next month

Executive: Will report next month

Finance: Melissa and Al provided an update regarding state-approved rate increases. While the audit process is still ongoing, it is anticipated that a clearer picture of the budget will be available in November. Discussions are also underway regarding potential rate adjustments for both providers and agency staff, with additional information expected next month. Provider contracts remain a primary area of focus.
Additionally, a motion was presented regarding health insurance. The Finance Committee recommends opting out of PA152.

DRAFT

MOTION: To Opt out of PA152 Consistent with budget presented last month

MOVED: A. Cambridge
SECONDED: T. Wessell

ROLL CALL VOTE

RESULT: Carries (Unanimous by 12 attendees) 4 Members absent

Policy: Will report next month

Personnel: Will report next month

Community Engagement: Will report next month

RRAC Committee: Will report next month

Unfinished Business:

- Turn In Missing Documentation – only one remaining.

MOTION: To accept the Governance Policies as updated in red, inserting language from legal counsel regarding compliance with Open Meetings Act when meeting in more than one NLCMHA location in winter months.

MOVED: D. Freedman
SECONDED: P. Morris

ROLL CALL VOTE

RESULT: Carries (Unanimous by 12 attendees) 4 Members absent

Public Comment: Justin Reed, comments on programs that support the community like clubhouses and how it impacts the community.

MOTION: Motion to go into closed session and to include Lynda Zeller (CEO) and Hilary Executive Administrator) and Counsel.

MOVED: L. Pope
SECONDED: K. Morley

ROLL CALL VOTE
RESULT: Carries (Unanimous by 12 attendees) 4 Members absent

**** CLOSED SESSION****

- Closed Session Start Time: 1:52 p.m.
- Closed Session End Time: 2:24 p.m.
- Board Meeting Resumed at: 2:25 p.m.

MOTION: Motion to Leave closed session. Closed to review written legal opinion regarding pending litigation.

MOVED: L. Pope
SECONDED: D. Smallegan

RESULT: Carries (Unanimous by 12 attendees) 4 Members absent

MOTION: Accept Mediators' proposal, inclusive of insurance to resolve the threatened litigation.
MOVED: D. Smallegan
SECONDED: R. Pilon

ROLL CALL VOTE

RESULT: Carries (Unanimous by 12 attendees) 4 Members absent

Announcements/ Board Member Reports/ Board Association:

- Annual workplan is in your packet. Updated as Quality Improvement item has already been covered in the August meeting.
- Shoutout to Ben Townsend who was the featured speaker at the recovery celebration, giving a powerful keynote and musical presentation.

Next Meeting: November 19, 2026

Adjournment: 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Rappuhn, Executive Administrator

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Greg McMorrow, Board Chairperson

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Lynn Pope, Secretary

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