Northern Lakes
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

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

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2026	NLCMHA Houghton Lake 2715 South Townline Road, Houghton Lake, MI	1:00pm

Board Members Present: Al Cambridge, Lynn Pope, Penny Morris, Greg McMorrow, Christal Frost Anderson, Ruth Pilon, Dave Freedman, Ty Wessell, Kim Morley, Ben Townsend, Dean Smallegan, Dan Buron, Vince Cornellier

Quorum was confirmed.

Others Present: Jeremiah Williams, Melissa Williams, Erica Solomonson, Melissa Trout, Lynda Zeller, Abby Schoenfeld

Virtual Attendees: 29 virtual participants

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

MOTION: Approval of Agenda: Motion to amend agenda: 1. add Closed session after second public comment to discuss legal counsel. 2. Add Celebrate Northern Lakes first and 3. add CMHAM fall conference in announcements.

MOVED: G. McMorrow
SECONDED: C. Frost Anderson

RESULT: Carries (Unanimous)

DRAFT

MOTION: Approval of Minutes

MOVED: G. McMorrow
SECONDED: V. Cornellier

RESULT: Carries (Unanimous)

Public Comment: None

Service Area Presentation Childrens Team : Presented on SED and Childrens Services

Report of Officers:

Recipient Rights Report: Lynda gave the update for ORR since they are at a State conference. Positive trends continue in the data. Nothing unusual to report.

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 16-19. Items highlighted during the meeting included:

- Medicaid Eligibility: A chart was included in the packet portraying the significant increase in numbers of people losing Medicaid eligibility. Finance and Clinical staff are working closely together to reapply as quickly as possible where that is an option. This is a trend across our region and statewide. State Hospital Dedication and Open House, on October 7, 2026. There is an open house for the new State Hospital located in Northville.
  Access charts (pages 11-14). Positive trends continue (such as significantly improved timing from service request to completion of assessment).
- Crisis Services. Page 27 is the dashboard for crisis depicting number and cost of services, as well as sites/counties and funding sources. Upcoming Events: Page 37 is the list of upcoming events. Note: this list includes both community events that we support as well as events we host/facilitate. For events we host/facility "NLCMHA" is in red font

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

DRAFT

Committee Reports:

NMRE: Ruth reports there is a decline in numbers of Medicaid eligible people in all of the waivers and categories. The revenue is shrinking. It's not just us it's the entire region. For the PA2 funds we did get the full 3rd quarter amount. Some of the funds have been deducted from previous quarter's funding, this is common. There are no rates in the 2027 contract which makes it difficult to put together a budget.

Executive: We met for purpose of finalizing the agenda for this meeting. Nothing out of the ordinary to report.

Finance: Melissa and Al provided updates that the audit is still pending and that there has been a lack of being able to get the auditors all the information they want. At some point we will have to close the audit and what they aren't able to get we will discuss then. New contract Manager Chris put together a chart for current contracts and current budget. The gap has been closing in recent months. Contracts are really being looked at by Lynda and Chris. Cashflow is trending good. The other big discussion we need to approve a budget.

MOTION: That we accept this as our initial budget.

MOVED: A. Cambridge
SECONDED: B. Townsend

RESULT: Carries (Unanimous)

Policy: Dave Freedman. The Policy Committee did not meet, but work continued on final review of the Governance Policies which are included in your packet and will be discussed later in the agenda. .

Personnel: Ruth stated Our next meeting is in October. Pages 28-35 is a slide deck summarizing the results of the Staff Climate Survey. This was discussed last month.

Community Engagement: Christal reported that the group has not met since the public hearing and thanked Lynda for the summary included in the packet, noting that it accurately reflected activities across all four locations. The public hearing was considered a great success, with attendance exceeding expectations. K. Morley shared that follow-up discussions focused on coordinating services among agencies to reduce duplication and exploring strategies for working together on state funding issues. A. Cambridge added that staff turnover was another major topic of discussion.

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RRAC Committee: Al reports that they did not meet this month but will meet in October. And anyone who wants to attend can attend and reach out to Hilary so we do not meet a Board Quorum.

Unfinished Business:

- Turn In Missing Documentation
- Governance Policies: Edits to 1.5.21 and New Attachment (Action Item for September)
    - Lynda will email the draft edits from Policy Committee to full board for consideration and potential action next month.

MOTION: Accept the Governance Policies as presented and amended today.

Amend Motion by T. Wessell- Accept the Governance Policies as presented and amended today subject to legal review of the language specific to winter meeting locations.

MOVED: D. Freedman
SECONDED: D. Smallegan

RESULT: Carries (Unanimous)

Public Comment: None

Announcements/ Board Member Reports/ Board Association:

- Fall Conference: Lynda and Hilary requested that board members interested in attending, please let Hilary know as soon as possible.
- Board Retreat is next month.
- Lynda's 1 year anniversary is October 13. A performance evaluation needs to be completed. Greg will appoint an Ad Hoc Committee for this purpose.

MOTION: To create an ad hoc CEO evaluation committee

MOVED: G. McMorrow
SECONDED: T. Wessell

RESULT: Carries (Unanimous)

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MOTION: Motion for closed session.

Amended Motion by G. McMorrow to have only the Board, Lynda (CEO) and Hilary (Executive Administrator) attend Closed Session.

MOVED: P. Morris
SECONDED: K. Morley

ROLL CALL VOTE

RESULT: Carries (Unanimous)

CLOSED SESSION

- Closed Session Start Time: 2:33 p.m.
- Closed Session End Time: 3:10 p.m.
- Board Meeting Resumed at: 3:11 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 15, 2026

Adjournment: 3:12 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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