

WEST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2021

1. Call to Order: The West Michigan Community Mental Health Board of Directors met for its regular meeting in person in the Boardroom at the H.E. Madden Center, located in Ludington, at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. Vice-Chairperson Larry VanSickle presided.
2. Roll Call: The following members were present: Mary Alway, Ron Bacon, Linda Baierl, Pat Bettin, Dr. Jennifer Branning, Dawn Martin, Andy Sebolt (via Zoom), Kay Seng (via Zoom due to a medical reason), Lucinda Shafer, and Larry VanSickle. Absent: Jim Prince (excused) and Todd Dancz. A quorum was present. CMH staff members present were: Lisa Williams, Michele Condit, Bethany Sherfinski, Ellen Plummer, and Kimberly Goodrich.
3. Introductions: Dr. Williams introduced Mary Dumas, LRE CEO.
4. Delegations, Communications and Expressions from the Community: Anissa Beilfuss Gulembo was present to share her experience with the autism facility in Mason County. Dr. Williams assured her that we will follow up on her feedback.
5. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Bacon made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Seng, that the West Michigan Community Mental Health Board of Directors approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.
6. Conflict of Interest Question: Mr. VanSickle asked if any board member wished to declare a conflict of interest regarding any matter to be considered by the West Michigan Community Mental Health governing body. No such declarations were made.
7. Consent Agenda: Mr. Bacon made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Bettin, to approve the item on the consent agenda:
 - 7.1 Minutes from the 7/20/21 WMCMH Board of Directors Meeting. The motion carried.
8. Executive Committee Meeting Report: Mr. VanSickle reported that the Executive committee met last week and the minutes are attached for review. There were no action items from the committee. Dr. Williams noted a brief discussion she had with the Executive Committee, that as a result of COVID, there were changes to the Open Meetings ACT to allow virtual attendance at public meetings. However, when that special provision went away, it was determined that the Open Meeting Act does NOT actually allow virtual participation with the exception of military deployment or illness. Effective immediately we will have to follow that guidance. Our bylaws stipulate that we can meet virtually but moving forward we will have to ensure that those meetings have a quorum in person. Those participating virtually cannot vote unless they fall into one of the two categories and notify the Chair of such prior to the meeting. We will make the amendment to our bylaws official at the next Governance Committee meeting.
9. Public Policy Education Committee Report: Mr. Sebolt reported that the PPEC met and reviewed a proposed resolution for the board to sign opposing Senate Bills 597 and 598.

A similar resolution was approved to send to each of the County Commissions. Mason County passed the resolution unanimously. The resolution from the County Commissions also contain opposition to the House bills, but the board resolution will, at this time, just address the Senate bills. The Senate Bills are very similar to the 298 proposal that the Medicaid Health Plans (MHPs) were advocating for.

Dr. Williams stated that the House proposals also eliminates the PIHPs and instead they consolidate into one entity at the State level, an Administrative Services Organization (ASO). An advisory committee to the private ASO would be appointed by the legislature and MDHHS. This would effectively eliminate any local governance in management of the behavioral health benefit.

The House and Senate bills would eliminate local voice and control. They will both negatively impact dollars to services and outcomes to consumers. We are uncertain as to the role of the CMH in either of these proposals.

Mr. Sebolt made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bacon, to approve the Resolution Opposing Senate Bills 597-598. The motion carried.

10. CCBHC Advisory Committee Report: Mrs. Seng provided a brief overview of the committee's report. We are doing very well overall.
11. Finance Committee Recommendation: Mr. VanSickle reported that the Finance Committee reviewed a list of contracts over \$20,000. Ms. Sherfinski reported that four of the contracts are for services in a specialized residential setting, very typical contracts. The last contract is with Compliance One. We have been contracting for some expertise around COVID and some additional emergency preparedness/incident command consultation and training has been added. Mr. Bacon made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Bettin, to approve the contracts over \$20,000 as presented. The motion carried.
12. Clinical Services Report: Ms. Plummer highlighted that we are up almost 100 screenings/requests for services over the past month. On the service delivery side, Ms. Plummer noted the progress on the jail diversion grant. Staff have been hired for those positions specified in the grant and have begun working in the jails.

Ms. Plummer provided an overview of EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing). This is a treatment that works, but it's not easy to explain why. EMDR is found to be especially effective for individuals experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder. It is an evidence-based treatment. EMDR directly effects the way in which the brain processes information. The success rate for EMDR in the treatment of PTSD is 80-90%, in half the time as talk therapy. WCMCMH has 10 EMDR trained therapists, it's available in all three counties, and is used with adults and children.

13. Chief Financial Officer's Report: Ms. Sherfinski reviewed the financial services report through the period ending June 30, 2021, nine months of the fiscal year. Since this report was generated, there was some additional grant and Medicaid revenue that wasn't accounted for in this report. Our revenue is higher at this time than is presented in the report.

Ms. Sherfinski reviewed a proposed policy revision to 3-3-1, which added a statement regarding a sliding fee schedule to reduce consumer fees based on annual income. It's a change in regulations that require us to have that statement in our policy. Mrs. Shafer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bacon, to approve the policy revision as presented.

The motion carried.

Ms. Sherfinski reviewed the Cash and Investment Report as of June 30, 2021. Interest rates remain very low.

14. Chief Operations Officer's Report: Ms. Condit highlighted that Office of Recipient Rights visited WMCMH for its triennial site visit last month. We received the final report from their visit and were found to be in full compliance.

Ms. Condit reviewed proposed changes to some policy statements. We have some requirements for specific language that needs to be in our Accessibility policy statement, so changes reflect those requirements. She also reviewed a new Human Resources policy that speaks to our competitive benefit packages for staff. The third policy change is to revise our Education Assistance Reimbursement policy. We use this policy as a staff retention tool. Mr. Bacon made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Shafer, to approve the three policy proposals as presented. The motion carried.

15. Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHAM): Dr. Williams reviewed the proposed CMHAM Dues for FY 21/22. This organization hosts much of the training in the state, they help us advocate for bills and legislation, and they provide technical support. Since this is the Board's association that these dues apply to, we want to seek the board's approval on payment of the dues for this coming fiscal year. It was noted that our dues went up \$300. Mrs. Bettin made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bacon, to approve payment of the CMHAM dues for FY21/22 as presented. The motion carried.

Dr. Williams stated that much of the talking points that we used to create the resolutions against the bills came from the CMH Association. They are very actively advocating against those proposals and the impact on our system. They are also moving into planning for the conference that will happen this fall. At this time, they are planning for an in-person conference. They are also trying to hold the Walk A Mile this fall in person.

16. Lakeshore Regional Entity Update: Ms. Dumas reported that the historical deficit and the sanctions the region has been under for four years now is seeing a little bit of movement and its attorney is pushing hard to get this resolved with the State. The PIHP is trying to fund the ISF which was essentially bankrupt. There is presently a settlement proposal that came out of the Department today to the Assistant Attorney General. It went back to the Department for questions, and we are hoping to see a defined proposal soon that we can live with. The Region has been under a month-to-month contract with the Department, so trying to hire has been very challenging. We are transitioning some managed care functions from Beacon back to the region. With new staff, we are also expanding our office space. Ms. Dumas also shared her thoughts on the public system and how important it is to maintain and continue to advocate on behalf of the system and the people we serve.

17. Director's Report: Dr. Williams reported that COVID numbers are rising in all of our counties, so we have reinstated masking for all staff at the recommendation of the CDC and the Health Department, regardless of vaccination status. We have not cut back our face-to-face activities or home visits. We have increased our cleaning protocols. Thus far we have no incidents of staff to consumer or consumer to staff exposure, which tells us that our protocols are working. Our vaccination status is about 73%.

Dr. Williams stated that we are about to move into our annual strategic planning process and one of the things the board had mentioned several months back was the board's

role in that process. We are conducting a SWOT (strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats) analysis and if there are board members who are interested in that process, we would have a special meeting to seek input on that. Please let Ms. Goodrich or Dr. Williams know and we will invite you to a session to work on strategic planning and we would report to the full board at the next meeting. Mr. Bacon, Ms. Alway, Ms. Shafer, and Ms. Bettin volunteered to be part of that process.

18. Upcoming Committee Meetings:

- LRE Board Meeting – Thursday, August 19th at 1:00 in Ludington
- Executive Committee – Tuesday, September 14th at noon in Ludington

19. WMCMH Board Member Comments, Questions, Clarifications and Critique of Meeting: Dr. Branning asked the process for addressing public comment. Dr. Williams shared how she will handle the feedback, including getting back to the person.

20. Delegations, Communications and Expressions from the Community: There were none.

21. Executive Session: There was none.

22. Adjournment: With no additional business, the West Michigan Community Mental Health Board of Directors adjourned its meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Kimberly Goodrich
Recording Secretary

Larry VanSickle
Vice-Chairperson