

WEST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2026

1. Call to Order: The West Michigan Community Mental Health Board of Directors met for its regular meeting in person in the Conference Room at the Harold E. Madden Center located in Ludington, at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17th, 2026. Chairperson Larry VanSickle presided.
2. Roll Call: The following members were present: Mary Alway, Ron Bacon, Linda Baierl, Cindy Boerema, Brandy Miller, Kay Seng, Lucinda Shafer, Larry VanSickle, and Robert Walker. Absent: Dr. Jennifer Branning (excused) and Dawn Fuller. A quorum was present. CMH staff members present were: Julia Rupp, Michele Condit, Ellen Plummer, Bethany Sherfinski (virtual), and Kelly Hein.
3. Introductions: There were none.
4. Delegations, Communications and Expressions from the Community: There were none.
5. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Walker made the motion, seconded by Ms. 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 Ms. Seng, to approve the item on the consent agenda:
 - 7.1 Minutes from the 12/16/2026 WMCMH Board of Directors Meeting. The motion carried.
8. Executive Committee Meeting Report: Mr. VanSickle reported that the Executive Committee report from the February 10th meeting is available for review.
9. Finance Committee Recommendation: Ms. Sherfinski reported that the Finance Committee did not meet but was forwarded one contract for a Specialized Residential home that is over \$50,000 for review and to bring to the full board for its approval. Ms. Shafer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bacon, to approve the list of contracts over \$50,000 as presented. The motion carried.
10. Healthcare Integration and Clinical Services Report: Mr. Plummer highlighted the work surrounding the BHUC. The clinic began providing Saturday hours on January 3rd. Staff were able to provide immediate assessments for two individuals on the first Saturday the clinic opened to get them engaged and on the path to ongoing services.

Ms. Plummer highlighted on behalf of Mr. Snyder updates with our substance use disorder services. She noted the agency hired 3 new Peer Recovery Coach's (PRC's) and are looking forward to having these new staff with lived personal recovery experience join the agency. These PRC's support clients receiving SUD Services in unique and meaningful ways that only they can provide.

Ms. Plummer presented revised Policy 5-02-10, Reporting Abuse & Neglect, for board consideration and approval. This is a requirement change on reporting suspected cases of abuse & neglect. Mr. Bacon made the motion, seconded by Walker, to approve revised policy 5-02-10, Reporting Abuse & Neglect. The motion carried.

11. Chief Financial Officer's Report: Ms. Sherfinski reviewed the financial report for period ending December 31, 2025. There was nothing out of the ordinary to report. The largest variance, CCBHC Revenue, is due to timing related to the change in the fee for service billing.

Ms. Sherfinski also reviewed the Cash and Investment Report as of December 31, 2025. She noted interest rates have lowered slightly, just under 4%. We are starting to move to more invested in CDARS rather than T-bills due to better rates.

Ms. Sherfinski presented revised Policy 6-01-03, Open Lines of Communication, for board consideration and approval. This is change highlights the importance of WMCMH taking action in non-retaliatory ways, so staff and stakeholders feel safe to report compliance related allegations. Mr. Bacon made the motion, seconded by Ms. Seng, to approve revised policy 6-01-03, Open Lines of Communication. The motion carried.

Ms. Sherfinski presented revised Policy 6-01-04, Handling Allegations of Non-Compliance, for board consideration and approval. This is a change that allows for additional methods to report suspected compliance violations. Ms. Alway, made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bacon, to approve revised policy 6-01-03, Open Lines of Communication. The motion carried.

Ms. Sherfinski presented revised Policy 3-08-03, Electronic Communications, for board consideration and approval. This is a change to include additional users other than staff to utilize the electronic communications systems provided by the agency. Ms. Alway made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bacon, to approve revised policy 3-08-03, Electronic Communications The motion carried.

13. Chief Operations Officer's Report: Ms. Condit provided an update on the strategic planning process. The engagement phase of the process has wrapped up, where we were able to gather feedback from a variety of different stakeholders that included WM staff, individuals served, community partners, and the WM Board. The next step in the process is the planning and strategy development where there will be a 2.5 day work session to be held on March 4th-March 6th. She asked that if any of the WM Board members are able to participate, to reach out to Kelly Hein by February 27th.

Ms. Condit presented revised Policy 4-04-01, Employee Personnel File, for board consideration and approval. This change entailed maintaining personnel records of terminated employees to 10 years, previously was 7 years. Mr. Bacon made the motion,

seconded by Ms. Seng, to approve revised policy 4-04-01, Employee Personnel File. The motion carried.

14. Lakeshore Regional Entity Update: Ms. Rupp updated that MDHHS withdrew the RFP for the Rebid of the PIHP Procurement. They have not made any announcements on how they will proceed moving forward. The hope is that MDHHS will work collaboratively with us on finding the best solution to reform the behavioral health system.
15. CEO's Report: Ms. Rupp also updated that she will be attending the NACBHDD Legislative Policy conference next month in Washington DC.

Ms. Rupp also announced that she is scheduled to testify on March 3rd in Lansing to the House Behavioral Health and Medicaid committee on the benefits of CCBHC, the data that supports it, and the positive outcomes that have derived from it.

16. Upcoming Committee Meetings:

- LRE Board Meeting – Wednesday February 19 at 1:00 in Muskegon
- Executive Committee – Tuesday, March 11 at noon in Ludington

17. WMCMH Board Member Comments, Questions, Clarifications and Critique of Meeting: Mr. Walker discussed the Oceana County Emergency Management Plan and WMCMH's role in being an active participant in that 5 year plan. Ms. Condit will discuss further with Troy Maloney and will provide an update at next month's board meeting.
18. Delegations, Communications and Expressions from the Community: There were none.
19. Executive Session: There was none.
20. Adjournment: With no additional business, Mr. Bacon made the motion, seconded by Ms. Seng, to adjourn the West Michigan Community Mental Health Board of Directors meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Kelly Hein
Recording Secretary

Larry VanSickle
Chairperson