WEST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2026

1. Call to Order: The West Michigan Community Mental Health Board of Directors met for its regular meeting in person in the Boardroom of the Hart WMCMH building, at 5:35 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2026. Chairperson Larry VanSickle presided.

2. Roll Call: The following members were present: Ron Bacon, Cindy Boerema, Dr. Jennifer Branning, Melissa Fuehring, Brandy Miller, Jamie Russell, Kay Seng, Larry VanSickle, and Robert Walker. Absent: Mary Alway (excused), Lucinda Shafer (excused) and Linda Baierl (excused). A quorum was present. CMH staff members present were: Julia Rupp, Michele Condit, Bethany Sherfinski, Ellen Plummer, Josh Snyder, and Kelly Hein.

3. Introductions: There were none.

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

3. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Bacon 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 via roll. Bacon, Branning

4. 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.

5. Consent Agenda: Mr. Bacon 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 via roll.

    5.1 Minutes from the 8/18/26 WMCMH Board of Directors Meeting. The motion carried.

6. Executive Committee Meeting Report: Mr. VanSickle reported that the Executive Committee's report is available for review. There were no action items or questions from the board.

7. Finance Committee Report: Mr. VanSickle reported that the committee met on September 8th and the minutes from that meeting are included for review.

    Ms. Sherfinski reviewed one FY26 contract that is over $50,000. This contract is for an Inpatient Hospital Service for whom the annual projected expenditure is approximately $100,000. Mr. Bacon made the motion, seconded by Mr. Walker, to approve the FY26 contract over $50,000. The motion carried.

    Ms. Sherfinski reviewed a list of FY27 contracts over $50,000 for 24 hour care, clinical, and non-clinical contracts. The majority of contracts are for expenditures related to

services in residential and inpatient settings. Mr. Bacon made the motion, seconded by Mr. Walker, to approve the list of FY27 contracts over $50,00. The motion carried.

Ms. Sherfinski reviewed the proposed FY27 budget. On the revenue side, the budget reflects the conclusion of the current CCBHC grant cycle and the resulting reduction in federal grant funding. She noted that WMCMH has submitted an application for a subsequent grant opportunity. Medicaid revenue for Specialty Services is based on preliminary projections, as final reimbursement rates have not yet been established. On the expenditure side, the most significant increases are related to salaries and wages associated with newly created positions and contracted 24-hour care services. Costs for residential and community inpatient services are also expected to increase due to growing demand for services and higher labor expenses resulting from additional minimum wage increases taking effect. Mr. Bacon made the motion, seconded by Mr. Walker, to approve the FY27 Proposed Budget. The motion carried.

8. CCBHC Advisory Committee Report: Ms. Seng reported that the CCBHC Advisory Committee met last week and the minutes are included for review. She provided an overview of the CCBHC-IA Grant and the Demonstration.

9. Healthcare Integration and Clinical Services Report: Ms. Plummer highlighted the Just In Time (JIT) Scheduling, which was implemented last month, where consumer appointments are scheduled closer to the actual date services are needed rather than months in advance. She noted the internal workgroup continues to meet regularly to review any needed modifications to processes and review effectiveness of the implementation and application.

   Mr. Snyder highlighted the recently completed MIFAST reviews. As a CCBHC, the agency participates in Michigan Fidelity Assessment and Support Team (MIFAST) reviews every three years to evaluate adherence to best practices in Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), and Trauma-Informed Care. A Trauma-Informed Care review was completed in September, and the next Motivational Interviewing review is scheduled for January 2027. The ACT review was completed last year and is not due again for approximately two years.

10. Chief Financial Officer's Report: Ms. Sherfinski reviewed the financial report for the period ending July 31, 2026. An adjustment was made to reflect the finalized CCBHC PPS rates, which were recently received for the current fiscal year. There was nothing out of the ordinary to report, financial performance remains consistent with prior months and is within expected parameters. The organization continues to operate at a deficit related to non-Medicaid CCBHC services.

11. Chief Operations Officer's Report: Ms. Condit highlighted the success of the 3rd Annual Walk of Hope, held on September 8. There were approximately 225 participants, including continued growth and increasing community engagement each year. The event also featured 16 community partners who hosted informational booths and tables to support attendees and promote community resources.

    Ms. Condit reviewed the Strategic Planning Data Report and discussed proposed key performance metrics to support Board oversight of the Strategic Stabilization Plan. The Board emphasized the importance of receiving ongoing updates regarding Same Day Access outcomes and identifying barriers that may contribute to delays in access to

care.

12. Lakeshore Regional Entity Update: Ms. Rupp reported that regional activity has been relatively quiet. Ongoing discussions continue to focus on the financial challenges facing the region, including concerns regarding insufficient funding levels and the impact of continued underfunding on behavioral health services and system sustainability.

13. LRE/CMHSP contract. Ms. Rupp provided an update on the LRE/CMHSP contract, reporting that all outstanding items and language concerns have been resolved. She reviewed the combined LRE/CMHSP feedback grid, which outlines each proposed change, the rationale for the change, and the resolution status, noting that all items have been successfully addressed. Mr. Bacon made the motion, seconded by Dr. Branning, to authorize Ms. Rupp to sign the FY27 LRE-CMHSP contract. The motion carried.

14. CEO Report: Ms. Rupp reported that the CARF survey will take place next week. CARF, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, is the accrediting body that evaluates the quality and performance of WMCMH programs and services. As part of the survey process, Board members have been invited to participate in an interview to provide feedback to surveyors. Please reach out to Kelly Hein if you are available to participate on either 9/23 or 9/24.

15. Upcoming Committee Meetings:
    - Executive Committee –Tuesday, October 13 at noon in Ludington
    - LRE Board Meeting – Wednesday, September 23rd at 1:00 in Muskegon

16. WMCMH Board Member Comments, Questions, Clarifications and Critique of Meeting: There was none.

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

18. Executive Session: There was none.

19. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Kelly Hein	Larry VanSickle
Recording Secretary	Chairperson