

WEST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2025

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 19th, 2025. Chairperson Larry VanSickle presided.
2. Roll Call: The following members were present: Ron Bacon, Linda Baierl, Dawn Fuller, Jim Prince, Kay Seng, Lucinda Shafer, Larry VanSickle, and Robert Walker. Absent: Mary Alway, Pat Bettin, Dr. Jennifer Branning and Todd Dancz (excused). A quorum was present. CMH staff members present were: Julia Rupp, Michele Condit, Ellen Plummer, Josh Snyder, and Kelly Hein.
3. Introductions: There were none.
4. Delegations, Communications and Expressions from the Community: There were none.
5. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Prince made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bacon, 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 1/21/2025 WCMCMH 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: Mr. Bacon reported that the Finance Committee did not meet but was forwarded with a list of three contracts over \$50,000 for review and to bring to the full board for its approval. Mr. Bacon stated that two of the contracts are for Specialized Residential settings that are expenditures in addition to existing contracts already approved and the third is for adding a provider to our panel, so we have the service option available for use in the event it is needed. Mr. Prince made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bacon, to approve the list of contracts over \$50,000 as presented. The motion carried.

Mr. Bacon also reviewed two contracts between \$20,000 and \$49,000 for informational purposes.

10. CCBHC Advisory Committee Report: Mrs. Seng reported that the committee met last week and was provided with an overview of the CCBHC-IA Grant and the Demonstration. She reviewed the service goals and stated that WMCMH is on track to meet and exceed its goals for the year.

Ms. Seng reviewed and updated on the 3 goals and objectives for the grant. We have met the target for the first goal, Implement Core Principles and Best Practices of a Crisis Care Continuum and Address Poor Health Outcomes for those Experiencing Depression, Suicide, and Trauma. For the second goal, Increase Access to Medication Assisted Therapy Services, we are on track to meeting that goal. For the third grant goal, Increase Access to Clinical Services to Underserved Populations, we are on track to meet all 4 populations served for that goal.

Mr. Seng reviewed Quality Based Payment (QBP) metrics for Demonstration Years 1-4 in the CCBHC Demonstration. These indicators were eligible for a 5% payment if all 7 are met in year 1 and year 2. WMCMH just missed the measure in Year 1 but met the performance measures for Demonstration Year 2 (DY2). WMCMH was the only CCBHC in the state who achieved all 7 QBP Measures and received a payment of roughly \$1.6 million. For Demonstration Year 3, we are above target for all 7 QBP measures based on the data we have, but the State pulls their own data, so we need to wait to see their findings. Mr. Snyder reminded the board that for Demonstration Year 4 Q1; we changed from fiscal year to calendar year, so there will be some changes to the QBH measure that will be discussed at our next meeting.

11. Healthcare Integration and Clinical Services Report: Mr. Plummer highlighted the work surrounding the jail services that the Crisis Team provides. She noted they continue to work on developing positive working relationships with our community law enforcement partners. They also plan on continuing the work on building a pilot program for law enforcement and behavioral health co-response, and our crisis staff will be providing training to the Ludington Police Department specific to mental health and SUD crisis situations in addition to broadening understanding of aspects of the Michigan Mental Health Code, including the civil commitment process.

Mr. Snyder highlighted the status of the Opiate settlement planning within our 3 counties. He noted that in each of the 3 counties we serve has their own planning process. WMCMH has representation in each county's workgroup. Mason and Oceana are just starting their process, while Lake county's workgroup has been working for about a year and within a few months they plan to have a recommendation to go to the County Commissioners for their consideration and approval. The dollar amounts have the potential to increase over time as more settlements happen.

12. Chief Financial Officer's Report: Ms. Plummer reviewed on behalf of Ms. Sherfinski the financial report for period ending December 31, 2024. She highlighted that the income statement is in a better overall position than what we saw last month. There was a slight increase in Medicaid revenue and interest income and a slight decrease in fringe benefit cost on health insurance due to open positions. The Community Inpatient in 24-hour contractual services was also down slightly.

Ms. Plummer also reviewed the Cash and Investment Report as of December 31, 2024.

She noted we are still averaging interest rates around 4%. We are starting to move to more invested in CDARS rather than T-bills due to better rates.

13. Chief Operations Officer's Report: Ms. Condit highlighted that the team has just finalized the planning for period 2, strategic work that will run through the end of May. The team has identified two strategic goal focuses, Enhancing Access to Care and Understanding, living, and appreciating the interconnectedness of our individual and organizational why, purpose and work. Ms. Condit noted that the demand for services continues to increase, so the work will primarily focus on Enhancing Access to Care. The team will focus on implementing strategies to ensure the consumers requesting and receiving our mild-to-moderate therapy services receive those services in a timely manner. The team has identified a variety of strategies in period 1 that will be implemented now in period 2. They plan to continuously monitor this work to ensure the new strategies achieve the desired outcome of timely service delivery.

Ms. Rupp also discussed the work surrounding Access to Care, noting this process is intended to create and install better practices and efficiencies. These efficiencies are asking staff to operate in a completely different way, and it will be a huge lift for the agency but is confident they will achieve the desired outcome.

14. Lakeshore Regional Entity Update: Mr. Bacon updated that there is an executive meeting tomorrow to discuss the region's CEO contract. He also noted the LRE will be joining the other PIHP's with lawsuit regarding the FY22 cost settlement. Ms. Rupp discussed further that the board members of the LRE voted to allow the CEO to take legal action and move forward in joining the lawsuit with the other PIHP's that are refusing to sign the contract regarding the FY2022 cost settlement. She stressed that our region is underfunded and there is a need to produce a real solution to increase revenue and work together to understand why the region is so underfunded.
15. CEO's Report: Ms. Rupp discussed the upcoming Legislative & Policy conference (NACBHDD) that she will be attending in a few weeks with Ms. Condit, Ms. Plummer, and Mr. Snyder. She was asked to present on Integrated Health and the National Association of Counties, specifically regarding IBH grants.

Ms. Rupp also highlighted there will be some advocacy with our partner CCBHC's and Community Mental Health Association on the federal government allocating more Medicaid funding at state level. The ultimate goal is to increase the Medicaid rates at state level.

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. WCMCMH Board Member Comments, Questions, Clarifications and Critique of Meeting: There were none.

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. Shafer, to adjourn the West Michigan Community Mental Health Board of Directors meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Kelly Hein
Recording Secretary

Larry VanSickle
Chairperson