



AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Authority

Joseph Stone, Board Chairperson
Diane C. Pelts, M.A., Chief Executive Officer

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 23, 2022

5:00 p.m., St. Vincent's Annex

1. CONVENE

a. Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Authority Board was held on Monday, May 23, 2022, in the St. Vincent's Annex in West Branch. Chairperson Joe Stone called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A virtual option via Microsoft TEAMS was also offered for public attendance.

b. Roll Call

Board members physically present: Rose Walsh, Joe Stone, Mike Welsch, Chuck Varner, Al Evans, D. Jay O'Farrell, Patti Casey, Jill Gould, Bonnie Lixey, and Gary Klacking

Board members present via video conference: Roberta Roulo

Board members excused: None

Board members absent: None

Staff present: Diane Pelts, Erinn Trask, and Joseph Chrivia

Staff present via video conference: Michelle Lapointe, Laura Marentette, Martha Priebe, Laura Sisco, Trish Otremba, Teresa Tokarczyk, Jennifer Carr, Lori Enos, and Regina Demetrakeas

Staff absent: None

Guests: None

A quorum was present.

c. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. O'Farrell and second by Ms. Lixey to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 Board meeting as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

d. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Walsh and second by Mr. Varner to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

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e. Correspondence

Ms. Pelts shared copies of the IT newsletter *The Download*, with the Board. She pointed out an article concerning LastPass which secures website passwords for staff.

Ms. Pelts shared several articles relating to Grand Traverse County and Northern Lakes CMH. She explained how a lack of communication and poor relationships between the entities has brought them to the point where Grand Traverse is pursuing withdrawing from the enabling agreement which put them into the CMH. She said if this happens, the effects to Northern Lakes will extend throughout the NMRE. Mr. Stone said if this occurs, it will be another point for legislators who want to dismantle the public mental health system and privatize. Ms. Pelts and the Board discussed this issue extensively.

f. Legislative Updates.

Ms. Pelts announced HB 5165 passed the Senate. She said this is the bill which will change Michigan's Ability to Pay guidelines to match federal criteria. Due to the misalignment, the Agency was not able to participate in the National Health Service Corps student loan forgiveness program. Ms. Pelts discussed how this change impacts recruiting and retention.

Ms. Pelts distributed a flyer and magnets for the 988 Crisis Services Hotline. She explained what it is and how it differs from 911.

g. Announcements – None.

h. Public Comments – None.

2. BOARD EDUCATION

Ms. Trask introduced Christina Schaub of Roslund, Prestage, and Company PC. Ms. Schaub presented the results of the Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Audit for the Board. She began by explaining the responsibilities of management and auditors. She discussed opinions and explained the requirements of government auditing standards.

Ms. Schaub discussed internal controls and found no material weaknesses. The audit had no findings, and no instances of non-compliance were discovered. She stated the only concern was related to the old 401(a) plan handled by WILCAC and Sprague and that has already been resolved via the Agency's change to Mission Square.

It was moved by Mr. Varner and second by Mr. Welsch to accept the FY2021 Financial Audit as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

3. REPORTS

a. Chairman

Mr. Stone asked the Board to keep the residents of Gaylord in their thoughts due to the recent tornado that devastated portions of the city.

b. Board Association

Mr. Stone said the Summer Conference is scheduled for Traverse City from June 6-8. Hotels and conference registrations are complete for those who expressed an intent to attend.

c. NMRE

Mr. Stone said the board next meets on Wednesday.

d. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Pelts said this month's report concerns the current events of Northern Lakes. She said she does not believe what is happening there could happen here because this Board is much more engaged than theirs. AuSable Valley's Board of Directors commit themselves to continuous education via conferences, attends meetings regularly to continue to be informed, and participates in the committees that they are assigned to. Several of her colleagues have voiced that our structure seems burdensome with all of the committee meetings; however, our Board is well-versed and topics well discussed before coming to the full Board to vote.

Ms. Pelts said she strives to always be transparent. Everything is brought before the various committees and the Board so everyone is aware of what is occurring and votes happen from a knowledgeable perspective. Everyone is encouraged to ask questions, voice comments and objections, and to agree or disagree. Your vote is your voice and it is imperative to follow your conscience. A Board Member's duty is to speak up. Ms. Pelts said she knows AuSable Valley's Board does exactly that and the diversity is appreciated.

Furthermore, AuSable Valley Board Members and CEO are engaged with the counties we represent so there is much better communication between the entities. We actively strive to foster a good relationship with the counties we serve.

Ms. Pelts said other Boards do not always understand rules governing CMHs and Medicaid funding and speak against their interests because they are not informed. AuSable Valley Board members work together to present one unified voice and are committed to following the policies enumerated in the Board Policy Manual. Mr. Stone said this Board, unlike many others, is not political. He said members differ on many political issues but that does not impact this Board. All work here is for the betterment of the Agency, staff, and the persons served.

Ms. Pelts and the Board continued to discuss the relationship between County Boards of Commissioners and Community Mental Health Agencies.

e. Committee

(1) Personnel – May 2, 2022

Committee Chair Mike Welsch read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Welsch with support by Ms. Lixey to revise the Agency's Education incentive to state the incentive will be made available after 90 days of full-time employment and pay \$200/month for 60 months for student loan repayment and \$5000/year for tuition assistance. All ayes; motion passed.

(2) Building – May 12, 2022

Committee Chair Al Evans read the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Evans with support by Mr. O'Farrell to accept the generator bid from Graham Motor & Generator for \$2,123.04. All ayes; motion passed.

(3) Program – May 12, 2022

Committee Chair Patti Casey read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions requiring Board action.

(4) Executive and Finance – May 17, 2022

Committee Chair Gary Klacking began reading the Committee meeting minutes.

Due to the resignation of a Board Officer, a new nomination meeting was held. Mr. Stone read the Nominating Committee minutes.

Mr. Stone called for any other nominations three times. No other nominations were offered.

It was moved by Mr. Varner and second by Mr. O'Farrell that nominations be closed and that a unanimous vote be cast for the slate of officers designated by the Nominating Committee. All ayes; motion passed. Elected were:

(1) Chairperson: Joseph Stone

(2) Vice-Chairperson: Gary Klacking

(3) Treasurer: Mike Welsch

(4) Secretary: D. Jay O'Farrell

Committee Chair Gary Klacking resumed reading the Committee meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Klacking and second by Ms. Lixey to accept the March 2022 financial statements as proposed. The Board questioned how incentive money is distributed throughout the NMRE; Ms. Pelts and Ms. Trask explained. Ms. Pelts thanked clinical services for their work which resulted in the full performance based incentive payment. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Klacking and second by Ms. Walsh to approve a Staff Memoriam Recognition Policy for former staff members or others who have significantly supported AuSable Valley to have memoriam placed at no cost to the Agency and subject to approval from the Chief Executive Officer. All ayes; motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Klacking and second by Mr. O'Farrell to approve one new contract (Fun First Therapy). All ayes; motion passed.

(5) Recipient Rights Advisory – May 10, 2022

Committee Chair Rose Walsh read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions requiring Board action.

Ms. Walsh and Ms. Lixey offered their compliments to Pamela Shannon, Recipient Rights Officer, for her outstanding work.

Mr. Klacking questioned the definition of “sentinel events” and Ms. Pelts answered.

(6) Recipient Rights Appeal – May 10, 2022

Committee Chair Rose Walsh read the Committee meeting minutes.

There were no motions requiring Board action.

4. OLD BUSINESS – Ms. Pelts said a resolution is required to complete the line of credit for the Agency's purchase of new vehicles this year. Ms. Trask explained the details of the loan. Mr. Stone asked about required approval from a Board officer; Ms. Trask answered. Ms. Casey asked which bank was providing the line of credit; Ms. Trask said Huron Community Bank. It was moved by Mr. Welsch and second by Ms. Casey to approve the resolution to open a \$500,000 line of credit for purchasing new agency vehicles. Roll call vote taken. All ayes; motion passed.

5. NEW BUSINESS – None.

6. COMMENTS

- a. Board** -- Ms. Lixey said she attended the “Mind Matters” event and complimented Sue Buresh's work. Ms. Lixey explained many of the activities and spoke highly of the event.

b. Public – None.

7. MEETING DATES

a. Board

(1) Monday, June 27, 2022; 5:00 p.m.; St. Vincent Annex

b. Committees

(1) Personnel – Monday, June 13, 2022; 4:30 p.m.; St. Vincent Annex

(2) Building – Thursday, June 9, 2022; 1:00 p.m.; AuSable Center

(3) Program – Thursday, June 9, 2022; 4:00 p.m.; AuSable Center

(4) Executive & Finance – Tuesday, June 21, 2022; 4:30 p.m.; St. Vincent Annex

(5) Recipient Rights Advisory – No meeting scheduled

(6) Recipient Rights Appeal – No meeting scheduled

c. Others

(1) Spring Conference: June 6-8; Traverse City

(2) Agency Picnic: June 23, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Irons Park, West Branch

(3) Agency Picnic: July 13, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Oscoda Beach Park, Oscoda

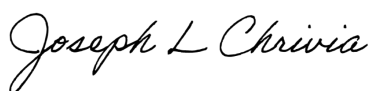
(4) Agency Picnic: August 3, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Gateway Park Pavilion, Tawas City

(5) Agency Picnic: August 10, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Oscoda County Park, Mio

8. ADJOURN

It was moved by Mr. Welsch and second by Ms. Lixey to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph L. Chrivia".

Joseph L. Chrivia
Board Secretary