

**SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2025, 2022 – 5:15 PM
ROOM 190**

PRESENT: Tracey Raquepaw, Mike Cierzniewski, Cym Winiecke, Jacob Kerns, Susan McCauley, Jaime Huffman, Joan Williams, Maria Vela, John Pugh, Jill Armentrout

VIRTUAL: Lisa Coney

ABSENT: Robert Woods

GUESTS:

STAFF: Sandra Lindsey, Jan Histed, Ryan Mulder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Cym Winiecke – Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. A quorum was established, and verification of posting was determined.

Motion made by Mike Cierzniewski supported by Susan McCauley to amend tonight's agenda to include 'Nagel Appointment to CAC' and 'Board Action: ORR Corrective Action Plan Discussion and Attestation of Compliance with Mental Health Code (Chapter 7), Requirements for ORR Officer Hiring and RAC Authority'. Motion carried.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

III. DISCUSSION OF DEI INITIATIVE IN LIGHT OF RECENT EXECUTIVE ORDERS FROM PRESIDENT TRUMP

Paul Elam, PhD joined the discussion. He has been assisting SCCMHA to advance Diversity Equity and Inclusion work and provide advice. There have been some changes at the federal level that will have an impact on DEI. Paul presented the following:

Overview of Executive Order 14173

- Title: 'Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity'
- Issuance Date: January 21, 2025
- Purpose: Eliminate unlawful DEI programs and reinforce merit-based employment practices

Key Provisions of EO 14173

- Revocation of Executive Orders **11246**, 12898, 13583, 13672
- Federal contractors must certify compliance with anti-discrimination laws
- Federal agencies to eliminate discriminatory preferences and enforce civil rights laws

Legal Developments Post-Issuance

- Federal injunction issued blocking key provisions
- EEOC challenges DEI programs that may foster discrimination
- DOJ pressures ABA to drop law school DEI requirements
- Corporate/Education responses: scaling back DEI initiatives

Commitment to Equal Opportunity

- Maintain non-discriminatory practices
- Emphasize merit, qualifications, and performance
- Adapt to the evolving legal framework while promoting inclusion

Compliance Recommendations

- Conduct a comprehensive DEI policy review
- Engage legal counsel to navigate new regulations
- Update employee training programs
- Stay informed about ongoing legal developments

Questions/Comments:

HUD Contract, Reference to Female / Veteran / Minority Owned Businesses?
Recommendation is that we speak with legal representation about this.

Some of the challenges have not been made yet (still some going back and forth). Feels like we should not back up too far though. Appreciates warnings, but feels we need to have Mr. Elam back for continued updates so we stay up on later developments.

Sandy noted that we are not doing anything illegal, and we will continue until we are told otherwise. Waiting on final direction from State and also from the final Medicaid Waiver renewals documents are already being reviewed.

Paul will continue to assist Sandy with seeking out other partners on this topic in the Saginaw Community and be asking them what they are going to do going forward. He will report back.

Potential for delayed payments could be upcoming as well (under warning that they're doing due diligence but this is not withholding payments).

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A. Board Meeting – February 10, 2025

Motion made by Joan Williams and supported by Jaime Huffman to approve the February 10, 2025 SCCMHA Board Meeting minutes with edits. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Governance Committee – February 20, 2025 Mike Cierzniewski, Chair / *Vacancy*, Vice Chair Reported by Mike Cierzniewski.

Motion made by Mike Cierzniewski and supported by Jamie Huffman to receive and file this report as written. Motion carried.

B. Recipient Rights Committee – No Meeting Deb Nagel, Chair / *Lisa Sawyer*, Vice Chair

- C. Ends Committee – February 24, 2025
Jill Armentrout, Chair – Tracey Raquepaw, Vice Chair
Reported by Jill Armentrout.

Motion made by Jill Armentrout and supported by Joan Williams to receive and file this report as written. Motion carried.

- D. Executive Limitations – February 26, 2025
Cym Winiecke, Chair – Tracey Raquepaw, Vice Chair
Reported by Cym Winiecke.

Motion made by Cym Winiecke and supported by Mike Cierzniewski to receive and file this report as written. Motion carried.

VI. CEO REPORT

ABA Tech Rate Increase to \$66.00/hr.

State of Michigan passed legislation that increases this codes rate to \$66.00 per hour for this service without any increased funding. MSHN CMHs were not going to pay this increased rate until additional funding is allocated. State of Michigan said that we must pay as of March 1st. The retro re-adjudication must go back from November 1st so this is very complicated.

MSHN Financial Position

See page 46-47 in tonight's packet. It is possible that this is worse now though. As Expenses from MSHN CMHs are looked at it continues to look more grim sadly. There are a few CMHs not under water but is not looking quite so fortunate going forward. SCCMHA will make through year ok, but we likely wont be able to return much funding to assist the rest of our colleagues in MSHN.

Meeting with SVSU HHS Dean Marcia Ditmyer on Tuition Discount for Employees

30% tuition discount for and degree at SVSU (similar to MOUs at local hospitals). More upcoming on this though. Signing an MOU soon.

Working through Minimum Wage & Earned Sick Time Act Provision with Network Providers

See poster that was distributed at tonight's meeting. SCCMHA surveyed our network on this topic. A few smaller providers have needed some assistance with this (specifically for minimum wage increases) to get them into compliance. For authority staff we have had negotiated language changes for LEO changes already in recent contract negotiations. Staff can now take in 30 minute increments. For network, many in the professional service delivery area they were already in compliance. For those with less than 10 employees, they have some more time to come into compliance though. Every employer in Michigan will need to have this poster up. Provider Newsletter coming out in next couple of weeks and this may be used as the vehicle.

Recipient Rights Plan of Correction re: ORR Officer Hires and Authority of RAC in Process

Tim retired in November 2023. Recent 3 year ORR Audit where all investigations are reviewed. Tim announced his retirement in early Spring of 2023. Sandy decided to move some job responsibilities around. Sandy was investigated for not following the Mental Health Code. There was a finding and we must attest that we will correct this going forward. See March 10, 2025 Attestation of Compliance with Michigan Mental Health Code.

Motion made by Mike Cierzniewski with support from Jaime Huffman to receive & file this report. Motion carried.

VII. BOARD ACTION

A. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Reappointments (Davis, Roat, Nelson, Townsend) & Appointment of Nagel

Motion made by Mike Cierzniewski and supported by Jill Armentrout to reappoint Maggie Davis, Tracey Roat, Cheryl Nelson and Bridgette Townsend appoint Deb Nagel to Citizens Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

B. 2025 Annual CMH PAC Campaign

CMHA is again asking boards to contribute to the CMH PAC Campaign. Sandy reported CMHAM is doing a wonderful job representing the CMH System and encourages the Board to consider make the equivalent of one Board meeting stipend (\$50). If interested in contributing, go to <https://cmham.org/public-policy/cmh-pac/>. If you would rather contribute by check (or cash) please give to Ryan and he'll submit to CMHA on your behalf. Goal is \$500 collective contribution from board members and/or staff.

C. Office of Recipient Rights (ORR) Corrective Action Plan Discussion and Attestation of Compliance with Mental Health Code (Chapter 7), Requirements for ORR Officer Hiring and RAC Authority

Motion made by Jill Armentrout and supported by Susan McCaulley to receive and file the Attestation and ask Kentera Patterson to include this letter in the CAP for recent ORR Audit. Motion carried.

VIII. BOARD INFORMATION

A. CMHA Weekly Update – February 2025 links: <https://cmham.org/resources/weekly-update/>

B. SCCMHA CAC Minutes <https://www.sccmha.org/about/board-agendas-and-meetings.html>

C. March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness, Social Work, & Women's History Month

D. Memo from J.Sedlock to K.Morningstar, MDHHS re: MSHN Financial Position

E. Email to CMH CEOs re: ABA Medicaid Rate Increase Insufficient to Cover ABA Tech rate Increase to \$66.00/hour – 02/26/25

F. SCCMHA Communication to ABA Providers on Tech Rate Increase and Retro Claims Adjudication – 03/03/25

G. Letter to Commissioner J.Tany re: SCCMHA Board Reappointments – 02/28/24

H. Special Release from MSHN – 03/03/25

I. Cuts to Medicaid Program

\$800B cuts proposed to Federal Medicaid program. Sandy has reached out to GLBHC CEO, Covenant, HealthSource among others (what are your trade associations telling you?). Created an SCCMHA Requests Call to Action. FMAP and cuts to federal match for Medicaid and impact on Michigan. Rules and regulations on how these dollars can be used (TANF, Moms and Children, etc.). Sent to BWell as well. Sandy encourages members of the Board to reach out to those that voted no on cuts and thank them and those that voted yes to cuts and voice displeasure with.

J. Press Release from MDHHS about rebidding PIHPs

See page 74-75. Unsure if they are trying to get down to less than ten PIHPs or what. Online survey link. SCCMHA will be responding and will reach out to key stakeholder to do the same.

IX. MEDIA / PUBLICATIONS

A. Press Release 'MDHHS to Rebid PIHP Function – 02/28/25

X. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mike Cierzniewski supported by Joan Williams to adjourn this meeting at 6:52 PM p.m. Motion carried.

**Minutes prepared by:
Ryan Mulder
Executive Assistant to CEO**