

**SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 13, 2026 – 5:15 PM
ROOM 190**

PRESENT: Mike Cierzniewski, Cym Winiecke, Susan McCauley, Joan Williams, Lisa Coney, John Pugh, Jacob Kern, Jill Armentrout

VIRTUAL:

ABSENT: Tracey Raquepaw, Jaime Huffman, Maria Vela

GUESTS:

STAFF: Sandra Lindsey, AmyLou Douglas, Ryan Mulder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Cym Winiecke, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m. A quorum was established, and verification of posting was determined.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

III. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING SCCMHA BOARD MEMBER – ROBERT WOODS

IV. BOARD TRAINING ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) GOVERNANCE

AmyLou Douglas reviewed the SCCMHA AI Governance Framework: Guiding the Responsible, Ethical, Secure, and Compliant Use of Artificial Intelligence to Enhance Care and Support our Community document and PowerPoint. See pages 5-41 in tonight's packet for details. 1 hour of Training Credit will be given to members present and those joining on the virtual/phone connection.

V. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A. Board Meeting – June 8, 2026

Motion made by Susan McCauley and supported by Jill Armentrout to approve the June 8, 2026, SCCMHA Board Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Governance Committee – June 18, 2026

Mike Cierzniewski, Chair / Susan McCauley, Vice Chair
Reported by Mike Cierzniewski.

Motion made by Mike Cierznieski and supported by Susan McCauley to receive and file this report as written. Motion carried.

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

C. Executive Limitations – June 24, 2026
Cym Winiecke, Chair – Tracey Raquepaw, Vice Chair
Reported by Cym Winiecke

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

- D.** Ends Committee – June 22
Jill Armentrout, Chair – Joan Williams, Vice Chair
Reported by Jill Armentrout

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

VII. CEO REPORT

U.S. Dept. of Justice Issued a 39-page controversial Memorandum on June 18th, 2026, titled Application of the Rehabilitation Act and Americans with Disability Act to State Institutions of patients with Severe Mental Illness or Disabilities

The memo discusses how the current U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) will be interpreting several federal disability laws, including:

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title II
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- The Supreme Court decision in Olmstead v. L.C. (1999)

The memo focuses on the “integration mandate,” which has generally been understood to mean that federally funded programs (Medicaid) should provide services to people with disabilities in community settings rather than institutions. Section 504 also prohibits disability-based discrimination in programs that receive federal funding.

At the same time, the Olmstead decision established that unnecessary segregation of people with disabilities can be considered discrimination under the ADA. Based on that decision, federal policy has historically placed priority on community-based services, with institutional care used when only medically necessary. In the past, the DOJ has supported this approach through legal actions and agreements with states.

The memo offers a very different interpretation of these laws, suggesting that institutional care may be appropriate in more situations than previously emphasized, and enforced. This change in legal interpretation of these laws should be of grave concern for people with disabilities and their families and organizations like SCCMHA which has supported people with disabilities in the community with specialty services for decades.

Though the DOJ Memorandum does not and cannot change the underlying laws or Supreme Court rulings, it does forecast a change in the federal government’s interactions with states particularly for the shared responsibilities, funding and policies of the Medicaid program. The memorandum would also seem to imply or suggest that the federal government will be changing the direction of their enforcement responsibilities over states, allowing them to reduce their commitments to community-based services vs institutional care. No doubt about it, litigation against states or federal HSS/CMS behavior that moves away from community-based care and toward institutional care is very likely.

The legal questions raised by the memo may be addressed in Texas v. Kennedy, which is currently moving through a legal briefing from both sides this year. After those filings are complete, the court will decide the case, but may be appealed to higher courts, potentially reaching the U.S. Supreme Court.

Work Commencing on FY 2027 Preliminary Budget.

The senior Management Team of SCCMHA has begun work on the FY 2027 SCCMHA Preliminary Budget

New MDHHS PIHP Request for Proposal (RFP) Not Yet Released

MDHHS has not yet published the next PIHP Request for Proposal, but the procurement section of the state website indicates it is targeted for release in July, August or September. Planning conversations between the CMHSP CEOs at MSHN and SWBH continue for application readiness.

Mental Health is Men's Health Symposium- Sat., July 25th at Four Points Sheraton

Sandy Lindsey will be the event moderator – see event flyer in the board packet.

MDHHS Audit of SCCMHA Medicaid Waiver Programs (all 1915 c Waivers including SEDW, HSW and CWP and the 1915 iSPA Waiver)

MDHHS will be conducting a Medicaid Waiver audit of SCCMHA on July 8-14, 2026. The audit includes extensive clinical record review, staff training and credentialing review and enrollee/family/guardian interviews.

SCCMHA Publishes 5th Edition of the Saginaw First Responders Guide for Behavioral Health Innovations

The Saginaw First Responders Guide for Behavioral Health Interventions (FRG) is now complete and posted to our website at this link [Saginaw County First Responders Guide for BH Interventions | SCCMHA](#).

This is the 5th version of this document that SCCMHA has compiled and published in partnership with first responders and other local Saginaw organizations over my 26 years as the CEO. The value of this document production has been found not just in the final product, but in the collaboration with local partners, all of which employ staff that work in the behavioral health urgent, emergency and crisis service space.

100+ bound hard copies for our local partners in law enforcement, ambulance, local hospital EDs, psychiatric units, courts, county prosecutor, county jail, treatment providers, adult and child protection services, victim services and others are now being printed for distribution later this month.

The main partners and contributors in the development of this document can be found on page 20.

An article about the FRG is being written for the Saginaw County Newsletter and a Press Release will be issued in the next week or so. We may also submit an application to present at the upcoming CMHA Fall Conference if we can get one or two of our collaboration partners to attend with us. Presentation applications are due on July 13th so we will need to write a presentation summary quickly which will be challenging considering other demands. Such a presentation may need to wait until the CMHA Winter Conference.

The staff from the Center for Health Research & Technology (CHRT) at the University of Michigan will be conducting a CCBHC Focus Group at SCCMHA

Evaluators from the CHRT/University of MI, will be holding a focus group with adult enrollees of SCCMHA CCBHC Services on Thurs., July 28, 2026, at the Hancock Bldg., Rms 190 & 191. Participants are being asked to arrive at 6 p.m. for refreshments and CCBHC orientation before the formal Focus Group activity begins at 7 p.m.

CHRT is the MDHHS CCBHC- Demonstration Evaluation contractor.

Motion made by Jill Armentrout and supported by Jacob Kern to receive and file CEO report. Motion carried.

VIII. BOARD ACTION

A. Annual Conflict of Interest Policy, Disclosure and Attestation

SCCMHA Board members were asked to update and sign the Conflict of Interest Policy, Disclosure and Attestation as soon as possible. Copies were sent along with his pack and made available electronically as well.

IX. BOARD INFORMATION

A. CMHA Weekly Update – July 2026 links:

<https://cmham.org/resources/weekly-update/>

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

C. July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, Independence Day & 250th birthday to USA [4th] and International Non-Binary People's Day [14th]

D. National Council Statement in Response to June 18th U.S. Department of Justice Memorandum on Reinterpretation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act

(Olmstead v. L.C.) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitations Act

E. CMHA Action Alert Tell Legislators to STOP HB 6022

F. CMHA Mental Health Framework Infographic

G. Mental Health is Men's Health Symposium event flyer

H. Texas and Eight Other States Renew Attack on Section 504 and the Right of Disabled People to Live in their Communities

X. MEDIA / PUBLICATIONS

A. County of Saginaw Newsletter – June 2026

<https://www.saginawcountymi.gov/news/>

B. Gov. Whitmer Announces Acting MDHHS Director & Staff Promotions

C. SCCMHA Provider Newsletter – July 2026

XI. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Joan Williams supported by Mike Cierznieski to adjourn this meeting at 6:31 p.m. Motion carried.

**Minutes prepared by:
Ryan Mulder
Manager of Office of CEO**