

**SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 1, 2025 – 5:15 PM
ROOM 190**

PRESENT: Tracey Raquepaw, Mike Cierznieksi, Cym Winiecke, Joan Williams, Maria Vela, John Pugh, Lisa Coney, Jill Armentrout

VIRTUAL: Jacob Kern

ABSENT: Susan McCauley, Jaime Huffman, Robert Woods

GUESTS: John Veremis

STAFF: Sandra Lindsey, Jan Histed & Ryan Mulder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Tracey Raquepaw, Chair called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. A quorum was established, and verification of posting was determined.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Vermis gave comment on his care at SCCMHA over more than 35 years. Feels he should not ever have come here for services. Also noted he feels there is a need for an ethics committee at SCCMHA.

III. BOARD TRAINING FY 2026 SCCMHA STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

Sandra M. Lindsey reviewed the SCCMHA Strategic Priorities 2025-2026 document included in tonight's packet. The final document will be available at:

<https://www.sccmha.org/userfiles/filemanager/pial4oy59xlw4y2ilhd/> 1 hour of Training Credit will be given to members present and those joining on the virtual/phone connection.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A. Board Meeting – November 3, 2025

Motion made by Mike Cierznieksi and supported by Cym Winiecke to approve the November 3, 2025, SCCMHA Board Meeting minutes with edits. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Governance Committee – No Meeting

Mike Cierznieksi, Chair / Susan McCauley, Vice Chair

B. Recipient Rights Committee – November 19, 2025

Deb Nagel, Chair / Lisa Sawyer, Vice Chair

Reported by Tracey Raquepaw

Motion made by Tracey Raquepaw and supported by Mike Cierznieksi to receive and file this report as written. Motion carried.

C. Ends Committee – November 24, 2025

Jill Armentrout, Chair – Joan Williams, Vice Chair

Reported by Jill Armentrout

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

D. Executive Limitations – November 24, 2025
Cym Winiecke, Chair – Tracey Raquepaw, Vice Chair
Reported by Cym Winiecke

Motion made by Cym Winiecke and supported by Lisa Coney to receive and file this amended report. Motion carried.

VI. CEO REPORT

PIHP Procurement Litigation Update:

The next Court of Claims Hearings will be held on December 8th and 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on both days. The December 8th hearing will be held in Lansing at the Hall of Justice, and the December 9th hearing will be back in Grand Rapids at the regular Court of Claims chamber. I attended a virtual meeting on November 26th with Erin Lane an attorney with Miller Johnson, to prepare me for what would have been a 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. virtual deposition by the attorneys from the Attorney General’s Office representing MDHHS. I learned this morning however that my deposition had been cancelled. No reason for the cancellation was given. I am aware that our attorneys are preparing legal briefs for Judge Christopher Yates in advance of the hearings next week and anticipate an ability to review the brief yet this week. The attorneys at Miller Johnson are in the final days of their own depositions of eight different MDHHS and DMB&T senior staff about the PIHP Procurement.

In the meanwhile, I have been working with Jan Histed, CFO, to quantify the financial harm to SCCMHA should the MDHHS PIHP Procurement move forward to the actual selection of new PIHPS for the three new regions, yet this month. This work will also assist me at the upcoming Court of Claims hearings next week should I once again be scheduled for testimony.

Judge Yates has indicated he will rule on this matter by December 12th.

Valley Residential Services Inc., Has Given Notice to SCCMHA That They are Merging with Listening Ear, Inc.

Valley Residential Services, Inc. (VRSI) has been a SCCMHA contracted provider of residential services for decades. Statewide VRSI operates fourteen licensed adult foster care homes and six of these programs are under contract with SCCMHA. They operate their Saginaw programs in homes owned by SCCMHA. The capacity of each of these homes is six adults, for a total of thirty-six beds. At the time of this report, thirty-five of these beds are occupied by SCCMHA consumers.

Our senior staff leadership in the Contracts, Network Management, and Clinical Services departments have been meeting with VRSI and Listening Ear, Inc. about their merger plans and a new contract for the Saginaw based programs. Listening Ear has contracted with other CMHSPs in the state with the closest programs to Saginaw County under contract to CMH For Central Michigan, which has provided positive recommendations about their services.

A 90-day contract extension is in process so we can assess the Listening Ear, Inc. performance. A significant priority is stability for the staff working at each site and activities for the AFC re-licensing of Listening Ear as the new licensee at each of the 6 Saginaw sites. SCCMHA Supports Coordinators as well as Families and Guardians have been alerted to the provider merger plans.

SCCMHA Has Received MDHHS Notice that Our CCBHC Community Needs Assessment is Complete and Accepted

SCCMHA received written approval by MDHHS last month for our CCBHC Community Needs Assessment (CNA) conducted in FY 2025. Approval of the CNA was the last compliance requirement for CCBHC last fiscal year.

Presentation of the CCBHC CNA Report will be scheduled at an upcoming Ends Committee in the New Year.

Major Changes Released by HUD to the Competitive Grant Process for Housing Assistance Programs.

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently released their Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the first competitive round of funding nationwide for Homeless Assistance Saginaw County Homeless Assistance Providers for decades have participated in annual response to issued NOFAs under the historic HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) construct, known in Saginaw as SC-CHAP. The CoC model brings local housing assistance providers together to plan for the housing needs of homeless people in a local jurisdiction, in our case the County of Saginaw. But then each partner makes their own funding application.

SCCMHA has been a SC-CHAP partner and secured annual HUD funding for Permanent Supported Housing (PSH) for over 20 years. PSH funding then allows SCCMHA to support single adults or families with housing subsidies.

Such that they only must pay 30% of the adjusted household income for monthly rent.

The rules and specifications for HUD funding in the upcoming grant application period under the new federal administration have been significantly changed, as have the scoring criteria and weight given to the collective local applications for funding.

For the first time PHS applications will not be accepted. Instead, only Transitional Housing Assistance (THA) applications will be considered. This means that our application this year will be significantly different and most regrettably, the seventy-five families we are serving now will not be eligible for THA funding when our current HUD grant ends on June 30, 2026.

Notice of intent to apply is due Dec 5th and the full application due December 12th.

Meanwhile these harsh changes to HUD funding have been represented in litigation by states against HUD.

The lead litigant against HUD is the Attorney General for the State of California, and has been enjoined by the Attorney Generals from the States of Michigan, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and the Governors of Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

See the related hard copy article brought to the board meeting.

SCCMHA Holiday Events

First Choice Holiday **Event** for Persons Served and Living in AFC/Specialized Residential Programs will be held on Friday, December 5th at 3:00 p.m. at Community Ties North.

First Choice, Inc. is a non-profit organization separate from SCCMHA but founded by SCCMHA volunteer staff in 2005 and incorporated as a tax-exempt non-profit in 2007. Every year the First Choice volunteers, working on their own personal time, raise funds for this holiday consumer event to provide the people we serve, living in specialized

residential settings, holiday gift cards to use however they choose. Sometimes it is for clothing or personal items they need, or sometimes the gift cards are used by consumers to buy holiday gifts for family or friends.

All Staff Holiday Gathering is scheduled for December 19th from 3-5 p.m. at the Albert and Wood Center

Motion made by Cym Winiecke and supported by Jill Armentrout to receive and file CEO report. Motion carried.

VII. BOARD ACTION

A. Approval of 2026 Board and Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion made by Lisa Coney and supported by Cym Winiecke to approve 2026 Board & Committee Meeting Schedule. Motion carried.

VIII. BOARD INFORMATION

A. CMHA Weekly Update – December 2025 links:

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

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

C. December is Universal Human Rights Month & December 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities

D. RxKids: Saginaw Update

E. RxKids Funding Summary: High-need communities in Saginaw County

F. SCHD Received Prestigious MDHHS Director's Award for Leadership in Creating and Sustaining BWell Saginaw

G. Email re: Exciting update on CMU's College of Medicine – 11/21/25

IX. MEDIA / PUBLICATIONS

A. County of Saginaw Newsletter – December 2025

<https://www.saginawcounty.com/departments/county-administrator-finance/county-newsletters/>

B. AP 'Michigan K-12 crisis: State slow to respond as kids miss school, scores fall'

X. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mike Cierzniecki supported by Jill Armentrout to adjourn this meeting at 6:37 PM p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by:

Ryan Mulder

Manager of Office of CEO