

**SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2026 – 5:15 PM
ROOM 190**

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

VIRTUAL:

ABSENT: Robert Woods

GUESTS: Adwoa Boachie, John Veremis

STAFF: Sandra Lindsey, Jan Histed & Ryan Mulder

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Adwoa Boachie of Alpha Minds Services gave comment on TMS treatment. She gave info on possible side effects, duration for treatment, insurance coverages. TMS is for individuals that are not successful with medication and therapy treatment.

John Veremis, noted he was in system involuntarily for 35 plus years. He continues to advocate for the consideration of an SCCMHA Ethics Board. He was taken out of his home involuntarily based on a false information. Noted he is currently weekly seeing psychologist and no longer in services. 28 days inpatient hospitalization unnecessarily.

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A. Board Meeting – February 9, 2026

Motion made by Lisa Coney and supported by Cym Winiecke to approve the February 9, 2026 SCCMHA Board Meeting minutes with edits. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Governance Committee – February 19, 2026
Mike Cierzniewski, Chair / Susan McCauley, Vice Chair
Reported by Mike Cierzniewski

Motion made by Susan McCauley and supported by Mike Cierzniewski 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 23, 2026
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 – February 25, 2026
Cym Winiecke, Chair – Tracey Raquepaw, Vice Chair
Reported by Cym Winiecke

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

V. CEO REPORT

Litigation Update Concerning Competitive Procurement of Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs):

On January 8, 2026, Judge Christopher Yates (Michigan Court of Claims) issued an opinion and order stating that the "Court hereby issues a declaratory pronouncement that the RFP (request for proposals), as drafted, impermissibly conflict with Michigan law in numerous respects, especially insofar as the RFP restricts CMHSPs (Community Mental Health Services Programs) from entering into financial contracts for the purpose of funding CMHSPs' managed care functions." Importantly, this order stated that this is not a final order and does not resolve the case.

As previously reported, at the January and February Board meetings, Judge Yates issued an opinion and order on January 8, 2026, confirming that the State has the legal authority to utilize a competitive procurement system (in place of the existing sole source model) and confirming the legal authority of the State to reduce the number of PIHP regions (in effect, to define its regions). In this same order Judge Yates also identified violations of the Michigan Mental Health Code resulting from the stipulations of the State's RFP including the RFP prohibition of CMHSPs holding network contracts with private providers and paying the related service claims, being the most problematic.

Unlike the press releases used to communicate their intent to competitively procure PIHP contracts and announce the procurement details, the State issued a rescission of the RFP through a memo posted only to the State procurement website SIGMA on January 29, 2026. The noticeably short memo also indicated that no awards would be given by the State from the responses it had received to the original RFP.

The next day (01/30/26), the State filed a motion to dismiss this lawsuit on the basis that since the State cancelled the RFP, the PIHP/CMHSP lawsuit is moot. Plaintiff attorneys filed a brief opposing the State's motion on February 13, 2026. The State response to Plaintiff's response was filed on 02/17/26. Judge Yates has scheduled a hearing at the Court of Claims on the motions from the state to dismiss the case for April 13, 2026. This hearing will be legal arguments between the attorneys representing PIHP and CMHSP Plaintiffs and those representing MDTMB and MDHHS.

MDHHS Leaders Listening Session with CMHSP CEOs on March 3, 2025

On Friday, February 27, 2026, all the CMHSP CEOs received an email from Kristin Morningstar, Specialty Behavioral Health Services Director at MDHHS, indicating that we would all be invited soon to a virtual "Listening Session" with MDHHS leadership about our concerns with the newly cancelled PIHP Procurement RFP. Then on Monday, March 2nd the CEOs received a Teams invitation for a meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd at 2:00 p.m.

The CMHSP CEOs met with CMHA on Tuesday, March 3rd at 11:30 a.m., to quickly organize our comments in preparation for the meeting with these state officials later that afternoon.

I ended up leading the CMHSP CEO comments at the 2 p.m. meeting with MDHHS, having been "volunteered" to do so by my MSHN colleagues, as CMHA was not officially invited.

Kristen Morningstar chaired the meeting, but Megan Grone, MI Medicaid Director and MDHHS Department Director, Elizabeth Hertel, were also in attendance.

The topics the CEOs were asked to comment on were the following PIHP/CMHSP system subjects:

1. Conflicts of Interest,
2. Access to Service,
3. Roles and Responsibilities (PIHP vs CMHSP),
4. Recipient Rights, and
5. Provider Network Contracting

MDHHS staff at the onset of the meeting indicated they wanted to hear from the CEOs but would not be answering any of our questions about the department's next steps in redesigning efforts for the PIHP/CMHSP system under advice of their legal counsel.

None the less, my colleagues and I filled the "listening session" hour long meeting with our views.

These same MDHHS leaders held a separate but similar "Listening Session" meeting with the PIHPs on March 5th.

CARF Accreditation Visit to SCCMHA Scheduled for April 8-10, 2026

We were recently notified by the Council on Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) that we are scheduled for our 3-Year survey site visit April 8-10, 2026.

Originally, we had applied requesting our regular accreditation renewal site visit for last fall, but CARF could not meet their fall renewal date and extended our accreditation until they could schedule the survey dates.

The site visit includes interviews with funders, community partners and our Board Chair, Tracey Racquepaw as well as people we serve and their families. There will be visits to the following SCCMHA building locations, Hancock, Albert, and Woods Center, Towerline, and Bay Road. In addition to a survey of building sites, and agency vehicles, surveyors will also be doing a case sampling for clinical record reviews and lastly a review of agency Policies and Procedures.

Program Service Standards Review will include Outpatient Therapy for both Adults and Children/Youth, Case Management Services, Supports Coordination Services, Central Access and Intake, Crisis Intervention Services, Mobile Response and Stabilization Services, Family Support Services, Wraparound Services, Autism Services, Transition Aged Youth Services, Health Home & Psychiatric Clinic Services and SCCMHA Administrative Functions and Services.

For the first time, we have also requested to be surveyed on CARF Standards for Certified Community Behavioral Health Services.

Preparations for the survey are underway.

Motion made by Mike Cierzniewski and supported by Cym Winiecke to receive and file CEO report. Motion carried.

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. Approval of 2025 Youth Services & Adult Services Satisfaction Survey Reports

There were questions/concerns noted about the low return rates on surveys and whether not SCCMHA is investigating ways to increase return rates.

Motion made by Mike Cierzniewski and supported by Jamie Huffman to approve the 2025 Youth Services & Adult Services Satisfaction Survey Reports.

B. Approval of 2025 CCBHC Community Needs Assessment Survey Results

Motion made by Jaime Huffman and supported by Maria Vela to approve the 2025 CCBHC Community Needs Assessment Report.

C. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Reappointments (Bradfield, McAfee, Mikolajski, Nagel, Peltier)

Motion made by Mike Cierzniewski and supported by Lisa Coney to reappoint Lyn Bradfield, Lesia McAfee, Vicki Mikolajski, Deb Nagel and Duke Peltier to the SCCMHA Citizens Advisory (CAC). Motion carried.

D. 2026 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.

E. Appointment of Nominating Committee

Tracey Raquepaw, Board Chair, asked Mike Cierzniewski and Cym Winiecke to participate in an SCCMHA Nominating Committee and they agreed to do. Individuals interested in serving as Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary were asked to contact Mike or Cym.

VII. BOARD INFORMATION

- A. CMHA Weekly Update – March 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, National Social Work, Women's History Month & World Down Syndrome Day [21st]**
- D. Letter to J. Tany re: SCCMHA Board Reappointments – 03/03/26**

VIII. MEDIA / PUBLICATIONS

- A. County of Saginaw Newsletter – March 2025 <https://www.saginawcounty.com/departments/county-administrator-finance/county-newsletters/>**

IX. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Cym Winiecke supported by Joan Williams to adjourn this meeting at 6:11 PM p.m. Motion carried.

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