

**SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 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

VIRTUAL:

ABSENT: Jacob Kern, 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 5:19 p.m. A quorum was established, and verification of posting was determined.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Veremis, noted he was in system involuntarily for 35 plus years. Also noted he wrote four (4) books and all are available on [Barnes and Noble website](#). He continues to advocate for the consideration of an SCCMHA Ethics Board.

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A. Board Meeting – January 12, 2026

Motion made by Mike Cierzniewski and supported by Cym Winiecke to approve the January 12, 2026 SCCMHA Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Governance Committee – No Meeting
Mike Cierzniewski, Chair / Susan McCauley, Vice Chair

B. Recipient Rights Committee – January 21, 2026
Deb Nagel, Chair / Lisa Sawyer, Vice Chair
Reported by Tracey Raquepaw

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

C. Ends Committee – January 26, 2026
Jill Armentrout, Chair – Joan Williams, Vice Chair
Reported by Jill Armentrout

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

D. Executive Limitations – No Quorum
Cym Winiecke, Chair – Tracey Raquepaw, Vice Chair

V. CEO REPORT

MDHHS PIHP Procurement Litigation Update

There had been no related communication with the PIHP/CMHSP System attorneys or system leadership from MDHHS or MDTMB regarding the January 8, 2026, ruling/order from Judge Yates.

Then on January 29th, 2026, the State of MI Procurement Office at DMTMB issued a "Notice of Intent to Award Number 260000000197 for Request for Proposal (RFP) 2500000002670 Cancellation Date: January 29, 2026" on the MI SIGMA Website. The notice read as follows:

"Per the RFP Proposal Instructions, Section 11 (b), Reservations, the State has elected to discontinue the RFP Process, and no Awards will be issued."

This one-page notice can be found on page. 57 of the Board Packet.

Then on January 30, 2026, we received communication from Neil Marchand, lead counsel from Miller Johnson, that MDHHS/MDTMB filed a motion with Judge Yates to "dismiss the RFP litigation as moot". The state is claiming that, because they cancelled the RFP, and made no contract awards, that there is nothing further in dispute with the plaintiffs. Our position is that we do not have any information to ascertain whether that is true. The involved CMHSP and PIHP attorneys asked the State what their plan is, and the State refuses to talk with them or disclose any information. So, for all we know, the State will reissue the same RFP or engage in a new RFP with a similarly flawed process.

Neil Marchand explained that until we know how the State plans to procure the PIHPs, we cannot agree that anything is moot and the issue is very much alive.

The plaintiff response from our attorneys in response to the State's motion to dismiss, is due on February 13, 2026. Neil has indicated to the plaintiffs that he will circulate a draft of his filing in advance of the deadline.

Once the filing on behalf of the plaintiffs is sent to Judge Yates, he then will determine the date of the next related hearing on the State's motion.

Meanwhile...

NorthCare PIHP, Southeast PIHP and Region 10 PIHP Litigation against MDHHS related to the FY 2025 Contract will Proceed with the first hearing set for February 26, 2026 in the Court of Claims, in Detroit, The Honorable Sima G. Patel presiding.

Unrelated to the litigation on the PIHP Procurement, three PIHPs filed litigation against MDHHS related to their FY 2025 Contract with the State last year. I had honestly forgotten about this litigation as MSHN was not a plaintiff.

The litigation involves the 2025 PIHP Contract. In the summer of 2024, these three PIHPs refused to sign the FY 2025 PIHP Contract offered by MDHHS. I believe these PIHP Plaintiffs wanted language added about underfunding their PIHPs and the lack of clarification on the implementation guidance of the Waskul Settlement for HSW Enrolled persons in Self Determination Arrangements. At the time, MDHHS refused to meet with these PIHPs and negotiate in good faith and include changes to the contract offered by the PIHPs in a contract document mark-up. These three PIHPs have had no signed MDHHS Contract since FY 2024.

Update on Current Year HUD Funding

The U.S. Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026 (HR 7148), which funds the US Government through September 30, 2026, (excluding the Budget for Homeland Security separate and unresolved) was signed by President Trump on February 3, 2026. Included in the Bill was \$77.3 Billion for HUD programs which is \$7.2 billion more than in 2025. The bill also included critical provisions to help protect Homeless Assistance Providers like SCCMHA.

The law provided important fixes and safeguards to the Continuum of Care Program. The bill requires HUD to renew Continuum of Care grants and creates a timeline for HUD to renew expiring grants through the rest of the year. The current SCCMHA HUD grant for Permanent Supported Housing (tenant based rental assistance) will expire on June 30, 2026. The size of the current SCCMHA grant award is \$631,487.

HUD must keep Tier 1 funding for FY 2026 awards based upon CoC Priorities – 60% or higher. Further, HUD is directed by law to release the FY 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the 2027 CoC Program by June 1, 2026, and make awards by December 1, 2026.

The final FY 26 T-HUD spending bill reiterates HUD's obligation to conduct rulemaking in accordance with existing laws and regulations, "including providing for public participation and not less than 60 days for the submission of written comments" for proposed rules. HUD must notify the US House and Senate Appropriations Committees three full business days before making, withdrawing, terminating, or rescinding any grant award.

Valley Residential Services (VRSI) Inc. Ends SCCMHA Contracts for Specialized Residential Services to 6 SCCMHA Owned Group Homes / Transition Plan for New Contracted Providers

The Board may recall that I mentioned in my report at the January meeting that SCCMHA had received notice in late November. that Valley Residential Services Inc., exiting their contracts with SCCMHA and all other MI CMHSPs and dissolving their non-profit corporation. VRSI has been collaborating with another provider, Listening Ear, in the hope that SCCMHA would move the VRSI contracts for all six homes of the homes under contract with SCCMHA to this new corporation. (See the Board packet pages 58 and 59.)

Just before the Board meeting the Senior Clinical Leaders met at our regular monthly meeting to discuss the provider transition, informed by the following:

- Matt Briggs, SCCMHA Chief of Network Business Operations, has had multiple meetings with VRSI management and with Listening Ear and their attorneys.
- The involved SCCMHA Leadership, (Matt Briggs, Kristie Wolbert and Jennifer Keilitz), visited two Listening Ear group homes in Newaygo County, to assess their client care, physical property management and group home operations.
- SCCMHA Leadership decided today to split the six contracts for the VRSI homes between two contracted providers. Three homes in the Bridgeport area with Listening Ear, Inc. The other three VRIS homes with another of our current specialized residential providers, Resident Advancement, in the St. Charles and Hemlock area of Saginaw County.

See page 58 of the Board packet for a high-level summary of the related decisions of group home/contract assignment and on page 59, a map of the six group homes being assigned between these two providers.

- Contracts with Listening Ear and Resident Advancement are underway, along with protections for current staff at all homes to maintain their employment during the transition, including Retention Bonus payments for current staff in all six homes.
- New Adult Foster Care Licensing of each home under their new respective provider agencies is also in process.
- SCCMHA communication with residents and their families/guardians will commence next week.

Motion made by Cym Winiecke and supported by Susan McCauley to receive and file CEO report. Motion carried.

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. Reappointment to MSHN Board of Directors for Joan Williams

Motion made by Lisa Coney and supported by Mike Cierzniewski to reappoint Joan Williams to the MSHN Board. Motion carried.

B. 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.

Motion made by Cym Winiecke and supported by Mike Cierzniewski for SCCMHA Board to attempt to attain \$500 goal for 2026 CMH PAC Campaign by deadline of late June/ early July. Motion carried.

VII. 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. February is Black History & American Heart Month; National Wear Red Day [6th] and President's Day [16th]

D. STARS Wants to Hear from You – Take Regional Partnership Study Survey

E. CMHA revamped and strengthened Board member education offerings at Winter Conference

F. CMHA: Media coverage of Judge Yates opinion on Region 10 et al v State of Michigan

G. State of Michigan announces cancellation of Request For Proposals (RFP) for Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) contract

H. VRSI Procurement Plan Documents

I. Letter from T.Raquepaw & S. Lindsey to J.Veremis – 02/02/26

VIII. MEDIA / PUBLICATIONS

A. County of Saginaw Newsletter – February 2025

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

IX. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Joan Williams supported by Mike Cierzniewski to adjourn this meeting at 6:10 PM p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by:

Ryan Mulder

Manager of Office of CEO