

**SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2026 – 5:15 PM
ROOM 190**

PRESENT: Tracey Raquepaw, Mike Cierznieksi, Cym Winiecke, John Pugh, Lisa Coney, Jacob Kern, Susan McCauley

VIRTUAL: Jill Armentrout

ABSENT: Jaime Huffman, Joan Williams, Robert Woods, Maria Vela

GUESTS:

STAFF: Sandra Lindsey, AmyLou Douglas & Ryan Mulder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Tracey Raquepaw, Chair called the meeting to order at 5:26 p.m. A quorum was established, and verification of posting was determined.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Veremis, advocated for new Ethics Committee at SCCMHA (due to biases in our organization). Feels like he should have never been in our system and that ethics committee would stand up for people like him.

III. COMPLIANCE RELAUNCH INTRO PRESENTATION

AmyLou Douglas, Chief Information Officer | Chief Quality and Compliance Officer presented on Compliance for the SCCMHA Board.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A. Board Meeting – December 1, 2025

Motion made by Lisa Coney and supported by Cym Winiecke to approve the December 1, 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 – No Meeting

Deb Nagel, Chair / Lisa Sawyer, Vice Chair
Reported by Tracey Raquepaw

C. Ends Committee – No Meeting

Jill Armentrout, Chair – Joan Williams, Vice Chair
Reported by Jill Armentrout

D. Executive Limitations – No Meeting

Cym Winiecke, Chair – Tracey Raquepaw, Vice Chair
Reported by Cym Winiecke

VI. CEO REPORT

Litigation Update on MDHHS PIHP Procurement:

Opinion and Final Ruling from Judge Christopher Yates, MI Court of Claims

You may recall from my report at the December 1, 2025, SCCMHA Board meeting, that I reported three days of hearings were held on November 8th, 9th and 10th. Judge Yates scheduled three additional consecutive days of hearings on December 8th, 9th and 10th.

My testimony was on Monday, December 8th where I spoke specifically to the necessity for CMHSPs to hold contracts with providers and pay related claims. This historic responsibility is prohibited in the MDHHS PIHP RFP. In addition, I spoke to additional concerns for the operational needs and connection of the holding of local hospital contracts and related payment of claims, as necessary to the performance of Pre-admission Screening responsibilities unique to CMHSPs under the Michigan Mental Health Code. I also spoke to challenges of the RFP with respect to the CMHSP Offices of Recipient Rights authorities, not addressed at all in the PIHP Procurement RFP.

After closing arguments from both sides on December 10th, Judge Yates forecasted that his ruling would insist that MDHHS will need to provide remedies to the violations of the MHC contained in the PIHP Procurement RFP and that he would be holding on to the case to monitor MDHHS for those remedies. He indicated further that through his written ruling would not prohibit MDHHS from moving forward with the selection of three new PIHPs, because he does not like to tell State Departments what to do, but will direct them when he finds statutory and legal conflicts with their plans.

He further indicated that the Defendants (MDHHS & MDTMB) would need to address the MHC violations contained in the PIHP Procurement plan before moving forward. He ended his comments by stating that he was invested in monitoring for how MDHHS and MDTMB would provide remedies to the violations of the MHC and ensure adequate funding for CMHSPs to conduct their statutory obligations.

On Thursday, January 8th Judge Yates issues his final written ruling. Hard copies of the written ruling (19 pages) were provided to the SCCMHA Board members at the meeting with highlights indicating MHC violations and salient observations.

Sandy walked the Board through the written ruling and the aspects that outlined Mental Health Code violations.

Judge Yates in his written opinion called out the following CMHSP MHC responsibilities and authorities where the language of the PIHP Procurement RFP creates downstream Mental Health Code violations concerning statutory responsibilities and authorities including the following:

- MHC dictates that the state's CMHSPs are delegated the responsibility to fulfill the State's obligation to provide mental health care to its residents.
- CMHSPs must provide a comprehensive set of mental health services for the residents of CMHSP jurisdictions and further, that contracting with private service providers to build specialty networks is allowable and deeply rooted in CMHSP historical development.
- Pre-Admission Screening for Inpatient Admissions, including the holding of local contracts, service authorization and related claims payment is a CMHSP responsibility.
- Provision of Recipient Rights protections, training and complaint investigation including remedial action responsibilities, resides with the CMHSPs for all of the services they provide directly as well as their contracted specialty network.
- Service to residents of the CMHSP jurisdiction regardless of ability to pay or insurance type or out of pocket costs based upon "ability to pay" statutory provisions is a CMHSP responsibility and memorializes the unique funding of CMHSPs.

Judge Yates on the last page of his opinion states under section III. Conclusion writes:

"... the Court hereby issues a declaratory pronouncement that the RFP, as drafted, impermissibly conflicts with Michigan law in numerous respects, especially insofar as the RFP restricts CMHSPs from entering into financial contracts for the purpose of funding CMHSPs' managed-care functions. However, the Court will not yet issue injunctive relief that directs defendants to amend or pull back the RFP. Defendants must decide, in the first instance, how to address the conflicts between Michigan law and the RFP that the Court has identified."

Further Judge Yates states in this same section that the Defendants (MDHHS & MDTMB) "motion of summary disposition beyond the award in the Courts October 14, 2025, opinion and order is denied."

This means that the Defendants cannot appeal his decision as he will be holding onto this case and monitoring for the MDHHS remedies to the MHC conflicts for the role CMHSPs will play should the State's selection of three new PIHPs regions move forward with RFP bidder awards and related contracts.

SCCMHA Response to HUD 2024/25 Year-2 Funding Opportunity

Complications with funding from HUD continue to be problematic for year-2 of our 2024/2025 grant award. I attending via You Tube on December 23rd, the multi-state hearing (including Michigan) at the Federal District Court of Rhode Island, the Honorable Mary S. McElroy presiding.

Due to the Board meeting running late I will provide more information on this subject at the February 9th meeting.

Valley Residential Services Transition to New Provider, Listening Ear, Inc

The update on the transition of 6 SCCMHA specialized Residential Group Homes from Valley Residential Services Inc. to Listening Ear, Inc., will also wait until the board meeting next month.

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

VII. BOARD ACTION

VIII. BOARD INFORMATION

- A. CMHA Weekly Update – January 2025 links:** <https://cmham.org/resources/weekly-update/>
- B. SCCMHA CAC Minutes** <https://www.sccmha.org/about/board-agendas-and-meetings.html>
- C. January is Mental Wellness, Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month & MLK Day (20th)**
- D. Email re: 2-1-1 info about the nature & volume of calls from Saginaw County**
Sandy wanted the 2-1-1 data to be available to members of the SCCMHA Board as it relates to reductions to SNAP Benefits (from Saginaw County). Collaborative effort by individuals and organizations in support of person impacted (good news).
- E. Winter Conference Info – Feb 3-4, 2026**
- F. Federal District Court of RI Injunction on HUD Continuum of Care (COC) Procurement Program Scope and Funding Changes**

IX. MEDIA / PUBLICATIONS

- A. County of Saginaw Newsletter – January 2025**
<https://www.saginawcounty.com/departments/county-administrator-finance/county-newsletters/>
- B. SCCMHA Provider News – December 2025**

X. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Lisa informed on the Saginaw Information System (SIS) in collaboration with 2-1-1. Referrals to organizations will know what they need before the call is forwarded.

- **One-stop shopping:** Match individuals to services that truly fit their situation, all from one trusted system.
- **Real-time access:** See available “supply” to meet your client’s need for programs and services, while also empowering other organizations to see your real-time “supply” as well.
- **Productive referrals only:** Avoid sending clients to organizations they don’t qualify for or that don’t currently have resources available.
- **Coordinated care:** Track referrals and share updates so no one falls through the cracks.
- **360° feedback:** Know if someone received the help they needed—and whether their needs were met.
- **Smarter service delivery:** Use system data and shared insights to improve outcomes and strengthen community partnerships.
- **Greater impact:** Spend less time searching and more time serving!

Unsure when this will officially be rolled out.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Cym Winiecke supported by Susan McAuley to adjourn this meeting at 6:35 PM p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by:

Ryan Mulder

Manager of Office of CEO