

**SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 9, 2024, 2022 – 5:15 PM  
ROOM 190**

**PRESENT:** Tracey Raquepaw, Mike Cierzniwski, Joan Williams, Cym Winiecke, Maria Vela, Deb Nagel, Jill Armentrout, Robert Woods, Lisa Coney, John Pugh

**VIRTUAL:**

**ABSENT:** Kathleen Schachman

**GUESTS:** CAC Members: Maggie Davis, Cheryl Nelson, Ann Finta

**STAFF:** Sandra Lindsey, Kentera Patterson, Jennifer Keilitz, Judy Sausedo, Freddie Lockhart, Ronda Nelson, 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**

There was no public participation.

**III. BOARD ACTION**

**A. Approval of FY 2024 ORR Annual Report**

Kentera Patterson, Officer of Recipient Rights and Compliance presented the FY 2024 ORR Annual Report for the Board. See pages 3-19 in tonight's packet for details. Rhonda Nelson

**Motion made by Cym Winiecke and supported by Deb Nagel to approve the  
FY 2024 ORR Annual Report as presented. Motion carried.**

**IV. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING SCCMHA BOARD MEMBERS – Cherie Long, Deb Nagel Kathleen Schachman**

Sandy recognized outgoing Board Members Cherie Long, Deb Nagel and Kathleen Schachman. Unfortunately, Kathleen and Cherie Long were unable to attend tonight's meeting. Ryan will reach out to Kathleen/Cherie to see if she would be available to attend another upcoming Board meeting perhaps.

**V. BOARD TRAINING FY 2024 SCCMHA STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES 4-6**

Sandra M. Lindsey reviewed the SCCMHA Strategic Priorities 2024-2025 document included in tonight's packet. The final document will be available at: <https://www.sccmha.org/userfiles/filemanager/v33jojzy9tmjod6gwray/> 1 hour of Training Credit will be given to members present and those joining on the virtual/phone connection.

**VI. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

**A. Board Meeting – November 4, 2024**

**Motion made by Lisa Coney and supported by Robert Woods to approve the November 4, 2024 SCCMHA Board Meeting minutes with edits. Motion carried.**

**VII. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Governance Committee – No Meeting**  
Mike Cierzniewski, Chair / *Vacancy*, Vice Chair

**B. Recipient Rights Committee – November 20, 2024**  
Deb Nagel, Chair / *Lisa Sawyer*, Vice Chair  
Reported by Deb Nagel.

**Motion made by Deb Nagel and supported by Mike Cierzniewski to receive and file this report as written. Motion carried.**

**C. Ends Committee – No Meeting**  
Jill Armentrout, Chair – Tracey Raquepaw, Vice Chair

**D. Executive Limitations – November 25**  
Cym Winiecke, Chair – Tracey Raquepaw, Vice Chair  
Reported by Cym Winiecke.

**Motion made by Cym Winiecke and supported by Mike Cierzniewski to receive and file this report as written. Motion carried.**

**VIII. CEO REPORT**

**Tentative Agreement Reached with All Three SCCMHA Unions**

SCCMHA Administration has reached tentative agreements with all three of our unions including AFSME, SEUI, and MNA. AFSME, the union representing a majority of our supervisor staff members has already ratified their contracts. The other two unions will hopefully conduct ratification votes before the end of the month.

Details included the union agreements, will be brought to the January 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

**First Choice Holiday Event for Consumers Last Friday, December 6, 2024**

First Choice, a 501 C3 not for profit, founded and sustained by staff volunteers, continued their tradition of raising funding to support their holiday event which was held at Community Ties North last Friday afternoon, December 6, 2024. This has been an annual event in December for more than 19 years.

The First Choice volunteers raise funding all year to support this annual event in the month of December, for consumers living in both general and specialized licensed residential programs. The event this year included more than 150 people including group home residents and volunteers. First Choice gave out \$50.00 Gift Cards and cookies donated by SCCMHA Staff members, to consumer attendees. The event also included games and social time for attendees and volunteers.

All the group home residents at the event received gift cards, but in addition a considerable number of group home residents served by SCCMHA that were not able to attend the event also received gift cards. In total this holiday season 368 residents received the \$50.00 gift care.

The First Choice Board of Directors usually publishes a report on their work in the winter following this event and when we receive a copy I will include it in an upcoming board meeting packet.

### **New Air Conditioning System Being Installed at the Albert and Woods Building and Hancock Renovations Underway**

The new equipment to replace the old Water Tower that provided AC to the Albert and Woods building, a modern commercial air-cooled TRANE system is being connected to the building this week by the installation work crew.

In addition, the Community Support Services (CSS) - Adult Case Management suite renovations on the second floor of the Hancock building are well underway. The CSS staff were relocated and are being temporarily housed, in the lower-level conference rooms and space behind Genoa Pharmacy on the first floor, until the renovations conclude late in the spring of 2025.

The expansion of the Human Services Department office suite at the Albert and Wood building has been completed by Wobig Construction. The purpose of the renovation was to create space for two additional HR staff. The HR department has been understaffed for some time and the renovations were necessary to provide office space to accommodate the two new hires which began work this month.

### **New SCCMHA Board Member Appointments Included on the December 17, 2025, Saginaw Board of Commissioners Agenda**

Communication was sent to Commissioner, Christopher Boyd, Chairman of the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners requesting new appointments to the SCCMHA Board to fill the vacancies left by the departures of Cheri Long, Debra Nagel and Kathleen Schachman. Replacement candidates have been recruited, applications received and recommendations for new appointments were made by my office and include the following applicants.

- Jacob Kern to replace Deb Nagel (Primary Consumer Seat)
- Susan McCauley to replace Cheri Long (Agency/Occupation Seat)
- Jamie Huffman to replace Kathleen Schachman (Agency/Occupation Seat)

These appointments will be considered for appointment approval by the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners at their regular monthly meeting on December 17, 2024.

If these candidates for SCCMHA Board membership are endorsed at the BOC meeting this month, these new members of the board will be sworn in by Tracey Raquepaw, SCCMHA Board Chair, at the January 13, 2025, Board meeting.

### **SCCMHA Staff Holiday Gathering this Friday afternoon, December 13<sup>th</sup> at Albert and Woods Building**

The staff of SCCMHA will be gathering for a holiday celebration with a DEI theme to celebrate staff diversity as reflected in holiday traditions this Friday afternoon. The DEI

aspect for the event will be soliciting staff member input into the planning of quarterly staff events to celebrate racial and culture diversity and the sharing of cultural traditions with holiday desserts.

Functions that must remain open and staffed that afternoon include Crisis Intervention Services, Mobile Response and Stabilization Services, Health Home/Psychiatric Clinic, and Customer Services and Security.

### **SCCMHA DEI Report 2021-2024 to Be Published Next Month**

SCCMHA will be publishing a report in the next couple of weeks on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives for the last three years. The content for the report has been written and referred to Olmsted and Associates for final publication preparation. Once the publication is complete, my office staff will share the report with the SCCMHA staff and contracted network via a link to the posted publication on the SCCMHA website. The link to the report will also be shared with the SCCMHA Board of Directors, CAC members and our community partners in January.

### **US Department of Justice Launches Disability Rights Investigation into Unnecessary Institutionalization in Michigan State Psychiatric Hospitals**

Refer to information in the board packet and provided hard copy at the meeting.

The DOJ investigation is related to the inability to discharge patients from State facilities as there are not adequate numbers of specialized residential programs in the community to meet the needs of these patients. Note the document with the CMHA response to Gongwers about the lack of living wage for CLS staff working in contracted specialized residential homes.

### **SCCMHA State Hospital Patients:**

At present SCCMHA has one adolescent at the Children's Section of Walter Reuther and thirteen adults are in in the following State Hospitals.

Note legal Status: Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) and Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI).

Among the thirteen adults in State Facilities:

Six are at the Caro Center- Three with IST Status and one on NGRI Status, two others awaiting specialized residential placement with referrals to contracted providers.

Two are at the Forensic Center- one with IST status, the other not ready for discharge. Three are at Kalamazoo Center – one with IST Status, two others not ready for discharge.

Two are at Walter Reuther- both on NGRI status,

### **No Update from MDHHS as of 12-9-24 on the Following Subjects**

- Conflict Free Assessment and Planning or
- Federal CMS Approval of Medicaid Waivers (HSW, SED, CW) not the 1915 ISPA Programs
- No clarification of Applied Behavior Analysis Tech Position – legislatively directed in the FY 2025 State MDHHS Budget of a minimum wage, of \$60/hr. to ABA non-

degreed technicians. If implemented this would be a \$2.7 million cost increase in FY 2025.

**Motion made by Robert Woods with support from Deb Nagel to receive & file this report. Motion carried.**

**IX. BOARD ACTION**

There was none.

**X. BOARD INFORMATION**

**A. CMHA Weekly Update – November 2024 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. Michigan Election Results from CMHA**

**E. SCCMHA Staff Holiday Gathering: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion values**

**F. Letter to Comm. Boyd re: SCCMHA Board Appointments – 12/3/24**

**XI. MEDIA / PUBLICATIONS**

**XII. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Robert Woods supported by Mike Cierzniewski to adjourn this meeting at 6:26 PM p.m. Motion carried.**

**Minutes prepared by:  
Ryan Mulder  
Executive Assistant to CEO**