

**SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2025, 2022 – 5:15 PM
ROOM 190**

PRESENT: Tracey Raquepaw, Mike Cierzniewski, Cym Winiecke, Lisa Coney, Jacob Kerns, Susan McCauley, Jaime Huffman, Jill Armentrout, Joan Williams, Maria Vela, Robert Woods

VIRTUAL:

ABSENT: John Pugh

GUESTS:

STAFF: Sandra Lindsey, Jan Histed, Ryan Mulder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Tracey Raquepaw – Chair called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. A quorum was established, and verification of posting was determined.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

III. SCCMHA DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION ACTION PLAN Report 2021 - 2024

Sandra M. Lindsey reviewed the SCCMHA Diversity Equity and Inclusion Action Plan 2021 – 2024 document included in tonight’s packet. This document is also available on SCCMHA website at: <https://www.sccmha.org/about/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-initiative/>. 1 hour of Training Credit will be given to members present.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A. Board Meeting – January 13, 2025

Motion made by Cym Winiecke and supported by Mike Cierzniewski to approve the January 13, 2025 SCCMHA Board Meeting minutes with edits. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Governance Committee – No Meeting

Mike Cierzniewski, Chair / *Vacancy*, Vice Chair

B. Recipient Rights Committee – No Quorum

Deb Nagel, Chair / *Lisa Sawyer*, Vice Chair

C. Ends Committee – No Meeting

Jill Armentrout, Chair – Tracey Raquepaw, Vice Chair

D. Executive Limitations – January 22, 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 report as written. Motion carried.

are then proportionally raised depending on household size, for example the new asset limit for a family of two is \$14,470.

This change also means that Medicaid eligible persons on Spenddowns (monthly deductibles that must be paid before qualifying for Medicaid insurance) will also be impacted positively. SCCMHA, like most CMHSPs, are covering the spenddown costs with General Fund at the first part of every month for such consumers with cases open and active in our network.

The SCCMHA Entitlements Office, Finance Department and Network Business office has been evaluating the 146 persons served on spenddowns, seventeen of which are having WSA enrollment issues due to monthly timing of spenddown reporting. The entitlements office is in the process of determining out of the 146 persons, how many are on spenddown due to "exceeding asset limits" and all those cases will have new ATPs assessed starting this month. We are hopeful that we can eliminate some of our spenddown designations, save some General Fund Expense and reduce our manual spenddown processing workload. This individual asset limit change from \$2,000 to \$9,660 is particularly good news for the people we serve and others that can now qualify for Medicaid. Increased Medicaid enrollment will also mean additional sub-capitation payments to SCCMHA. I believe this change was made by MDHHS in response to the January 16, 2025, change in the Federal Poverty Guidelines which are in alignment with these State changes.

U.S. Office of Management and Budget – Federal Funding Freeze, Resulting Litigation, Rescinding of OMB Order and Other Executive Orders from President Trump and Webinars with the National Council for Mental Well Being and U.S. Sen. Elissa Slotkin on Executive Orders and Funding Freeze

(See Board Agenda Section VIII., items D., E. F. in the packet)

Executive Orders (EO) from President Trump rescinding EOs from past presidents on directives for "Equal Protections" for any sub-population group that is not Caucasian, male, and not disabled, have been far reaching in the first weeks of this Administration. EOs have explicitly ended DEI programs or "DEI Like" provisions across the departments of the federal government, federal government contracts and are expected to be tie-barred to the funding of federal programs being administered in states and territories.

The on January 27, 2025, pursuant to a White House EO, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a memorandum directing all federal agencies to freeze funding for a wide array of federally funded programs across the U.S. Moments before the freeze was to go into effect, a federal judge granted a brief administrative stay that prevented the freeze from taking effect until February 3. On January 29, the White House rescinded the OMB memo, although subsequent statements from the administration have left the status of the funding freeze unclear.

The attorney generals of 22 States and the District of Columbia filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Rhode Island to block the freeze.

The National Council for Mental Wellness held a webinar last week (Feb. 6) that I attended along with a thousand other participants, led by Catherine Finley, a partner at Thorn Run, a legal firm in Washinton DC. The agenda for the webinar was to review President Trumps EOs in the behavioral healthcare space, the series of events connected to the OMB Funding Freeze, and the resulting litigation. The particulars of the politics and upcoming legislative process for a new US Budget for the current year which expires next month, were also discussed.

I was also invited to a webinar by our new senator, Elissa Slotkin, which I attended on January 30th. The topics included a review of Presidential Executive Orders on immigration, recent the Elan Musk DOGE activity and the Funding Freeze.

Thus far the only federal grant we have that would have been impacted the OMB Funding Freeze, is our Continuum of Care Shelter Plus Care Rental Subsidy Program. We were alerted by HUD on Sunday, February 2, 2025, about the OMB Funding Freeze and the litigation that has temporarily suspended the freeze. Grant details are below:

Funds: HUD – Housing & Urban Development

Grant: Continuum of Care Program (Shelter Plus Care)

Annual Grant Amount: \$564,923 which includes Rental Expense of \$538,416 and Expense of \$26,507.

Monthly Reimbursement (Drawdown): \$46,000 avg. per month

SCCMHA DEI EVENT: Celebrating Our Differences/Strengthening Our Connections, on Friday, February 7th AM at Hancock and PM at Towerline
(See the hard copy meeting handout with the event description and CEO Address to audience as I could not attend either event.)

SCCMHA held two events last Friday as part of our DEI work and because I could not attend, I wrote the statement attached to the flyer to be read in my absence to the audience of both events. Because there has been so much anti-DEI media coverage connected to President Trump's Executive Orders, I want to assure our staff that we were continuing with our DEI activities.

MDHHS Jan 31, 2025, Memo to PIHPs on Reference Materials for Compliance with 2025 Medicaid Contract

(See Board Agenda Section VIII. Item G in the packet)

The context for this communication to PIHPs across the state seems to be a reminder that despite the litigation by I believe 5 or 6 PIHPs that refused to sign the 2025 Medicaid Contract, of their regulatory responsibilities as they are still receiving capitation funding and are expected along with their CMHSPS to provide services.

Saginaw Office of Recipient Rights – Received Full Compliance in Three- Year Site Review/Audit Last Week

Last week the SCCMHA office of Recipient Rights was visited by the MDHHS Office of Recipient Rights for three days (February 4-6) to conduct a Three -Year Compliance Review. The review went well and SCCMHA ORR will receive Full Compliance. Kentera Patterson, SCCMHA ORR Officer, will provide the SCCMHA ORR Committee with more details on the site review and scoring at the next committee meeting.

SCCMHA Collaboration Commences with Saginaw Valley State University Schools of SW, Nursing and Occupational Therapy on January 31, 2025

The SCCMHA clinal leadership staff, including myself, recently met with Prof. Cathy Macomber, Asst Dean at the Health and Human Services division at SVSU, to launch collaboration activity to assist our recruitment of social work students for positions at SCCMHA. The meeting was to provide information on the nature of the services and related clinical positions at SCCMHA to strategize ways to get in front of new graduates

as well as facilitate practicum placements of students at SCCMHA. Representatives from the Schools of Nursing and Occupational Therapy were also in attendance.

SCCMHA Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)Presents to CMU Medical School Residents in Psychiatry and Family Medicine on January 30, 2025

Kristie Wolbert, Executive Director of Clinical Programs and Services along with Carey Moffet, Supervisor for Mobile Response and Stablization Services (MRSS) and Farrah Wojcik, Second Shift Supervisor for MRSS, recently provided a presentation about the MRSS Program to CMU Medicaid School Psychiatric and Family Practice Residents and Faculty. Promotional Materials about MRSS and other SCCMHA Services and how to make service referrals were left with members of the audience.

MLive Article on 2-6-25 by Gus Burns 'A broken system.' Mental health patient complaints go nowhere in Michigan - mlive.com (referring to the Michigan Recipient Rights System)

Last Thursday, February 6th MLive ran an article titled "A Broken System, Mental Health Patients Go No Where in Michigan". The author of the article, Gus Burns, sent many CMHSPs including SCCMHA a FOIA several months ago, that was clearly aimed at gaining additional content for this article. At the time we were preparing documents for the FOIA response, there was back and forth communication with Mr. Burns about what we could and could not provide and what protected health information we had redacted in response. One of the subjects of documents he insisted we provided were police arrest reports which we do not have in our clinical records. He was fairly insistent that we should provide these and ultimately, I had to speak with him by telephone as the final word from SCCMA. Our conversation turned into an interview of approximately 40 minutes. I answered all of his questions including leading questions about the autonomy of our local ORR investigation process, volume of investigation appeals and whether or not I agreed that the ORR process in the state systemically was broken. I was not quoted in his article, I assume because my input did not fit the negative direction and conclusions of his article.

Request for a Letter of Protest to Saginaw City Council from SCCMHA in support of a moratorium against the establishment of any additional Marijuana Dispensaries in the city.

I was approached last week by Joyce Seals of the BWell Health Equity Council, for a letter from SCCMHA that would join other letters from concerned citizens and business owners about the number of Marijuana Dispensaries in the City of Saginaw that would be brought forward to Saginaw City Council on February10th the same evening as this SCCMHA Board meeting. I explained that I could not issue such a letter without the endorsement of the SCCMHA Board of Directors but would mention it at this meeting. As there was agreement from those present at the board meeting to reach back out to Joyce to see if a letter from SCCMHA would still be useful to the cause, and I will reach out to her at my next opportunity and write a letter of support.

Motion made by Lisa Coney with support from Mike Cierzniewski to receive & file this report. Motion carried.

VII. BOARD ACTION

A. Reappointment to MSHN Board of Directors for Tracey Raquepaw

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

VIII. BOARD INFORMATION

- A. CMHA Weekly Update – January 2024 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, Presidents Day (17th) & American Heart Month
- D. Capitol Connector Office of Management & Budget Funding Freeze – 01/31/25
- E. Email re: Notice – Funding Pause Temporary Restraining Order – 02/02/25
- F. Sen. E. Slotkin Email Helping Local Leaders Navigate Executive Orders (federal funding freeze, immigration, ARPA distribution) – 01/31/25
- G. MDHHS memo to PIHPs re: FY 24 Reference Materials for Compliance with FY 25 Contract – 01/31/25

IX. MEDIA / PUBLICATIONS

- A. SCCMHA Provider News – December 2024

X. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Sandy was approached by Joyce Seals, Chair of the BWell Health Equity Council about writing a letter of support regarding the number of marijuana dispensaries in the City of Council. She may be also interested in joining an upcoming Board of Directors meeting during public comment to present information on this topic. Health Equity Council is interested in a moratorium on marijuana dispensaries in Saginaw City limits. Sandy asked the Board's pleasure on whether or not they would be in favor of such a letter being written in support.

Motion by Cym Winiecke supported by Susan McCaulley to ask Sandy to write a letter of support of the moratorium of marijuana dispensaries in Saginaw City limits.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Robert Woods supported by Cym Winiecke to adjourn this meeting at 6:20 PM p.m. Motion carried.

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