

**SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2024, 2022 – 5:15 PM
ROOM 190**

PRESENT: Deb Nagel, Mike Cierzniewski, Cym Winiecke, Kathleen Schachman, Robert Woods, Joan Williams, Maria Vela

VIRTUAL: Jill Armentrout

ABSENT: Tracey Raquepaw, Cherie Long, Lisa Coney, John Pugh

GUESTS:

STAFF: Sandra Lindsey, Jan Histed, Ryan Mulder

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Bobby DeLeon noted he was excited about Maria Vela being appointed by the Saginaw Board of Commissioners to join the SCCMHA Board of Directors.

Tonya Jones gave information on her ministry and the importance of mental health coverage. She noted she is also honored that Ms. Vela is joining the SCCMHA Board.

III. SWEARING IIN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER – MARIA VELA

Maria Vela was sworn in as SCCMHA Board member. Maria also signed the Oath of Office and returned to Ryan for filing in SCCMHA records.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A. Board Meeting – March 11, 2024

Motion made by Mike Cierzniewski and supported by Joan Williams to approve the March 11, 2024, SCCMHA Board Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

B. Recipient Rights Committee – March 20, 2024
Deb Nagel, Chair – *Vacancy*, Vice Chair
Reported by Deb Nagel.

Motion made by Deb Nagel and supported by Joan Williams to receive and file this report as edited. Motion carried.

- C. Ends Committee – March 25, 2024
Jill Armentrout, Chair – Tracey Raquepaw, Vice Chair
Reported by Jill Armentrout.

Motion made by Deb Nagel and supported by Kathleen Schachman to receive and file this report as edited. Motion carried.

- D. Executive Limitations – March 27, 2024
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 edited. Motion carried.

VI. CEO REPORT

MDHHS Press Release on Expansion of Early Childhood Court Program to Two New Counties to Help Young Children and Their Families Includes Saginaw

Sandy informed the Board that MDHHS Issued a Press Release earlier today about the expansion of Early Childhood (Baby) Court development in Saginaw and St. Claire Counties. Sandy alerted the board to our selection back in November, but the Press Release and start-up activities are just now commencing. SCCMHA has worked to establish this court along with the Honorable Judge Barbara Meter and Jennifer Shores, Dir of Saginaw DHHS. SCCMHA will be employing the new EC Court Coordinator and will be delivering Infant Mental Health Services to the involved young children and families. A new Master level Infant Mental Health Specialist was recently hired by SCCMHA and will be starting next month in the Family Services Unit. This new staff member will serve as the new EC Court Coordinator. Sandy recently joined MDHHS officials for an interview in the new court by WNEM and another with Judge Meter on ABC 12.

Basic Military Culture Competency Training

Matthew Clark, SCCMHA's Veteran Navigator who has previously presented at the Ends Committee and CAC in the past will be offering 4 sessions on Basic Military Culture to first responders this month. See the training flyer in the meeting packet.

CMHA – An Alternative to MDHHS's Approach to Meeting Federal Conflict Free Standards

See the CMHS 2-page Infographic on this subject in the meeting packet. MDHHS recently held meeting with the 10 PIHP CEOs and another with the 46 CMHCP CEOs last week to reveal (after 4 years of stops and starts in interpreting this federal regulation), new proposed requirements from MDHHS for CMHSPS to operationalize by October 1, 2024. Their proposal will break the system statewide. Further, the CFA&P directive from MDHHS will be burdensome for individuals and families seeking mental health services through the public mental health system. While the MDHHS directive will technically comply with federal Conflict-Free Access and Planning (CFA&P) regulation, these federal rules were never intended for implementation by a specialty managed care system that operates as public government agencies like Michigan's PIH /CMHSPs. Instead, the federal guidance from CMS was written for states where Medicaid funded behavioral health services are managed by private for-profit companies with profit motives for self-referral.

The infographic attempts to convey that once a therapist, case manager or supports coordinator engages the consumer/family in Assessments to determine service needs, completes the Person Centered or Family Centered Planning process and develops an Individual Plan of Service (IPOS) they cannot refer the consumer for any service that is not provided by an agency separate from SCCMHA. This "provider separation" is supposed to prevent conflict of interest. In other words, one of our SCCMHA Supports Coordinators could not include in a consumers IPOS, services from SCCMHA Community Ties or SCCMHA Supported Employment.

In some parts of the state, CMHSPs provide all the services in the specialty benefit even operate their own group homes, respite programs and a host of other services that SCCMHA purchases from the contracted network we developed. So, for them the new MDHHS proposal is even more catastrophic.

The MDHHS CFA&P proposal has made erroneous assumptions about the system and the lack of a local marketplace for our unique specialty service array. If our Supports Coordinators cannot refer to Community Ties because we also operate the program, there is no alternative for purchase of this service because no other agency provides these specialty services.

Bottom line, the CMHSPs across the state are in an outrage over these MDHHS directives and all the CEOs have contacted their legislators particularly those on Appropriations in the MI House and Senate. Sandy has reached out to Sen. Kristen McDonald Rivet to hopefully slow this down. The following is the draft legislative language CMHA is asking be inserted into the MDHHS 2025 Budget boilerplate. There will be more news upcoming on this.

CMHA Boilerplate request of MI Legislature on CFA&P:

To ensure that the voices of key stakeholders are involved in the development of a refined approach to the federal requirements, we are asking for the addition to the following boilerplate language to both the FY 2024 MDHHS Supplemental Budget and the FY 2025 MDHHS Budget:

The department shall not develop/establish or enforce any plan for conflict free access and planning or conflict free case management that creates additional barriers for individuals seeking services or administrative burdens on Michigan's public mental health system. Furthermore, it is the intent of the legislature that MDHHS seek exemptions/waiver from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on this policy. The department shall involve the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan and other stakeholder groups in the design and implementation of this plan and any exemptions/waiver requests from CMS.

Medicaid Provider Health Care Procurement Winners Announced

Sandy reported that the State of Michigan recently announced the winners of the MDHHS Procurement Process for private managed care insurance companies that will be providing under a new 3-yr contract with MDHHS, Physical Health Care Services in each of the "Prosperity Regions" of the State. Saginaw County is in Prosperity Region 5 and the following companies won contracts for our region: McLaren Health Plan, Meridian Health Plan, Molina Health Plan and Blue Cross Complete of Michigan. The regional change that resulted in this procurement for Region 5, is that United Health Care is leaving and Blue Cross Complete is new to our region starting in the new fiscal year 10-1-24. The MDHHS

Press Release announcing the Medicaid Health Plan Procurement results by region, will be brought to the next meeting and included in the official meeting packet.

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

VII. BOARD ACTION

A. Approval of 2023 Adult Consumer Satisfaction Survey

Motion made by Deb Nagel and supported by Kathleen Schachman to approve 2023 Adult Consumer Satisfaction Survey. Motion carried.

B. Approval of 2023 Youth Services Satisfaction Survey

Motion made by Deb Nagel and supported by Kathleen Schachman to approve 2023 Youth Services Satisfaction Survey. Motion carried.

C. 2024 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 making 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 it to Ryan and he will submit contributions to CMHA on your behalf. The goal is a \$500 collective contribution from board members and/or staff.

VIII. BOARD INFORMATION

- A. CMHA Weekly Update – March 2024 links:** <https://cmham.org/resources/weekly-update/>
- B. SCCMHA CAC Minutes** <https://www.sccmha.org/about/board-agendas-and-meetings.html>
- C. Letter from C.Boyd re: SCCMHA Board Reappointments – 03/21/24**
- D. April is Autism Acceptance, Counseling & Sexual Assault Awareness Month**
- E. April 7 – World Health Day & April 22 – Passover**
- F. Press Release on Medicaid Health Plan Procurement Winners and Prosperity Region Map**

IX. MEDIA / PUBLICATIONS

- A. SCCMHA Provider News – March 2024**

X. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Robert Woods supported by Kathleen Schachman to adjourn this meeting at 6:10 PM p.m. Motion carried.

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