

**SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 – 5:15 p.m.
ROOM 190/191**

PRESENT: Mike Cierzniewski, Cherie Long, Tracey Raquepaw, Steve Fresorger

ABSENT: John Pugh

GUEST(S):

STAFF: Sandra Lindsey, Ryan Mulder

I. OPENING PROCEDURE

Mike Cierzniewski, Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Verification of the public posting was acknowledged, and a quorum was established.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

III. ESPYR EAP SERVICE ACCESS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS

Sandra Lindsey noted that SCCMHA has always had an Employee Assistance Program (ESP) for staff members. ESP is a voluntary program that offers free and confidential assessments, short-term counseling, referrals, and follow-up services to employees who have personal and/or work-related concerns. A few examples may be concerns with family dynamics, anger management, secondary trauma, etc. Before the pandemic these were mostly in person activities but now there are virtual options via this new vendor ESPYR. Mental Health Professionals are now often dealing with secondary trauma themselves and having the flexibility to see a service provider out of the Saginaw area is helpful as well (ESPYR provider is in State of Georgia). We neglected to realize that this EAP program should also have been made available to SCCMHA Board members and their family. Additional information to be provided at the October full Board meeting.

The Governance committee was able to ask questions / make comments. *See handouts for details.*

Motion made by Tracey Raquepaw with support from Cheryl Nelson to receive and file the ESPYR EAP SERVICE ACCESS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS and include in October Board Meeting under CEO Update. Motion carried.

IV. DISCUSSION ON USAGE OF ZOOM (WITH OR WITHOUT A MEETING ACCOMMODATION FORM COMPLETED)

Tracey Raquepaw, Board Chair, asked to have this topic added to tonight's Governance meeting agenda as we have had ongoing quorum issues at SCCMHA committee meetings of late. Since coming out of pandemic we've allowed for meeting participation via Zoom but unfortunately members joining in this manner cannot be counted towards quorum as required by [*Open Meeting Act \(OMA\) provisions*](#) or even vote on any matters coming before the board/committee. The only exception to the OMA apply to qualified members with a completed *Meeting Attendance Accommodation (Virtual Participation) for Qualified Individuals with Disability* form, which has

been submitted and approved by Office of Chief Executive Officer. The [*State of Michigan, Dana Nessel, Attorney General Opinion \(No. 7318, Feb. 4, 2022\)*](#) instructs that the "Americans with Disabilities Act and Rehabilitation Act require state and local boards and commission to provide reasonable accommodation, which could include an option to participate virtually, to fully participate as a board or commission member or as a member of the general public in meetings that are required by the Open Meeting Act to be held in a place available to the general public."

Also, in order to better encourage meeting attendance, it was recommended that SCCMHA only pay meeting stipends for physical meeting attendance by members going forward unless accommodation form is completed and approved.

Motion made by Tracey Raquepaw with support from Cherie Long to receive and file the Discussion on Usage of Zoom (With or Without a Meeting Accommodation Form Completed) and recommend to full Board proposed changes to improve attendance and ongoing quorum concerns by the following:

- 1. Members can continue to participate via Zoom but will be unable to be counted towards the required quorum or vote on matters coming before board/committee and**
- 2. Members will only receive meeting stipend for physical meeting attendance unless they have an Accommodation form completed and approved by SCCMHA Office of CEO.**

Motion carried.

V. BOARD ATTENDANCE LOG

Motion made by Tracey Raquepaw with support from Cherie Long to receive and file Board Attendance Log as presented. Motion carried.

VI. BOARD TRAINING LOG

Governance Chair Mike Cierzniewski was asked to remind the four (4) Board members [Armentrout, Pugh, Winiecke, Woods] about the current training requirement of 4-8 hours annually as it appears that each will not meet this goal. Communication to include a reminder that training material is available in several different formats (examples: CMHAM winter/summer/fall conference, Boardworks trainings either by DVD or online, Relias online trainings through SCCMHA).

SCCMHA Board training credit may be obtained from outside parties perhaps obtainable through their employer or other organizations if the content is relevant to public mental health and the persons served.

Evidence of such training acquired outside SCCMHA or CMHA, would require that board members provide written evidence of the training content via a conference program or some equivalent document, that includes: the date of attendance, training content description, name of presenter and their credentials / background, organizational training event sponsor / background, organizational training event sponsor, and the training duration in hours.

Presentation of this information to Ryan Mulder will trigger consideration of SCCMHA assignment of training credit hours.

Motion made by Cherie Long with support from Tracey Raquepaw to approve the Board Training Log as presented. Motion carried.

VII. OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

Sandy apologized for being late as she was attending the Customer Service departmental staff meeting on Hancock lower level.

Sandy noted that Saginaw is working to establish an Early Childhood (Baby) Court here in Saginaw to better support families who have lost custody due to abuse or neglect to leverage the authority of the Family Court to mandate family interventions with the goal of reunification or failing that, permanency of caregivers. Partnership between local DHS -Child Welfare/ Foster Care, Family Division of the Saginaw 10th Circuit Court and SCCMHA (court coordinator) and early childhood treatment provider. SCCMHA has just recently submitted a Letter of Intent and related budget to seek MDHHS Funds to support an SCCMHA Early Childhood Court Coordinator. Related interventions would be supported by the SCCMHA Specialty Medicaid Benefit. Sandy believed MDHHS would really like to see the establishment of such a specialty court docket in Saginaw County. If SCCMHA is funded work with the court and DHS would begin later in FY 2024.

The Governance Committee members may have read in the newspaper several months ago about ARPA funding from the County and City of Saginaw being awarded to build a Behavioral Health Clinic on the East Side of Saginaw. The partners coming together and working on the collaboration for the site are CMU, SVSU Nursing, Social Work Schools, SCCMHA, CMU Medical School, Saginaw Public Health, Healthsource, and Great Lakes Bay Health Clinics. Thus far these have been very preliminary discussions and there is still a lot to work out. The leadership of these organizations meet monthly.

SCCMHA's Public Hearing on FY 2024 Budget Plan and Strategic Priorities is scheduled for Thursday, October 5th at 5:30 pm followed by the regularly scheduled SCCMHA Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Tracey Raquepaw and supported by Cherie Long to adjourn this meeting at 6:29 p.m. Motion carried.