

NORTHCARE NETWORK GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2025

NorthCare Network Board Room
1230 Wilson Street, Marquette, MI 49855

NORTHCARE NETWORK MISSION STATEMENT: NorthCare Network ensures that every eligible recipient receives quality specialty mental health and substance use disorder services and supports through the responsible management of regional resources.

Board Members Present: Joe Bonovetz, George Botbyl, George Ecclesine, Gale Eilola, Mike Koskinen, Bill Malloy, Ann Martin, Mike Patrick, Marge Rayner, Craig Reiter, Pat Rozich, Kathy Thompson, Glenn Wing, Kevin Pirlot (*alternate*)

Board Members Not Present: Colleen Kichak, Mari Negro, Susan Roberts (*alternate*), Jim Tervo (*alternate*)

NorthCare Staff: Megan Rooney, Jennifer Ahonen, Andy Kulie, Sara Sircely

CMH Staff: Matt Maskart, Tess Greenough

Guests: Greg Toutant

Recorder: Sandra Lambert, Executive Assistant to the CEO

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Botbyl called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM. Roll call was taken by Sandra Lambert, Executive Assistant to the CEO. A quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Agenda: Additions – Interlocal Agreement for RFP Qualification (*under CEO Update*), Updated Contract Grid, and Closed Session (*after Other Business*)

Motion made by Mike Koskinen to approve the amended agenda as presented and the minutes from June 11, 2025 as presented. Support by Marge Rayner.

Vote -All in favor, Motion carried. Approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairperson Botbyl opened the floor for nominations.

Motion made by Craig Reiter to nominate the current slate of officers for another year and cast a unanimous vote.

Support by Ann Martin.

Vote – all in favor, motion carried. Approved.

Chairperson George Botbyl, Vice-Chairperson Margaret Rayner, and Secretary Pat Rozich were re-elected.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chairperson Botbyl provided a brief verbal report from the Executive Officer pre-meeting in which they reviewed the agenda/packet. He reminded everyone of the CEO Evaluation deadline.

CEO UPDATE

Megan Rooney, CEO, provided a verbal report on state, regional, and internal updates including the FY25 contract litigation, Mental Health Framework, and recent MDHHS meetings. She provided information on the PIHP RFP, bid requirements, statement of work, and what this would mean for the behavioral health system. Board discussion was held at length.

a. Interlocal Agreement for RFP Qualifications

Megan presented an Interlocal Agreement between NorthCare and NMRE which would allow the two regions to form a governmental entity under the Urban Cooperation Act (UCA) to bid on the RFP for the Northern Region. The Agreement would still need to be finalized to meet RFP requirements. Neither NorthCare nor NMRE could dissolve under the UCA and Interlocal Agreement. Currently neither PIHP is eligible to bid without entering into the Interlocal Agreement. A recommendation was made for the board to approve entering into an interlocal agreement with NMRE and authorizing the board chair to sign a finalized agreement. Board discussion was held. Concerns were raised about it being a draft document. Megan addressed their concerns and discussed the urgency to ensure a bid could be submitted.

Motion made by Mike Koskinen for the board to approve entering into an Interlocal Agreement with NMRE and to authorize signing the final agreement. Support by Craig Reiter.

Discussion was held.

A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes – 12 (Bonovetz, Botbyl, Ecclesine, Eilola, Koskinen, Malloy, Martin, Patrick, Rayner, Reiter, Rozich, Wing)

No –2 (Pirlot, Thompson)

Motion carried. Approved.

FINANCE

a. Finance Report & Check Register - \$2, 200,052.75

Jennifer Ahonen, CFO, presented the Finance Report and Check Register. Discussion was held.

Motion made by George Ecclesine to approve both the Finance Report and Check Register as presented.

Support by Bill Malloy.

Vote- All in favor, Motion carried. Approved.

b. FY24 Compliance Exam

Jennifer Ahonen, CFO, presented the FY24 Compliance Exam. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mike Patrick to approve the FY24 Compliance Exam as presented.

Support by George Ecclesine.

Vote- All in favor, Motion carried. Approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

a. Contract Grid

The Contract Grid was presented as follows:

Phoenix House (*Recovery Incentives--\$13,000*); MDHHS Donated Funds Agreement (*DHS Eligibility Specialist--\$75,650*) Pine Rest (*Inpatient-- Adult-\$1,294, Child & Adol.-\$1,421, PHP-\$594, ECT-\$897*); MyMichigan (*Inpatient--IP \$1,232, PHP-\$768, ECT-Medicare Fee Schedule*); SBH-Green Bay, LLC dba Willow Creek Behavioral Health (*Inpatient-- Adult/Adol/ Child-\$1,331, PHP-\$600/day*); Forestview Hospital (*Inpatient--Adult/Adol \$1,155, PHP- \$515*); North Shores Center (*Crisis Residential--\$510 per day, all inclusive*); Catholic Social Services (*SUD Treatment-- 90853-\$65.00, H0005- \$36.00, T1012-\$52.00, 98960-\$9.00,98961-\$4.50, 98962-\$2.00, H0038-\$9.00*); Great Lakes Recovery Centers (*SUD Treatment--T1012-\$52.00,98960- \$13.00*); Copper Country CMH Prevention (*Prevention--\$23,492*); Phoenix House (*Stabilization-\$33,501.67*); WUPHD (*SUD Treatment: T1012HM -\$52.00, T1012HN \$90.00, T1012TD \$155.00; 98960 \$15.25, 98961 \$7.63, 98962 \$3.05*)

Motion made by Joe Bonovetz to approve the Updated Contract Grid as presented. Support by Marge Rayner.

Vote- All in favor, Motion carried. Approved.

b. Policies/Plans

The following was presented:

- i. Rescind Policy: Social Media Policy
- ii. Updated Plan: FY25 Compliance Plan

Motion made Pat Rozich to rescind the Social Media Policy and approve the updated FY25 Compliance Plan as presented. Support by George Ecclesine.

Vote- All in favor, Motion carried. Approved.

c. Informational Items

Informational Items were included in the packet: NorthCare Network Board Report, FY24 BHH Report, and CMHA Concerns Regarding MDHHS PIHP Contract Procurement Proposal.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Marge Rayner to go into closed session to review a written client/attorney privilege legal document. Support by George Ecclesine.

A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes – 14 (*Bonovetz, Botbyl, Ecclesine, Eilola, Koskinen, Malloy, Martin, Patrick, Pirlot, Rayner, Reiter, Rozich, Thompson, Wing*)

No – 0

Motion carried. Approved.

Moved into closed session at 1:35 PM

Returned to open meeting at 1:48 PM

Motion made by Joe Bonovetz to authorize the CEO to enter into litigation related to the PIHP RFP.

Support by George Ecclesine.

A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote

Yes – 14 (*Bonovetz, Botbyl, Ecclesine, Eilola, Koskinen, Malloy, Martin, Patrick, Pirlot, Rayner, Reiter, Rozich, Thompson, Wing*)

No – 0

Motion carried. Approved.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Pat Rozich asked the CEO to reassure staff of the board's support.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be September 10, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Botbyl declared the meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM

Recorded By: Sandra Lambert, Executive Assistant to the CEO