



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2023**

Present: Michael Humphries, Chairperson; Susan Fortney, Vice Chairperson; Jim Neumann; Catherine Bernhold; Randy Richardville; Chantele Steffens; Dawn Asper; Gloria Rafko; and LaMar Frederick

Excused: John Burkardt and Pam Ray

Absent:

Staff: Lisa Graham

Guests: 86 guests attended

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board Chairperson, Mike Humphries, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Mike Humphries appointed Catherine Bernhold as Secretary Pro-tem.

II. ROLL CALL

The Roll Call confirmed a quorum existed.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mike Humphries.

IV. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT THE DRAFT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Jim Neumann moved to adopt the draft agenda as presented. Gloria Rafko supported. Motion carried unanimously.

V. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

Mike Humphries provided opening remarks.

I have been in this role for a little over a year now and it has been a rather tumultuous year. Like every Board Member here, we are here because we care and want to make an impact in the community.

The agenda for tonight's meeting was amended by me solely for the purpose to allow the majority of time to listen to public comment. Citizen comments at the end of the meeting always occurs. The agenda was amended to allow for overdue Board business to take place first and provide the rest of the time to listen to public comment.

The goal of this organization is to ensure all of those suffering from mental illness and developmentally disabled in Monroe County get the care they need and deserve. It is abundantly apparent to me that without those that work at Monroe Community mental Health Authority, none of this would happen. I would like to loudly voice my support for the employees and the work that they do every day. This has not been an easy task and want to recognize them and let them know the Board supports them and gives them the tools they need so they can provide the care that everyone in this community needs.

We have made big steps and are following through. The Mobile Crisis Unit vehicle ordered last year was just delivered and as of March 1st have an Access location at the Benesh Building for those that cannot make it to the Raisinville Road location.

Recommended a book called Insane Consequences, Author D.J. Jaffe. He points out the focus of so many of the national agencies called the worry well that are suffering from mental illness. The reason I am here is I want the focus back on the seriously mental ill but this can't just be done at the local level, it needs to be done at all levels. Specifically, the state level. I recommend this book highly.

There has been some talk about a proposal that has been made and would like to clarify. Team Wellness was approached and talked to by Randy Richardville and other individuals for crisis care services. Team Wellness gave Randy a proposal and was described as the cream of the crop, all-inclusive shop. The way the proposal was written it was so large for accommodating 150,000 people. They visited in November and provided a proposal early December to Randy. As a Board, we discussed the concept and agreed that Team Wellness would present to the Executive Leadership Team on January 10th, which they did. Discussion was to be brought to the January Board Meeting which was cancelled due to inclement weather. The February Board Meeting was postponed. Tonight's meeting we want to allow the most time for public comment. To say that the Board did not act on a proposal is not true, there has not been a real proposal. The Board would request what's called a Request for Proposal (RFP) and outlines what that proposal needs to be. There has been no RFP so no proposal could be ignored.

When it comes time for citizen comments, you will be given 3 minutes each to speak. I will call the names of those that signed up for citizen comment. Two people can be at the podium when speaking. The Board listens to comments but does not address at the Board table. Any comments resulting in a question will be addressed by the Chief Executive Officer by Monday, March 6th.

VI. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

a. Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda _____

LaMar Frederick moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Jim Neumann supported. Discussion followed. Roll call: In favor: Rafko; Asper; Steffens; Richardville; Bernhold; Neumann; Frederick; Fortney; and Humphries; opposed: none; motion carried unanimously.

b. Motion to Adopt the Proposed Monroe Community Mental Health Authority Pay Plan for all Non-Union Employees, Retro-Active to January 8, 2023

LaMar Frederick moved to adopt the proposed Monroe Community Mental Health Authority Pay Plan for all Non-Union Employees, Retro-Active to January 8, 2023. Gloria Rafko supported. Roll call: In favor: Rafko; Asper; Steffens; Richardville; Bernhold; Neumann; Frederick; Fortney; and Humphries; opposed: none; motion carried unanimously.

c. Motion to Authorize Administration to Negotiate the Adoption and Implementation of Identical Pay Plan for MCMHA Bargaining Unit Employees

LaMar Frederick moved to authorize Administration to negotiate the adoption and implementation of identical Pay Plan for MCMHA Bargaining Unit employees. Gloria Rafko supported. Roll call: In favor: Rafko; Asper; Steffens; Richardville; Bernhold; Neumann; Frederick; Fortney; and Humphries; opposed: none; motion carried unanimously.

d. Motion to Approve up to Three Board Members to Attend the National Conference (NATCON 23) May 1, 2023 through May 3, 2023 in Los Angeles, California

Catherine Bernhold moved to approve up to three Board Members to attend the National Conference (NATCON23) May 1, 2023 through May 3, 2023 in Los Angeles, California. Dawn Asper supported. Roll call: In favor: Rafko; Asper; Steffens; Richardville; Bernhold; Neumann; Frederick; Fortney; and Humphries; opposed: none; motion carried unanimously.

VII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Sandy Libstorff commented on being a CMH Board Member for 16 years and quoted Isaiah from the Bible, the founding of Oaks of Righteousness. We are committed to the mission that God has given us. Oaks is not going anywhere. We will continue to stand for these people.

Melissa Woodfill commented on volunteering at Oaks, staffing issues, and the need for mental health services in the east side community.

Lisa Norton, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, commented on out of county placement not being in the best interest for individuals, and having an additional access point at the Benesh Building which is still 6-10 blocks away from the orchard east community. For continuity of care, it should be like being able to go to the corner store.

Pastor Heather Boone commented on how deeply disappointed she is with the Board and that they would not listen to reason, the cancellation of the last meeting due to capacity issues, and the closing of Oaks Shelter.

Maricella Ramirez commented on personal struggles, the mental health crisis, and advocated for mental health support for Oaks of Righteousness.

Chelsea MaAdam commented on mental health struggles, working for Oaks, and asking the Board to wake up and provide support.

Tara Bijarro, Oaks Recovery Specialist, commented on having a voice for those that don't, substance abuse issues, advocacy for jail diversion services, and the relationship between Therapeutics and CMH. Oaks represents the orchard east community, and it is only a matter of time before a crisis is knocking at your door and it is only then that you will not be able to ignore our voices.

Brandon Hamilton requested to void his time and give it to Maricella Ramirez to finish her comments.

Judy Greene commented on the wonderful things Oaks is doing for the community and watched how it has morphed into what it is now after the last 6.5 years. Staff training, increased accessibility, and services are needed for those at the shelter. Requesting CMH to come down and be a part of the solution because if Oaks does not get the assistance they need, they may not be able to re-open.

Amy Robinson advocated for the disabled. Amy has worked with Oaks for the last 2 years and commented that if it is a staffing issue to consider doing what the hospital did, bring in temporary workers while you are getting new programs up and running. Have great respect for the case managers who are on the ground, but we need more of them. We need them interacting with the crises. We must work as a team if we are going to make a difference in this community.

Tennery McCutcheon, Disability Network, commented that any society can be and should be judged on how it treats its most vulnerable citizens.

Lynne White commented on family members that have received services and the difficulties experienced with those services. Lynne requested CMH to be a real partner with Oaks and to provide a 24-hour crisis unit located where the most concentrated population is.

Melhem Schiller advocated for Oaks of Righteousness to receive support from CMH.

Lacie Schiller commented on addressing the Board years ago and that she was not heard then and is not being heard now. Lacie prays the Board hears the need for assistance at Oaks.

Angela Shock commented on the difficulties of getting CLS services.

Trish Burgess advocated services for her friend that is not yet receiving them.

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Crystal Ellison commented on family struggles, disabilities, and the difference it would have made if an organization like Oaks would have been available in her community when it was needed.

Jessica Stone commented on the stigma of mental health and requested the Board take action in support of Oaks to receive assistance with mental health resources.

A citizen, name not captured, showed concern for the community due to the lack of mental health resources in the community.

Sgt. Milton Dunham, Veteran, commented on personal struggles and the support of Oaks of Righteousness in need of assistance for mental health resources.

Becky McCollum McCreia commented on family struggles and the assistance received by Oaks of Righteousness. Change needs to happen and requested support for Oaks.

Sonya Jones commented on assistance received by Oaks staff. Oaks needs help. Set up a substation on the east side of Monroe. We are crying out for your help.

Katy Beth Davis commented on family, personal struggles, and supporting the need for someone to help at Oaks.

Azia Hathorne commented to the Board that you have heard dozens of people stand before you and pour their heart out to you. When you hear the need I want you to take action. We must learn how to be proactive and tired of the division of east end compared to Monroe. I want these resources to be where the need is. Let's help the people that need it the most.

Sonia Hudson commented on wearing tape as a symbol of being unheard. Sonia commented on the mobile crisis unit and that with 150 days until implementation what do you think will happen to those that cannot speak for themselves. Pleaded for support of Oaks.

A citizen, name not captured, commented on their struggle with mental illness and the lack of resources in the community. Made it clear, we are here for action and to not underestimate people for what they are willing to do and what they are willing to risk to be heard.

Cole Beehn commented on her experience with Oaks and CMH while working at a local hotel. Cole supports Oaks in asking for mental health support and access for those in crisis. Being humbled leadership makes the best leaders.

Calinda Thomas, a foster parent and resident of Monroe County, commented on children only receiving help after the fact as there has never been as many threats to schools as we have today. We are all the same race; we are all God's children.

Amber Reed commented on the uptake of substance use in our community and the need for a 24/7 crisis and substance abuse services.

Kelly Meadows commented on the sad stories being heard during comments, access to services at CMH, and that the Disabilities Network in Monroe wants to work with CMH to be discussion solutions.

Tamyka Tucker, Salvation Army Family Shelter Director, commented on being another shelter in the community and that the people are under the assumption that these types of issues only affect the homeless. It is not easy to watch families struggling with mental health. This has been a sad time for me to watch the community that I love to be falsely accused and people that don't know me question my heart and how I do things. I pray that the community and agencies will come together to make a change.

Erik Rose commented on community collaboration, advocating with law makers, and board decisions.

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Gary Moore, monitor at Oaks of Righteousness for six months, commented on how eye opening it has been working at Oaks and the number of volunteers that want to help people. Pleaded for mental health support.

Tracy Bailey commented on her recovery of 24 years and is in support of Oaks of Righteousness.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Jim Neumann moved to adjourn at 7:43pm. LaMar Frederick supported. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,



Cathrin Bernhold
Secretary Pro-tem

LG/dp 3/10/23

