

NORTHPOINTE HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Special Board Meeting
MINUTES
715 Pyle Drive, Kingsford, MI
June 6, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

John Nelson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Cindy Adrian, Administrative Assistant, conducted the roll call.

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u> <u>Absent</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u> <u>Absent</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Dehn, Janet		X		Nelson, John	X		
Hofer, Millie	X			Peretto, Patti			X
Luhtanen, Joan	X			Phillips, Patricia	X		
Martin, Ann		X		Schinderle, Katie	X		
McCole, Gerald	X			Zevitz, Michael Dr.		X	
Negro, Mari		X					

REPRESENTING ADMINISTRATION: J. McCarty, B. Adrian. C. Adrian

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all.

- Chair Nelson asked the guests present at the table to introduce themselves and that any person asking a question first introduce themselves. Present were Ed McBroom, State Representative; Tom Renwick, MDHSS Behavioral Health & Dev. Dis. Administration; Lynda Zeller, MDHHS Behavioral Health & Dev. Dis. Administration; Bill Slavin, CEO NorthCare.
- Chair Nelson thanked Representative McBroom for facilitating this meeting and thanked all for being here today.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

APPROVAL OR AMEND AGENDA

Chair Nelson asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

ACTION: Moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by: G. McCole, supported by P. Phillips to approve the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Representative Ed McBroom & Legislative Panel

Chair Nelson stated that today's agenda includes talking points on General Fund (GF) and budgetary concerns, lack of inpatient psychiatric hospital beds, transportation concerns.

Representative Ed McBroom stated he appreciated everyone meeting again. He stated that as a messenger/go between it is often difficult to always make sure that both sides are hearing each other accurately and that both sides are satisfied with the answers rather than dissatisfied with the messenger. He stated he hopes everyone can walk away feeling like they really heard each other and really know what is going on and that it is not just somehow the State Representative failing to properly deliver messages. As far as the budget he stated specifically are the changes with NorthCare and how that is impacting budgets and the tradeoffs; the issue of transportation problems that the counties are dealing with that are distinctive to the Upper Peninsula.

Lynda Zeller stated there is a crisis with lack of community-based psychiatric beds and acknowledged that while this is a problem state-wide there is a uniqueness in rural areas that makes it even more challenging. There also is a lack of other supports and services that are needed in emergencies.

Tom Renwick gave an update on the issue of access to inpatient psychiatric beds. This issue has been worked on for the last year and a half with certificate of need workgroup review and licensing in Lansing. Part of the concern is community inpatient providers who don't always open the door to people who are Medicaid or Healthy Michigan eligible and the difficulty the Dept. has in making sure they are meeting their commitment as a public institution to open beds to individuals that our network is serving. The group has been looking at their options such as licensing issues, how many beds are available in the region, what kind of criteria is being looked at. A pilot is underway with Mid-State Health Network where they are tracking specific information on the number of individuals needing inpatient services and how many times they have been denied. Some strategies from that pilot program are hopefully going to be implemented on a state-wide basis and be able to identify where vacancies currently exist in inpatient settings.

Bill Slavin, CEO NorthCare, stated certificate of need is not always an indicator of available beds. Hospitals are certified to have so many beds but they don't always fill them and they have some discretion about who they are going to admit and not going to admit. In the U.P. there is a certificate of need for 20 beds at War Memorial, 32 adult beds and 6 children beds at Marquette General. Often times when crisis worker is trying to get someone admitted they will be told they don't have capacity to admit someone currently and this doesn't equate to all 32 beds are full. Some of it has to do with staffing, milieu, behavioral issues requiring additional staffing. The issue of there are not enough certified beds in Michigan is misleading; it is access to the certified beds that is an issue.

Discussion ensued regarding number of licensed beds/number of beds being actually utilized to provide services; staff recruitment and retention with regard to psychiatrists, nursing staff; loan forgiveness programs. Mr. Renwick stated there are also other services and supports such as crisis residential, intensive crisis stabilization that can be provided to people that would otherwise require inpatient services that needs to be reviewed. Ms. Zeller stated that currently Mackinaw Straits Hospital and a local residential provider are working on creating a specialty crisis residential center that can both treat SUD and act as a short term residential. Representative McBroom stated looking at a public/private partnership would be a creative solution.

Chair Nelson opened the floor for any questions/concerns:

Sheriff Celello, Dickinson County, stated an area of concern with transportation is not only financial or distance but the medical issues when transporting an individual as staff are not qualified. Representative McBroom stated that he had suggested last term it no longer be mandated that transportation be done by peace officers and that this is also a liability for communities. Chair Nelson stated this is unfortunately a money issue and thus can't be fixed without it.

Barbara Kramer, Dickinson County Commissioner, stated public/private partnership is a very good idea but the State would have to remodel a facility to make it secure. She stated Dickinson County Hospital has beds available but are not dedicated to mental health and possibly offering the hospital grants for extra funds to help if a psych unit is established. She also stated with Marquette General building a new hospital they will have a vacant building and maybe that would be an opportunity for a localized mental health facility in the U.P.

Jennifer McCarty, CEO stated Northpointe staff provide transportation for inpatient care individuals and there is no extra financial incentive and asked if there is any legislation on the docket of stopping discrimination when it comes to admitting to an inpatient facility bed and staff spending hours working on coordinating care. This is both stressful to the person in crisis and the staff. Crisis staff are sometimes told the individual doesn't fit into the milieu of their unit, leaving them with little or no treatment options.

Sheriff Marks, Menominee County, stated one issue for law enforcement is that there appears to be an absence of integrity in the process of finding inpatient psychiatric beds for individuals, that there needs to be some kind of accountability.

Vicki Mikkola, Copper Country, inquired as to how long the study will be conducted as they had information approximately a year ago regarding data taken. Tom Renwick responded that as issues get identified there are steps being made to implement different recommendations.

Discussion ensued on above issues of financial incentives, reserved psychiatric beds for more intensive individuals, public/private endeavors, transportation, hospital rate adjuster funds, licensing waivers and pilot workgroups.

Chair Nelson stated his concern regarding the general fund reduction and what is going to be done to address this. Tom Renwick responded a broad-based workgroup inclusive of a number of CMH service programs as well as MACMHB to look at a better methodology to distribute dollars. The workgroup has recommended a strategy that established a base for every CMHSP's, looking at a way to allocate remaining dollars not based solely on census information but based on number of people eligible for Medicaid or Healthy Michigan. There also is pending legislation regarding this.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Representative McBroom stated Representative Dianda, Representative Kivela and Senator Casperson have been very involved with these issues also and across the State all colleagues agree mental health is reaching a breaking point.

BOARD COMMENT

- Chair Nelson thanked Representative McBroom, Ms. Zeller and Mr. Renwick for attending today's meeting.

ADJOURN

Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

John Nelson, Chairperson

Mari Negro, Secretary

Cindy Adrian, Administrative Assistant