

**Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting
June 25, 2019**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners was called to order in the Commissioners Room by Chairperson John Wallace at 9:31 a.m.

Roll called and a quorum present.

PRESENT: Commissioners Mary Ellen Tryban, Richard Sangster, Michael Newman, Cal Gouine, Roberta Matelski, John Wallace and Steve Warfield

ABSENT: None

Commissioner Wallace gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jeff Veryser, General Manager of Link Industries in Indian River and Northern Lakes Economic Alliance Board of Directors commented he wanted to introduce himself, thanked the Board for letting him represent NLEA and gave the Board an update on what was happening in Cheboygan County.

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chairperson Wallace and Administrator Lawson presented Louis Vassilakos an appreciation certificate for his 14+ years of service with Cheboygan County Airport Authority.

CEO Christine Gebhard presented the North Country Community Mental Health 2018 Annual Report. North Country Community Mental Health serves six (6) counties in Northern Michigan and is the public mental health authority that provides services for people with serious and persistent mental illnesses, children with serious emotional disturbances or people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. In 2018, NCCMH served 4,029 individuals of which were 813 children with mental illnesses; 2,296 adults with mental illnesses; 920 individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. NCCMH had revenues of approximately \$49 million and expenditures of approximately \$49 million, which was \$270,000 over budget in the FY 2018. A lot of this was attributed to inpatient hospitalization. There were 380 psychiatric inpatient utilization admissions; 8,689 inpatient days with an average length of stay (in days) of 18.24. NCCMH was seeing a significant increase in psychiatric hospitalization admissions as well as the length of stay. Statistics from NCCMH Services for Cheboygan County with a total population of 25,369: Behavioral Health Funding Source and FPL, Medicaid 3,458, Healthy Michigan 1,804, with 2,523 uninsured and a poverty rate of 16.80%. The total number of persons receiving CMH Services for Cheboygan County was 680, which included 475 adults and 205 children or 16.8% of total clients. The cost of services provided to clients in Cheboygan County totaled \$5,061,962. Total psychiatric hospitalizations by community, which might be Alpena, War Memorial, etc... had 27 admissions and 279 days in the FY and

hospitalizations by State had six (6) admissions and 1,234 days in the FY, which totaled 33 cases and 1,513 days. In all of Northern Michigan, there were only two psychiatric facilities for adults, which were located in Alpena and the Upper Peninsula and no children psychiatric facilities. Local dollars are used for State in patient hospitalizations because it is not covered by Medicaid and CMH cannot use general fund dollars. Persons served by priority population and fund source was given. The majority of the funding at 79% comes from Medicaid, 4% State General Fund and the 2% local funding match from the six (6) County's was necessary to draw down some of those Medicaid dollars. Cheboygan County contributed \$111,995 last year. This was the same amount contributed every year since NCCMH has become an authority in 1997, which amount was frozen. These funds were unrestricted and CMH was able to use these funds to meet local community needs. Two success stories were given with one about Gentle Harbor, which is an intensive transition home, which prepares clients for community life and Robbin's story about sharing to help others have hope. The photovoice display is about perspectives of life with disabilities. Clients learned and shared experiences about stigma, discrimination and inclusion. Then, through the power of their photographic imagery and words, they captured these thoughts to share with the community for public awareness. NCCMH appreciates the support of the Board of Commissioners and Commissioner Newman who sits on the NCCMH Board.

Commissioner Gouine questioned what was happening with the Mental Health Institute in Caro, Michigan. Ms. Gebhard stated that there was an existing hospital and the budget for last year was to add another 50 beds to that state facility to bring it up to a total of 200 beds from 150. Governor Whitmer put a hold on that to do an additional assessment as to whether or not it should be built at Caro or somewhere else. There is a plan to bring a 50 bed institute to Northern Michigan, which NCCMH was advocating. She has met with the legislators over the past couple of months to try to encourage them to go ahead with the Caro plans and to look at the possibility of bringing something to Northern Michigan.

Commissioner Wallace questioned if there has been any conversation with McLaren on doing something with the vacant rooms on the second floor at the Cheboygan hospital. A meeting to discuss the possibility of opening up a psychiatric institute with the CEO is scheduled. In 2014, McLaren closed Lockwood and those psychiatric beds were lost to Northern Michigan. It gets very complicated because there is a certificate of need process at the State level where they determine if more beds are needed. Based on the old formula, the State would say that no new beds were needed. It was a battle and NCCMH continues to fight that battle. The State is looking at additional funding formulas. The average of the cost of a day for inpatient psychiatric admission runs about \$900 per day.

Commissioner Newman commented that he sits on that Board and gave kudos to Christine Gebhard for how articulate she is in the matters that she presents to the Board members and how knowledgeable she was. He questioned how the jail liaison was coming along. Ms. Gebhard stated that Jail Liaison Rob Griffin visits each of the counties jails and responds to any emergencies. She has been talking with each of the counties about additional funding in order to keep this position active and was put into the budget for FY2020. Commissioner Newman questioned the medications that were advertised on the television and were they working. Ms. Gebhard stated that a lot this medication seen advertised on TV was for people with mild or moderate depression. NCCMH deals with serious mental illness such as schizophrenia and bipolar. There were traditional medications that are very effective that psychiatrists use and she didn't know of anything new. The jail issue is extremely important to the counties because a lot of the counties funds have to be used to pay for these services. There is a move at the national level to eliminate the federal restriction for the use of Medicaid funds for when people are

incarcerated and was even before they were adjudicated and found guilty. This was something the Board of Commissioner could advocate for. Commissioner Newman commented that it was very important to advocate this because county dollars would have to be spent to take care of the inmate's needs.

Outreach & Communications Coordinator Frances Whitney presented the Northeast Michigan Community Services Agency 2018 Annual Report. Last August 2018, NEMCSA celebrated its 50th Anniversary. An abbreviated mission of the agency was to provide quality programs and services to strengthen and enhance the self-sufficiency of individuals, families and communities, focusing on those who were experiencing an economic hardship. NEMCSA has 11 core counties and touch into a total of 22 counties in Michigan, which provides 35 programs. This truly was an organization that provided assistance from cradle to grave. NEMCSA provides assistance from prenatal care all the way up to the sun set of people's lives or the aging population because NEMCSA is the only community action agency in the State of Michigan that is actually designated as an area agency on aging. This makes the agency unique. Services available include: food assistance, weatherization, homeless and homeless prevention assistance, payment assistance for primary hearing source utilities, as well as match savings, self-sufficiency supportive services, foreclosure prevention assistance, homebuyer education, and financial capabilities support. NEMCSA was just over 50% federal funded, 38% state funded and 11.4% local and in-kind funded. This varies from year-to-year, but not significantly. In 2018, NEMCSA provided services to: 2,972 children received early childhood services; 9,167 households received food boxes; 617,076 meals were provided to senior & homebound individuals; 2,347 youth enhanced their academic careers thru the school success program; 271,433 hours were donated to programs; \$459,848 emergency payments distributed, which included housing and utility assistance and 19,534 seniors maintained independent living due to programs that were offered. A program impact story in the county was given about a young parent who had a child in school for the first time and who didn't know what to expect. The head start preschool program was incredibly helpful to explain the steps that went throughout the year. This parent was very thankful for the preschool program and was excited and prepared for the school year to start next year. Another success story was given about a head start mom in another county who was impacted by the preschool program as a volunteer and now has enrolled in college to become a teacher. Here in the Cheboygan public schools systems, there were three (3) school success liaisons How this works is that they partner with the public schools systems to provide that extra support for children that are in need from kindergarten all the way up through high school and in many counties were opening up to adult alternative education. This was a very unique program that NEMCSA housed and was the only one in the State of Michigan, which was very successful. NEMCSA was a Community Action Agency and has been around since 1964. NEMCSA's promise to the county and the community was to change people's lives, embody the spirit of hope, improve communities and make America a better place to live. NEMCSA cares about the community and are dedicated to helping people help themselves and help each other. Ms. Whitney commented that she appreciated Commissioner Sangster being on the Board. Commissioner Sangster applauded this group for being 4% under their budget. For more information please visit www.nemcsa.org.

Treasurer Buffy Weldon presented the 2018 Treasurer's Annual Report. The County Treasurer pursuant to the Constitution of Michigan of 1963, Article VII Section 4 there shall be elected for a four-year term, whose duties and powers shall be provided by law. The County Treasurer's Office is the depository for all county funds, by Board resolution and in accordance with Act No. 40, Public Acts of Michigan 1932 and is responsible for the investment of said funds. It is the goal and mission of the Cheboygan County Treasurer's Office to provide professional, informative, courteous assistance to the general public and in particular the collection of taxes,

and account receivables. Key 2018 accomplishments, which included staying within the Budget; continue to contract with an outside firm to have tax rolls for years 1975-1979 scanned, burned to DVD and also microfilmed; received updated tax data regularly from 19 Townships, 2 Villages and the City of Cheboygan, which provides real-time balancing with the local units while having the data available for the public; contract with BS&A to get live tax information online and accept payments; continued agreement with LexisNexis to aid in homestead audit and returned mail; completed PRE Audit and billed denied properties; continue to have direct withdrawal from Taxpayers' bank account for tax payments and process Credit/Debit card, e-checks and ACH payments. Key 2019 Initiatives and Goals, which included continue to contract with an outside firm to have tax rolls for years 1980-1984 scanned, burned to DVD and also microfilmed; research the pros and cons for a Land Bank Authority; update County Fair bookkeeping system to County's BS&A software, be the Host County for the 2020 Foreclosure Auction; continue to establish payment plans for taxpayers to avoid tax foreclosures; continue to look for cost reductions and stay within budget; more awareness for licensing dogs within the County and create a partnership with Local Units to share in Demo Costs. Statistics were given for delinquent real property taxes; miscellaneous receivables; dog licenses sold; recycling surcharges; cash receipt items by bank with the total dollar amount collected of \$60,469,455.50; 2662 cash receipts; tax foreclosures sale proceeds transferred to general fund totaling to date \$1,876,567.01; total withheld from transfer \$458,923.33 and beginning year tax foreclosure fund balance of \$624,990.51.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

North County Community Mental Health CEO Christine Gebhard presented Resolution 19-11 Supporting the use of local funds for local community mental health services. Currently County local funds paid to NCCMH are sent to the State for match for Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP) Medicaid programming and are not available for local community health services. Although these funds are sent for PIHP use, NCCMH and the Counties are not representative of a state designated PIHP. This resolution supports the withholding of local county funding for PIHP for local community mental health services as provided for under the Michigan Constitution and Mental Health Code.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to adopt

Cheboygan County Resolution No. 19-11
Supporting the Use of Local Funds for Local Community Mental Health Services

WHEREAS, the Cheboygan County Commission having entered into an enabling resolution to create the North Country Community Mental Health Authority pursuant to Section 100 et seq. and Section 205 of the Mental Health Code, 1974 PA 258, as amended (MCL330.1100 et seq; MCL330.1205) with Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Kalkaska and Otsego Counties; and

WHEREAS, North Country Community Mental Health (NCCMH) is a community mental health authority of the counties of Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Kalkaska and Otsego, organized under the terms of Section 204(a) of the Michigan Mental Health Code (the Code), (MCL330.1204[a]); and

WHEREAS, Section 116(b) of the Code (MCL 330.1116[b]) requires that the Department of Community Health shift primary responsibility for the direct delivery of public mental health services from the state to a community mental health services program whenever the community mental health services program has demonstrated

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a willingness and capacity to provide an adequate and appropriate system of mental health services for the citizens of that service area; and

WHEREAS, NCCMH has demonstrated such willingness and capacity to provide community mental health services for over the past 40 years and is properly certified as a community mental health services program under the terms of Section 232(a) of the Code (MCL330.1232[a]); and

WHEREAS, Section 202(1) of the Code (MCL330.1202[1]) requires that the state shall financially support, in accordance with chapter 3, community mental health services programs that have been established and that are administered according to the provisions of this chapter; and

WHEREAS, there are also established in the state entities known as Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), which receive Medicaid funds and distribute them to Community Mental Health Services Programs and other Medicaid providers; and

WHEREAS, Appropriations Bill Public Act 207 of 2018, Article X, Part 2 Provisions Concerning Appropriations, General Sections, Behavioral Health Services, Section 928 (1) states, "Each PIHP shall provide, from internal resources, local funds to be used as a bona fide part of the state match required under the Medicaid program in order to increase capitation rates for PIHPs. These funds shall not include either state funds received by a CMHSP for services provided to non-Medicaid recipients or the state matching portion of the Medicaid capitation payments made to a PIHP."; and;

WHEREAS, NCCMH and the counties that it represents are not a state designated PIHP; and

WHEREAS, the county of Cheboygan having a strong desire to keep local funding at the local level to meet the financial liability of the county pursuant to Section 302(1) of the Code (MCL330.1301[1]) and to respond to the behavioral health needs in this county; and so,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheboygan County Commissioners strongly supports the withholding of local Cheboygan County funding from the PIHP for the purposes of increasing the Medicaid capitation rate of the PIHP and strongly supports the use of local county funds for local community mental health services as provided for under the Michigan Constitution and Michigan Mental Health Code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cheboygan County Commissioners strongly urges its State Senate and House of Representatives members to eliminate similar language mentioned above in future State funding appropriations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Wayne Schmidt, Representative Sue Allor, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration Deputy Director Dr. George Mellos, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

and authorize the Chair to sign. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Recycling Coordinator Dan O'Henley presented the Recycling Truck Purchase. The County requested sealed bids from companies for a new cab and chassis for recycling operations. The County's existing vehicle was purchased in 2012 and has approximately 230,000 miles on it. The County received bids from five companies as follows: Freightliner Grand Rapids, Michigan \$89,912 option one cab and chassis and \$92,917 option two cab and chassis; Wolverine Freightliner \$87,721 Freightliner cab and chassis; Michigan Kenworth \$99,237 Kenworth Cab and chassis; Diesel Truck Sales \$86,626 Freightliner cab and chassis and Zarembo \$98,897 International cab and chassis. Although the apparent low bid is from Diesel Truck Sales in the amount of \$86,626 for a Freightliner cab with M2 106 chassis, staff recommends the purchase of the Kenworth cab with T-370 chassis in the amount of \$99,237 based on durability/reliability, safety features and location where the vehicle can be serviced. The County requested sealed bids for a Hydraulic Hook Lift Loader system to be installed separately in lieu of a cable hoist

system at a future date. Commissioner Gouine commented that it pays to go with quality and suggested adding a deer guard. Discussion was held on possibly leasing.

Motion by Commissioner Gouine, seconded by Commissioner Newman, to award the Recycling Vehicle bid to Michigan Kenworth for a Kenworth cab and T-370 chassis in the amount of \$99,237; RFP for a deer guard and authorize the Chair to sign the purchase agreement with any necessary budget adjustments. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented the Waterways Grant Agreement and Resolution #19-12 Harbor and Docks Mooring Construction. The County has been awarded a supplemental \$125,000 grant for the replacement of fuel tanks and addition of piping, sidewalks, landscaping and new floating dock area including fuel service building, fuel dispenser and pump out system.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Warfield, to adopt the Waterways Grant Agreement and

**RESOLUTION #19-12
Harbors and Docks Mooring Construction**

Upon a motion made by Commissioner _____ seconded by
Commissioner _____ the following Resolution was adopted:

"RESOLVED, that the County of Cheboygan, Michigan, accepts the terms of the Agreement as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and that the County agrees, but not by way of limitation, as follows:

1. To appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-five Thousand dollars (\$125,000.00) to match the One Hundred Twenty-five Thousand dollars (\$125,000.00) State grant authorized by the Department.

2. To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records, and to make them available to the Department for auditing at reasonable times.

3. To construct the facilities and provide the funds, services, and materials as may be necessary to satisfy the terms of the Agreement.

4. To ensure that all premises, buildings, and equipment related procedures comply with all applicable State and Federal regulations.

5. To establish and appoint the County Administrator to regulate the use of the facilities constructed under this Agreement to assure the use thereof by the public on equal and reasonable terms.

6. To enforce all State statutes and local ordinances pertaining to marine safety and to enforce statutes of the State of Michigan within the confines of the County pertaining to the licensing of watercraft. Watercraft not fully complying with the laws of the State of Michigan relative to licensing shall not be permitted to use the facility until full compliance with those laws has been made.

7. To comply with all terms of the Agreement, including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of this Resolution."

authorizing the Chair to sign the Resolution-Grant Agreement, any future grant documents and authorize any necessary Budget adjustments. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 no.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Christy Stempky commented on the behalf of concerned citizens and wanted to touch base on the topic of the recycling truck. There was a group in Cheboygan who would like to see recycling expanded and eventually brought to the curb for curb side pickup. The group feels it would be in the best interest of the county to keep the old truck running, so that expansion can be looked at for this program. It is their understanding that at the state level, there would be monies available through the EGLE that supports recycling programs as a plan for waste management. By putting a plan in place now, the county can position itself to be at the top for receiving that money once it becomes available. Commissioner Gouine commented that he thought this was a good idea with the extra truck.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - None

Motion by Commissioner Newman, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to go into closed session at the request of Jeffrey B. Lawson, an employee of the county, and pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act, being MCL 15.268(a), to consider a periodic personal evaluation on him. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

ENTERED INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:58 a.m.

RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION AT 11:35 a.m.

Commissioner Wallace presented the County Administrator's Contract Extension. The Board of Commissioners completed evaluation of the County Administrator's performance. The agreement extends the County Administrator's Employment Agreement until July 24, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to approve County Administrator's Contract Extension, destroy all Administrator Analysis of Results Compilation of All Evaluator Responses and authorize the Chair to sign. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented an update on Straits Regional Ride. An employee meeting was held a week in a half ago to go over operational procedures to increase efficiency. SRR is short on employees who were on medical leave or with bus drivers. Until additional drivers can be hired, there is always pressure on over time for drivers. Discuss was held on recruiting retired bus drivers including drivers from other agencies and starting an apprenticeship program.

Motion by Commissioner Gouine seconded by Commissioner Newman to adjourn to the call of the chairperson. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Karen L. Brewster
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

John B. Wallace
Chairperson