

## HEALTHWEST

### FULL BOARD MINUTES

February 28, 2025

8:00 a.m.

376 E. Apple Ave.  
Muskegon, MI 49442

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Full Board was called to order by Chair Thomas at 8:00 a.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Members Present: Janet Thomas, Janice Hilleary, Jeff Fortenbacher, John Weerstra, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Thomas Hardy, Remington Sprague, M.D., Tamara Madison, Mary Vazquez, Kim Cyr, Cheryl Natte, Chris McGuigan

Members Absent: Charles Nash

Others Present: Rich Francisco, Holly Brink, Gina Maniaci, Kristi Chittenden, Brandy Carlson, Jennifer Hoeker, Gary Ridley, Gordon Peterman, Carly Hysell, Melina Barrett, Rebecca St. Clair, Linda Anthony, Helen Dobb, Stephanie Baskin, Tasha Kuklewski, Chelsea Kirksey, Natalie Walther, Brittani Duff, Jackie Farrar, Calvin Davis, Madison Rosel, Mary McGhee, Jennifer Stewart, Kelly Betts, Gina Kim, Kara Jaekel, Pam Kimble, Mickey Wallace

Guests Present: Mark Eisenbarth, Stephanie VanDerKooi

#### MINUTES

HWB 53-B - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2025 Full Board meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### *Finance Committee*

HWB 43-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve expenditures for the month of December 2024, in the total amount of \$9,682,990.07.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 44-F- It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to authorize the HealthWest Executive Director to approve the above landlords for the HUD grant funding for Fiscal Year 2025, at a cost not to exceed the HUD approved dollars of \$333,453.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 45-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to authorize the HealthWest Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Lakeshore Regional Entity to provide substance abuse and gambling prevention services in Muskegon County effective March 1, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 46-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to authorize the HealthWest Executive Director to continue contract with the Roslund Prestage & Company P.C. at a cost not to exceed \$45,000.00 for the fiscal year 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 47-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Jill Ann Montgomery Keast, dba Coaction360, with a total not to exceed \$43,400.00 effective March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 48-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Shane Morr, with a total not to exceed \$64,000.00 effective March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 49-F - It was moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Hardy, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Soul Spring LLC effective March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, to provide specialized residential services to eligible HealthWest consumers. The funding is within the HealthWest AFC Specialized Residential Budget of \$19,405,100.00.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 50-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Gage Consulting for Challenging Behaviors for the period of March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025 to behavior support services for eligible HealthWest consumers. The funding is within the approved Outpatient Services budget of \$4,711,620.00

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 51-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Lakeshore Care Corp. effective March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025, to provide specialized residential services to eligible HealthWest consumers. The funding is within the HealthWest AFC Specialized Residential Budget of \$19,405,100.00

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 52-F - It was moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Hardy, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract LMA Homes LLC effective March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025, to provide specialized residential services to eligible HealthWest consumers. The Funding is within the HealthWest AFC Specialized Residential Budget of \$19,405,100.00.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

HWB 54-B – It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the changes to the HealthWest Consumer Advisory Committee members effective March 1, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Thomas discussed the importance of meeting attendance to make quorum.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Natalie Walthers, Director of Architecture & Analytics, presented the Data Center on Power BI Dashboards.

### **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Francisco, Executive Director, presented his Formal Director's report.

#### **Director's Update**

##### **MDHHS Updates:**

- MDHHS Contract with the LRE: Per the last board meeting on 2/26/2025 and update from Mary Dumas at the LRE, Region 3 is holding its position of not joining with the others who have now filed a lawsuit against MDHHS. Region 3/LRE does not expect to be treated differently from others that have filed a lawsuit or those that signed the MDHHS contract as is.
- Cost Settlement Issues with MDHHS: Mary Dumas gave another update on the status of the past liability issues with MDHHS and cost settling at the LRE board meeting on 2/26/2025. I provided an update to HW Finance committee last week which included MDHHS holding onto \$4.8M (held in escrow) of \$13.7M they would like to get back from the LRE. The LRE board gave authority to Mary in a special meeting on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, authorizing her to work with Taft Law, to file a lawsuit with MDHHS if needed. Mary has not proceeded yet with filing a lawsuit since the AG's has asked for time to review the issue with their client, MDHHS. Chris Ryan, from Taft law, drew attention to the issue with the AG's office and presented the LRE's case. Prior to this, the AG's office was not aware the MDHHS sent a memo stating they were going to hold payments from the LRE for that \$13.7M. I believe that at this point, MDHHS is not going to dock the LRE payments while this issue is being reviewed.
- Sharing a Medicaid bulletin (attached): The SSI asset limits are changing per MMP 25-07 which will impact eligibility for Medicaid program. Historically, the asset limits have been \$2000/individual and \$3000/couple. This asset limit will be increased to the higher MSP program asset limit of \$9660/individual and \$14,470/couple. I know that we have had clients that have struggled to stay below the \$2000 limit to retain Medicaid. I have asked Brandy to do an evaluation of the impact this would have on some of our consumers but overall, this is a good and positive change.

##### **Lakeshore Regional Entity updates:**

- At the 2/26/2025 LRE board meeting, the LRE acknowledge and thanked HW Board of Directors for stepping up to take over the SUD prevention grant responsibilities. HW has been working internally to transition these duties over from public health and slowly assessing what it would take to manage these prevention dollars. HW is currently reviewing the amendments to SUD contracts to which will incorporate the SUD prevention grant amounts.
- LRE has had staffing and structure changes. Stephanie will oversee the Quality Improvement role as they look to fill a vacant position for Quality Improvement Director.
- The LRE also presented their Compliance Plan, UM Plan and Strategic Plan at the LRE board work session and LRE Board meeting on 2/26/2025.

## **CMH level:**

- Samaritas Transition to new provider: There was another meeting with Samaritas / Moka and HW and the work continues to transition these over to MOKA. Two home renovations have been completed and the remaining three are in progress. These are not major renovations. Licensing transfer is also part of the transition and is being worked on.
- HW is also sharing information on our social media we receive from CMHA regarding advocacy work to preserve Medicaid. Our association is active in drawing attention to the importance of Medicaid for people and any cuts could negatively impact services for a lot of individuals and families. We are not the only agency doing this, FQHCs and other Medicaid providers are doing the same thing.
- The wage study appeal process is in place and the process for submitting an appeal is in place.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no audience participation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

Respectfully,



Janet Thomas  
Board Chair  
/hb



**TO:** **HealthWest Board Members**

**FROM:** **Janet Thomas, Board Chair, via Rich Francisco, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT:** **Full Board Meeting**  
**February 28, 2025**  
**376 E. Apple Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442**  
**<https://healthwest.zoom.us/j/92330401570?pwd=TFNHWWhnQmF5NVAYbWRQVG54Tk1GZz09>**  
One tap mobile: (309)205-3325, 92330401570# Passcode: 428623

## AGENDA

|     |   |             |
|-----|---|-------------|
| 1)  | Call to Order   | Action      |
| 2)  | Approval of Agenda  | Action      |
| 3)  | Approval of Minutes<br><br>A) Approval of the Full Board Minutes of January 24, 2025<br>(Attachment #1 – pg. 1-4)   | Action      |
| 4)  | Public Comment (on an agenda item)  |             |
| 5)  | Committee Reports<br><br>A) Finance Committee<br>(Attachment #2 – pg. 5-9)  | Action      |
| 6)  | Items for Consideration<br><br>A) Approval of Changes to HealthWest Consumer Advisory Committee<br>(Attachment #3 – pg. 10)   | Action      |
| 7)  | Old Business  |             |
| 8)  | New Business  |             |
| 9)  | Communication<br><br>A) Data Center on Power BI Dashboards: Natalie Walther,<br>Director of Architecture & Analytics<br>(Attachment #4 – pg. 11-21)<br><br>B) Consumer Advisory Update: Kelly Betts, Customer Service<br>(Attachment #5 – pg. 22)<br><br>C) Employee Recognition Letters – Kelly Betts, Customer Service<br>(Attachment #6 – pg.23)<br><br>D) Director's Report – Rich Francisco, Executive Director<br>(Attachment #7 – pg. 24-25) | Information |
| 10) | Public Comment  |             |
| 11) | Adjournment   | Action      |

**HEALTHWEST**

**FULL BOARD MINUTES**

**January 24, 2025**

**8:00 a.m.**

**376 E. Apple Ave.  
Muskegon, MI 49442**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Full Board was called to order by Chair Thomas at 8:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Janet Thomas, Cheryl Natte, Janice Hilleary, John M. Weerstra, Kim Cyr, Thomas Hardy, Charles Nash, Remington Sprague, M.D., Tamara Madison, Jeff Fortenbacher, Chris McGuigan

Members Absent: Mary Vazquez

Others Present: Rich Francisco, Holly Brink, Gina Maniaci, Kristi Chittenden, Christy LaDronka, Carly Hysell, Gordon Peterman, Amber Berndt, Tasha Kuklewski, Gary Ridley, Linda Wagner, Latesha Johnson, Morgan Larabee, Sandy Kotecki, Rebecca Bolli, Kristian Kortman, Gina Schaner, Brittani Duff, Dee Greene, Kayla King, Kris Redman, Stephanie Baskin, Melina Barrett, Chelsea Kirksey, Helen Dobb, Greg Moss, Laura Nowak, Kim Huey, Kara Jaekel, Charman Russ, Kelly Betts, Allison Antcliff, Jackie Farrar, Kim Davis, Pacia Savage, Jason Bates, Amanda Florez, Suzanne Beckeman, Stephanie VanDerKooi, Mickey Wallace, Madison Rosel, Brandon Baskin, Rebecca St. Clair, Becky Jo Charron, Briana Davis, Autumn Smith, Anissa Goodno, Ann Gatt, Kaitlin Shaffer, Laurie Johnson

Guests Present: Angie Gasiewski, Kristen Wade, Kwame James

**MINUTES**

HWB 38-B - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Fortenbacher, to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2024 Full Board meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 39-B - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2024 Finance Committee meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

HWB 40-B – It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve expenditures for the month of November 2024, in the total amount of \$7,948,160.71.

**MOTION CARRIED**

***Monthly Report from the Chief Financial Officer***

Ms. Hysell, Director of Finance, presented the November report, noting an overall cash balance of \$9,391,936.14 as of November 30, 2024.

***Finance Update Memorandum***

Ms. Hysell, Director of Finance, presented the Finance Update Memorandum for the Board review.

HWB 41-B – It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Capadagli Jackson Consulting

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 42-B – It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Hilleary, to approve the HealthWest pay grades and classifications in the final Wage Study Compensation recommendations, effective January 1, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 43-B – It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Natte, to approve the modification to the Salary Slotting for the HealthWest Executive Director, to HealthWest Wage Scale Level 25, Step 6, effective January 1, 2025.

Motion was amended as approval of County Commissioner Board approval is not required.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**COMMUNICATION**

There was no communication.

**DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Francisco, Executive Director, presented his Formal Director's report.

**MDHHS Updates:**

- MDHHS Contract with the LRE: From a previous Ops meeting at the LRE on 1/15/2024 there was going to be further discussion and analysis on whether the

LRE should join the legal action by other PIHP partners, unfortunately due to bad weather, the LRE cancelled their meeting this past Wednesday 1/22/2025.

Therefore, this discussion will likely happen next week now. Region 3 as a reminder, is the only PIHP left that has signed the PIHP/MDHHS with alternative language related to ISF funding, CCBHC and Waskul settlement language.

Regions 2 and 10 have now filed lawsuits against MDHHS related to this.

### **Lakeshore Regional Entity updates:**

- HW is now considering taking over the SUD Prevention Grant given to our Muskegon County Public Health Department. On 1/17/2025, Kathy Moore from Public Health sent an email response to the LRE after the LRE served the Public Health department with a “Notice of Termination Agreement,” regarding Public Health’s management of the SUD prevention grant. I have already had a discussion with Kathy Moore, and she agrees that this change is needed. There is a great opportunity here for HW to be able to monitor both the SUD Prevention Program and Intervention/Treatment Programs since HW already does the latter well. HW will be working with both the LRE and MCPH to transition prevention programs over to HW. We have had internal meetings at HW to develop a plan to accept this grant and what this would look like.

### **CMH level:**

- Samaritas Transition to new provider: We continue to keep in contact with Samaritas/Moka with the transition of home over to Moka. There are ongoing renovations currently at the homes to address minor work to the homes to get them ready and updated.
- CSU Project: CSU whitepaper has been completed (thanks to Gary Ridley for compiling the data and findings). If the board would like to see this report, we can provide that for the board and present it next month. We are hoping to present the CSU white paper to the legislative delegation meeting towards the end of January at the County.
- I would like to give a “Shout out” to Gary Ridley and Communications team for getting 100% on their grievance audit results. They got 100%.
- HW will be assisting the County in developing a plan for KATA framework (process improvement) to be rolled out in the County. We will also be extending our training to County staff as well. Pam Kimble (Quality Improvement Director) and I will be presenting the KATA framework at the next County Director’s meeting.
- Several leadership team members attended the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) training with the County. I attended with Gary Ridley and Kristi Chittenden to be trained in EOC formation and development training. As a mental health provider in Muskegon, it is essential for HW to know how we would participate in a larger Emergency situation, partner with the County, especially the EOC department and our partners in the community to coordinate response.

- The CMHA Winter conference is Feb. 3 to Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. Please let Holly know if you are interested in attending. I believe it is in Kalamazoo. This is a great way to learn about the public mental health system in Michigan as well as see upcoming changes to the public mental health system as whole in Michigan.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Kwame James shared the importance of taking care of our people and the real value all we interact with and putting people first.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully,

Janet Thomas  
Board Chair  
/hb

**PRELIMINARY MINUTES  
To be approved at the Full Board Meeting on  
February 28, 2025**

**HEALTHWEST**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE BOARD**  
**via Jeff Fortenbacher, Committee Chair**

1. The Finance Committee met on February 21, 2025.
- \* 2. It was recommended, and I move to approve expenditures for the month of December 2024, in the total amount of \$9,682,990.07
- \* 3. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to approve the above landlords for the HUD grant funding for Fiscal Year 2025, at a cost not to exceed the HUD approved dollars of \$333,453.
- \* 4. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Lakeshore Regional Entity to provide substance abuse and gambling prevention services in Muskegon County effective March 1, 2025.
- \* 5. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to continue contract with the Roslund Prestage & Company P.C. at a cost not to exceed \$45,000.00 for the fiscal year 2025.
- \* 6. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Jill Ann Montgomery Keast, dba Coaction360, with a total not to exceed \$43,400.00 effective March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025.
- \* 7. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Shane Morr, with a total not to exceed \$64,000.00 effective March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025.
- \* 8. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Soul Spring LLC effective March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, to provide specialized residential services to eligible HealthWest consumers. The funding is within the HealthWest AFC Specialized Residential Budget of \$19,405,100.00.
- \* 9. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Gage Consulting for Challenging Behaviors for the period of March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025 to behavior support services for eligible HealthWest consumers. The funding is within the approved Outpatient Services budget of \$4,711,620.00
- \* 10. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Lakeshore Care Corp. effective March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025, to provide specialized residential services to eligible HealthWest consumers. The funding is within the HealthWest AFC Specialized Residential Budget of \$19,405,100.00
- \* 11. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with LMA Homes LLC effective March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025, to provide specialized residential services to eligible HealthWest consumers. The Funding is within the HealthWest AFC Specialized Residential Budget of \$19,405,100.00.

## HEALTHWEST

### FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**February 21, 2025**  
**8:00 a.m.**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Fortenbacher at 8:00a.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Committee Members Present: | Jeff Fortenbacher, Janet Thomas, Thomas Hardy, Remington Sprague, M.D., John M. Weerstra  |
| Committee Members Absent:  | Commissioner Charles Nash   |
| Also Present:              | Rich Francisco, Holly Brink, Gina Maniaci, Brandy Carlson, Christy LaDronka, Melina Barrett, Kristi Chittenden, Gina Kim, Anissa Goodno, Brandon Baskin, Gordon Peterman, Jackie Farrar, Chris Yeager, Jennifer Stewart, Helen Dobb, Linda Anthony, Carly Hysell, Tasha Kuklewski, Stephanie Baskin, Rebecca Bolli, Brittani Duff, Gary Ridley, Mickey Wallace, Mary McGhee |
| Guests Present:            | Angela Gasiewski, Carson Lehigh   |

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **A. Approval of Expenditures for December 2024**

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve expenditures for the month of December 2024, in the total amount of \$9,682,990.07.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **B. Monthly Report from the Chief Financial Officer**

Ms. Carlson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the December report, noting an overall cash balance of \$8,742,942.55 as of December 31, 2024.

#### **C. Finance Update Memorandum**

Ms. Carlson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Finance Update Memorandum for the Board review.

#### **D. Authorization to Approve HUD Program Lease Payments**

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to authorize the HealthWest Executive Director to approve the above landlords for the HUD grant funding for Fiscal Year 2025, at a cost not to exceed the HUD approved dollars of \$333,453.

**MOTION CARRIED**

E. Authorization to Accept Funding from LRE

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to authorize the HealthWest Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Lakeshore Regional Entity to provide substance abuse and gambling prevention services in Muskegon County effective March 1, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

F. Authorization to Contract with Roslund Prestage & Company, P.C.

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to authorize the HealthWest Executive Director to continue contract with the Roslund Prestage & Company P.C. at a cost not to exceed \$45,000.00 for the fiscal year 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

G. Authorization to Contract with Jill Ann Montgomery Keast

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Jill Ann Montgomery Keast, dba Coaction360, with a total not to exceed \$43,400.00 effective March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

H. Authorization to Approve Contract with Shane Morr, LMFT

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Shane Morr, with a total not to exceed \$64,000.00 effective March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

I. Authorization to Approve Contract with Soul Spring LLC

It was moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Hardy, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Soul Spring LLC effective March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, to provide specialized residential services to eligible HealthWest consumers. The funding is within the HealthWest AFC Specialized Residential Budget of \$19,405,100.00.

**MOTION CARRIED**

J. Authorization to Approve Contract with Gage Consulting for Challenging Behaviors, LLC

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Gage Consulting for Challenging Behaviors for the period of March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025 to behavior support services for eligible HealthWest consumers. The funding is within the approved Outpatient Services budget of \$4,711,620.00

**MOTION CARRIED**

K. Authorization to Approve Contract with Lakeshore Care Corp.

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract with Lakeshore Care Corp. effective March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025, to provide specialized residential services to eligible HealthWest consumers. The funding is within the HealthWest AFC Specialized Residential Budget of \$19,405,100.00

**MOTION CARRIED**

L. Authorization to Approve Contract with LMA Homes LLC

It was moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Hardy, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract LMA Homes LLC effective March 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025, to provide specialized residential services to eligible HealthWest consumers. The Funding is within the HealthWest AFC Specialized Residential Budget of \$19,405,100.00.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

There was no communication.

**DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

**Rich Francisco, Executive Director**

- MDHHS: Various CMHSP directors and PIHP directors attended a presentation from MDHHS regarding the development and the design of the Michigan Mental Health Framework (MHF). Kristen Morningstar presented the framework and its root in MiHealthLife Initiative. She presented the goals of the MHF to address gaps in Care Coordination, Misaligned Financial Incentive, and Ambiguity in Payer Responsibility. I will be forwarding the slide deck to the board of directors as soon as I get them. However, I want to highlight the significant concerns brought up by CMHSP directors, primarily the lack of detail surrounding how these policy goals will be implemented. The biggest concern is the idea that MHPs (Medicaid Health Plans) will take over the management and authorization of inpatient admission which is currently the role of the CMHSPs. Kristen Morningstar did state that all of this was in the initial design phase, but a date of 10/01/2025 for implementation was shared which created more confusion. CMHSP directors asked several questions, and Kristen Morningstar did not have any detailed answers at this time to provide. I will keep you updated on this and will send out the slide deck once available to me.

- LRE update: Mary Dumas was given authority at a special meeting of the LRE board on this point to work with Taft law to proceed with a lawsuit February 6<sup>th</sup> related to Cost Settlement issues (for past years) with MDHHS if needed. MDHHS sent a memo to the LRE intending to withhold \$13.7M from the LRE. MDHHS has already held a payment from the LRE in the amount of \$4.8M which is being held in an escrow per MDHHS. Mary Dumas also stated that the AG is now involved in the discussion after Taft law made the AG's office aware of the situation. The AG would like to review the information provided by the LRE further. MDHHS is now stating that they would hold on taking the next withhold payment to the LRE.
- Shoutout: I would like to give a shout out to Linda Anthony and the HW staff that have fulfilled the plan of corrections for our CCBHC Certification. HW was given 6 months to address two items in the CCBHC criteria requirement. One was to for our DCO to complete and demonstrate full fidelity with DBT (Dialectic Behavior Treatment) EBP and the other was to complete training related to the treatment of our older adult population.
- As mentioned in one of the motions, we have received formal notice from the LRE that HW will be awarded the SUD Prevention Grant dollars, moving it from Public Health to HW. We have a lot of work to do in this area and transition meetings are already happening between LRE, HW and Public Health staff. I wanted to inform the board that there may be some organizational changes as we take on more responsibility around SUD and prevention. I may be coming to the board for approval to staff this new program and recommend internal changes to positions if needed. At this point, we are in the transition phase, but HW will land on a more solid structure.
- Wage Study: HW staff have been receiving information related to the wage study in the newsletter and in various emails. The most recent communication was via email 2 days ago outlining the appeals process. The timeline for all appeals to be in is March 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no audience participation.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 a.m.

Respectfully,

Jeff Fortenbacher  
Committee Chair

/hb

**PRELIMINARY MINUTES**  
**To be approved at the Finance Meeting on**  
**March 21, 2025**

## REQUEST FOR HEALTHWEST BOARD CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION

| COMMITTEE                             | BUDGETED                          | NON BUDGETED | PARTIALLY BUDGETED  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Full Board                            | X                                 |              |   |
| REQUESTING DIVISION<br>Administration | REQUEST DATE<br>February 28, 2025 |              | REQUESTOR SIGNATURE<br>Kelly Betts, Customer Service Specialist |

### SUMMARY OF REQUEST (GENERAL DESCRIPTION, FINANCING, OTHER OPERATIONAL IMPACT, POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES)

HealthWest Board authorization is requested to approve the changes to the HealthWest Consumer Advisory Committee members as suggested below.

Per Policy: 01-007, the Consumer Advisory Committee shall consist of nine (9) to twelve (12) members defined as follows:

1. Inaugural Persons shall be appointed to the CAC by HealthWest Board. Subsequent **CAC Members shall be recommended by the CAC and appointed by the HealthWest Board.**
2. A person who resides or is employed within Muskegon County.
3. A person who shall have the interest, time, and energy to promote the development and/or improvement of mental health, developmental disability, and substance abuse services in Muskegon County.
4. The CAC shall make every effort to ensure that its membership represents the populations served by HealthWest in equal proportions.

**The Consumer Advisory Committee Facilitators would like to have the following members appointed to the Consumer Advisory Committee:**

1. Shawnee Tate – Primary

**The Consumer Advisory Committee Facilitators would like to have the following members removed from the Consumer Advisory Committee:**

1. Cherry Fouty - Primary
2. Emily Ratledge - Primary

Per Policy: 01-007, the Consumer Advisory Committee Terms:

1. Three (3) unexcused absences in a calendar year will result in termination of membership from the CAC.

### SUGGESTED MOTION (STATE EXACTLY AS IT SHOULD APPEAR IN THE MINUTES)

I move to authorize and approve the changes to the HealthWest Consumer Advisory Committee members, effective March 1, 2025.

|                          |   |  |  |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| COMMITTEE DATE           | COMMITTEE APPROVAL<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other |  |  |
| BOARD DATE<br>02/28/2025 | BOARD APPROVAL<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other     |  |  |



**The goal is to turn data into information,  
and information into insight. – Carly Fiorina**



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## About the presenter...

**Natalie Walther**

Director of Data Architecture and Data Analytics

Worked for Muskegon County in I.T. and Data at both HealthWest and the County since 1994.

Masters Degree from Ferris State University in Information Systems Management with an additional Graduate Certificate in Business Intelligence

Passion for solving problems, continuous learning and teaching.

In spare time, love to watch and participate in sports. Tennis, SUP, hike, & cross-country ski.



## Introducing The Data Center Launch Team ...

- The Data Analytics Team
  - Ben Burkholder
  - Dave Eder
  - Michael Raaymakers
  - Lisa Vanderlee
  - Natalie Walther
- The I.T. Team:
  - Nate Kennert
  - Chris Yeager
- Community Relations
  - Chelsea Kirksey (now in HR)
  - Gary Ridley

*“Great things in business are never done by one person; they’re done by a team of people.”*  
– Steve Jobs

## What is the Data Center?



The Data Center is a section within our HealthWest Intranet (The Compass), dedicated to all things data in one central location.

The Data Center was launched in February 2024. It is maintained by Data Analytics and I.T.

The goal of the Data Center is to:

1. Enable decisions to be made based on data
2. Enable staff to learn and become comfortable using data
3. Provide one easily accessible spot for all things data

## Who uses the Data Center?

- Clinical Staff
- Integrated Health
- Utilization Management
- Quality Assurance
- Finance
- Committees
- Supervisors & Managers
- Leadership Team
- Executive Team

## For What Purposes Do People use the Data Center?

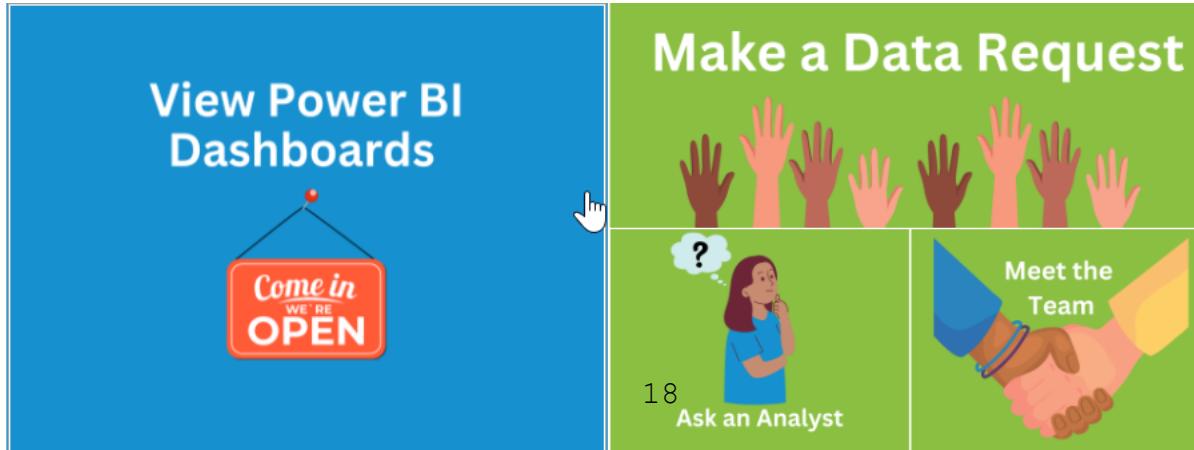
- Monitor Clinical Fidelity & Outcomes (ACT Fidelity & Front Door Outcomes)
- Assist with financial data monitoring (Encounter reconciliation)
- Ensure data completeness and integrity (Missing PCP)
- Aid mandatory reporting to the LRE, the State and grants (CCBHC-IA grant)
- Support KATA projects for quality improvement (CCBHC Encounters)
- To make decisions based on data (Caseload)
- To explore and analyze data (all dashboards allow interaction with the data)
- To request data (Data Request Form)



## Data Center Sections

The Data Center contains

1. Interactive Power BI Dashboards (currently over 100)
2. A Data Request Form
3. Ask an Analyst
4. A Learning Center
5. Success Stories
6. Weekly Data Challenge



## Live Data Center Demo

## Live Dashboard Demos

High Level of Care (HLOC)  
CCBHC Daily Visits

Thank You

**Thank you for the opportunity to  
present today.**

**Are there any questions?**

**Natalie.Walther@healthwest.net**





## Consumer Advisory Committee Update:

*The Consumer Advisory Committee met on February 12th –*

### **4 Motions to the Board of Directors:**

- Consumer Advisory Committee members have made a motion to the Board of have Shawnee Tate appointed as a member of the Consumer Advisory Committee.
- Consumer Advisory Committee members have made a motion to the Board of Directors to have Cherry Fouty terminated due to three unexcused absences in a calendar year.
- Consumer Advisory Committee members have made the motion to the Board of Directors to have Emily Ratledge removed at her request due.
- Consumer Advisory Committee members have made the motion to the Board of Directors to appoint the new Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary and Sargent at Arms to begin at the April 2025 Consumer Advisory Meeting.
  - Chair – Thomas Hardy (Cowboy)
  - Co-Chair- Demario Phillips
  - Secretary- Tamara Madison
  - Sargent At Arms – Angela Kartes

### **Meeting Updates:**

- With the above motions, the Consumer Advisory Committee will have 9 active members. 1 secondary consumer member, 3 community members, 5 primary consumer members. Policy states to have between 9-11 members.
- Gary Ridley facilitated a discussion on improving the front lobby experience. The consumer Advisory committee members offered suggestions and insight. Gary will take this information to inform the group discussing the front lobby concerns. Some suggestions and comments that were identified: Seating arrangement, new seating, location of security staff, shatter proof glass, hygiene concerns with individuals, motivational signs throughout the agency, music (pro's and con's).
- Gary Ridley facilitated a discussion on the possible pending cuts to Medicaid. Gary talked about the PR campaign that the communications team is working on. This will include highlighting the benefits that HealthWest brings to Muskegon as well as interviews with individuals who live/work in the community.
- Consumer Advisory Committee reviewed the Rising Star's Ceremony that was held in November. Positive reviews. Next ceremony is planned for March 11 at 6pm in the Board Rooms. This event is open to everyone.
- Homelessness Presentation was moved to the April meeting due to time constraints.



## **HealthWest Employee Recognition / Feedback from Consumers:**

### **Customer Service received a phone call 1/24**

*“Amy is amazing. She listens, pays attention, and makes a person feel like they actually matter. Amy can help you make it through a hard dark hole. She is the only person at HealthWest that has made me feel like I matter.” “I am so proud of her for advancing to a supervisor, it is hard on us, but I am so proud”.*

***Keep up the GREAT work Amy Adamo!!!!***



## MEMORANDUM

Date: February 28, 2025

To: HealthWest Board of Directors

CC: Mark Eisenbarth, Muskegon County Administrator  
 Matt Farrar, Muskegon County Deputy Administrator  
 Angie Gasiewski, Muskegon County Accounting Director

From: Rich Francisco, Executive Director

Subject: **Director's Update**

### MDHHS Updates:

- MDHHS Contract with the LRE: Per the last board meeting on 2/26/2025 and update from Mary Dumas at the LRE, Region 3 is holding its position of not joining with the others who have now filed a lawsuit against MDHHS. Region 3/LRE does not expect to be treated differently from others that have filed a lawsuit or those that signed the MDHHS contract as is.
- Cost Settlement Issues with MDHHS: Mary Dumas gave another update on the status of the past liability issues with MDHHS and cost settling at the LRE board meeting on 2/26/2025. I provided an update to HW Finance committee last week which included MDHHS holding onto \$4.8M (held in escrow) of \$13.7M they would like to get back from the LRE. The LRE board gave authority to Mary in a special meeting on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, authorizing her to work with Taft Law, to file a lawsuit with MDHHS if needed. Mary has not proceeded yet with filing a lawsuit since the AG's has asked for time to review the issue with their client, MDHHS. Chris Ryan, from Taft law, drew attention to the issue with the AG's office and presented the LRE's case. Prior to this, the AG's office was not aware the MDHHS sent a memo stating they were going to hold payments from the LRE for that \$13.7M. I believe that at this point, MDHHS is not going to dock the LRE payments while this issue is being reviewed.
- Sharing a Medicaid bulletin (attached): The SSI asset limits are changing per MMP 25-07 which will impact eligibility for Medicaid program. Historically, the asset limits have been \$2000/individual and \$3000/couple. This asset limit will be increased to the higher MSP program asset limit of \$9660/individual and \$14,470/couple. I know that we have had clients that have struggled to stay below the \$2000 limit to retain Medicaid. I have asked Brandy to do an evaluation

of the impact this would have on some of our consumers but overall, this is a good and positive change.

**Lakeshore Regional Entity updates:**

- At the 2/26/2025 LRE board meeting, the LRE acknowledge and thanked HW Board of Directors for stepping up to take over the SUD prevention grant responsibilities. HW has been working internally to transition these duties over from public health and slowly assessing what it would take to manage these prevention dollars. HW is currently reviewing the amendments to SUD contracts to which will incorporate the SUD prevention grant amounts.
- LRE has had staffing and structure changes. Stephanie will oversee the Quality Improvement role as they look to fill a vacant position for Quality Improvement Director.
- The LRE also presented their Compliance Plan, UM Plan and Strategic Plan at the LRE board work session and LRE Board meeting on 2/26/2025.

**CMH level:**

- Samaritas Transition to new provider: There was another meeting with Samaritas/Moka and HW and the work continues to transition these over to MOKA. Two home renovations have been completed and the remaining three are in progress. These are not major renovations. Licensing transfer is also part of the transition and is being worked on.
- HW is also sharing information on our social media we receive from CMHA regarding advocacy work to preserve Medicaid. Our association is active in drawing attention to the importance of Medicaid for people and any cuts could negatively impact services for a lot of individuals and families. We are not the only agency doing this, FQHCs and other Medicaid providers are doing the same thing.
- The wage study appeal process is in place and the process for submitting an appeal is in place.

**Bulletin Number:** MMP 25-07

**Distribution:** Bridges Eligibility Manual Holders (BEM)

**Issued:** February 25, 2025

**Subject:** Asset Limits for Medicaid

**Effective:** February 1, 2025

**Programs Affected:** Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Related Medicaid Programs

**NOTE: Implementation of this policy is contingent upon approval of a State Plan Amendment (SPA) by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).**

The asset limit for most SSI-Related Medicaid programs will increase to match the asset limits for the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). As part of this change the asset limits will increase with the annual cost of living adjustments to the MSP asset limits.

The Medicaid program in Michigan is bifurcated into family related programs (the Modified Adjusted Gross Income [MAGI] programs), and the disability and aged related programs (SSI Related programs). The MAGI programs no longer have asset tests for eligibility and are not part of this policy change. The SSI related programs have continued to have asset tests since inception of the Medicaid program. With few exceptions the asset limit has historically been \$2000/individual and \$3000/couple. This policy change will increase the asset limits from \$2000/individual and \$3000/couple to the higher MSP program asset limits (currently \$9660/individual and \$14,470/couple). It will not change the treatment of assets in BEM 400. In BEM 400, the limits are increased as indicated but the countability of assets is unchanged.

The SSI-Related programs included in this bulletin are: BEM 154, Special Disabled Children; BEM 157, Early Widows(er)s; BEM 158, Disabled Adult Children (DAC); BEM 155, 503 Individuals; BEM 170, Home Care Children; BEM 171, Children's Waiver; BEM 172 Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) Waiver; BEM 163, Ad-Care; BEM 164, Extended Care; BEM 166 Group 2 Aged, Blind and Disabled; BEM 167 PACE program; BEM 106 MA Waiver for Elderly and Disabled (MI Choice Waiver); BEM 132, Group 2 Persons Under Age 21; BEM 135 Group 2 Caretaker Relatives.

**Note:** BEM 174, Freedom to Work (FTW), currently uses the higher asset limit for initial eligibility.

## Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information is incorporated into the Bridges Eligibility Manual.

## Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mailed to [ProviderSupport@michigan.gov](mailto:ProviderSupport@michigan.gov). When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, NPI number, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Typical Providers may phone toll-free 800-292-2550. Atypical Providers may phone toll-free 800-979-4662.

An electronic copy of this document is available at [www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders](http://www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders) >> Policy, Letters & Forms.

## Approved



Meghan E. Groen, Director  
Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration