

**HEALTHWEST**

**FULL BOARD MINUTES**

**September 19, 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 8:01 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Janet Thomas, Charles Nash, Cheryl Natte, Chris McGuigan, Janice Hilleary, Jeff Fortenbacher, Kim Cyr, Tamara Madison, Thomas Hardy

Members Absent: John M. Weerstra, Mary Vazquez, Remington Sprague, M.D.

Others Present: Rich Francisco, Holly Brink, Gina Maniaci, Brandy Carlson, Kristi Chittenden, Carly Hysell, Gordon Peterman, Amber Berndt, Gary Ridley, Jennifer Hoeker, Ann Gatt, Melina Barrett, Jackie Farrar, Kelly Betts, Helen Dobb, Shannon Morgan, Mickey Wallace, Kim Davis, Anissa Goodno

Guests Present: Angela Gasiewski

**MINUTES**

HWB 121-B - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Hilleary, to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2025 Full Board meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance Committee**

HWB 112-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2025, meeting as written

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 113-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve expenditures for the month of July 2025, in the total amount of \$8,327,423.44.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 114 -F -It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve acceptance of the attached grants and the requirements within, for a total of \$5,338,045 for Fiscal Year 2026.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 115-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the HealthWest Board of Directors to approve the FY25 contracted Vendors / Providers listed under the five funding sources. The total budget for the five funding services is \$50,852,923 effective September 19, 2025, through September 30, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 116-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve the HealthWest Board of Directors to approve the FY26 budget for the contracted Vendors / Providers listed under the five funding sources effective October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 117-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the HealthWest FY2026 Recommended Budget in the amount of \$114,363,368 for both revenues and expenditures.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 118-F - It was moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Hardy, to approve the HealthWest FY2025 Projected budget in the amount of \$110,832,720 for both revenues and expenditures.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 119-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign a contract between Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and HealthWest for Managed Mental Health Supports and Services for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 120-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the HealthWest Board of Directors to approve the Vendors listed on Attachment A and further authorize the payment of contracts.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

There was no items for consideration.

### **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:**

- PIHP Procurement: MDHHS released the FAQs on the RFP. There were over 365 questions but based on preliminary review, there were still very unclear answers. The application due date has now been pushed back to 10/13/2025. The 3 PIHPs and 3 CMHSP have not received official responses for those who have filed a lawsuit against MDHHS, and the RFP bid out. However, there is an LRE update to this covered in section: 4. LRE Executive Committee below.
  - The CMH CEOs in the region did have a meeting Tuesday 9/16 with Rehmann who is proposing a public/private partnership where Rehmann does the MCO function in contract with the newly formed Regional Entity. They are soliciting at least 2 CMHSPs from each region in the central region to start but only require minimum of two CHMSPs to form the Regional Entity. Allegan has expressed interest in potentially getting board approval to join Rehmann. There is just not enough time for HW to do this because the RFP application is due on 10/13. The County board is going to be October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 which does not give enough time to get resolutions in place to join.
  - Two of our partners in the region are also talking with Carelon (formerly Beacon Health Options bought out by Anthem) and looking at another option to have a private/public partnership model.
  - Midstate: Another strategy is also to create a regional entity that may only bid on a section or part of a region. There is question also if this would meet the parameters of the RFP. According to Midstate, if MDHHS does not accept it, they will file a lawsuit.
  - Region 10 is also another region considering a proposal to make a bid.
- Contracts and Finance Issues (CFI) Committee: I volunteered to be on this committee, and attended my first meeting with all other CMHSP members with CMHA. This is the platform where the contract elements with PIHP and MDHHS is discussed and pushed for negotiation. The meeting updates include discussion regarding MDHHS Procurement of PIHP and differences between the House budget and Senate expectations.

### **LRE Level Updates:**

- LRE shared their combined Financial Status reports this past week, Monday, and it is now showing that one of our partners will have an additional 4M deficit.
- LRE Executive Committee updates:
  - MDHS FY22 Cost settlement update. The LRE is still in the 21 days hold position of MDHHS not collecting/withholding payments. LRE counsel is open to questions if MDHHS would like clarification.

- Treasury Department update: Provider Tax and the incorrect tax the DTMB was told by MDHHS to collect which amounted to additional 915k by using the FY23 rates and not FY24 previous rate. MDHHS stated they would adjust the PIHP rates to make the PIHP whole and pay via the rates. LRE will have to review payments to ensure that the amount is 915k or close to it. The issue is that revenue for PIHP does not come in one payment but monthly, so we do not know if MDHHS will cover the full 915k payment by the end of the year.
- 4 PIHP lawsuit for FY2025 contract – no updates and still waiting on a ruling. The 2/3 elements for not signing were CCBHC language that was added (has now been removed) from the contract, the Waskul case which has been settled, and the other is the amount 7.5% cap to ISF (which may be a moot point because LRE has not come close to the cap because it constantly runs a deficit regionally.)
- PIHP Procurement – 3 PIHP/3 CMHSP lawsuit for preliminary injunction against the RFP. MDHHS had 10 days to respond and according to the LRE, Taft did contact the various PIHPs to see if they are willing to continue providing services after 10/1/2026. This being the reason the state is using it to try and stop the injunction. The LRE stated that PIHPs have done the work and still remain and are willing to do the work amidst the RFP release and so agreed to continue the work to provide services.
- From the LRE and the LRE Executive Committee, it does not make any sense for region 3 (LRE) to prepare to make a bid because it would not qualify based on the criteria of the RFP.
- FY2026 contract MDHHS/PIHP – the question of which PIHP is signing and who is not signing came up. LRE is still considering whether to sign FY2026 contract because two of the three reasons that LRE altered the language of the contract and signed have now been addressed. One was CCBHC language which has now been removed. The second was the Waskul case which is now settled. Lastly, the ISF 7.5% cap to the fund. The LRE has been running a deficit for the last couple of years and has not even been close to saving 7.5% for the ISF and so is not reason enough to not sign the new contract.

## **CMH Level Updates:**

- CCBHC Direct payment – HW continues to work on this change in payment system for CCBHCs. HW is preparing and ensuring we have all our processes ready to respond to the changes that MDHHS would like to have in place.
- HW completed the fourth general session this week on the HealthWest Way Customer Services Training. The last group will be next week. The next step, after training completion, is for the leadership team to develop the Customer Experience Team and work on the implementation plan, communication plan, and to ensure that we communicate the importance of this training for the entire agency. The goal is to incorporate the values and customer services code of conduct into our current culture.
- Various IT and Clinical staff are currently evaluating AI or Artificial Intelligence solutions. The need for clinical documentation and timely clinical documentation completion has increased and we are looking for ways to make this process more efficient and save time. Other behavioral health organizations have used AI for documentation, resulting in notable improvements and time savings in clinical documentation.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no audience participation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 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**  
**September 19, 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 A) Approval of the Full Board Minutes of August 22, 2025 (Attachment #1 – pg. 1-4)	Action
4)	Public Comment (on an agenda item)	
5)	Committee Reports A) Finance Committee (Attachment #2 – pg. 5-9)	Action
6)	Items for Consideration	
7)	Old Business	
8)	New Business	
9)	Communication A) CMHA Fall Conference (Attachment #3 – pg. 10-14)	Information
	B) October Meeting Notice (Attachment #4 – pg. 15)	Information
	C) Director's Report (Attachment #5 – pg. 16-17)	Information
10)	Public Comment	
11)	Adjournment	Action

/hb

**HEALTHWEST**  
**FULL BOARD MINUTES**

**August 22, 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, Charles Nash, Cheryl Natte, Chris McGuigan, Janice Hilleary, Jeff Fortenbacher, John M. Weerstra, Kim Cyr, Mary Vazquez, Remington Sprague, M.D., Tamara Madison, Thomas Hardy

Others Present: Rich Francisco, Holly Brink, Gina Maniaci, Kristi Chittenden, Christy LaDronka, Carly Hysell, Gordon Peterman, Amber Berndt, Gary Ridley, Jennifer Hoeker, Linda Wagner, Brittani Duff, Ann Gatt, Melina Barrett, Jackie Farrar, Linda Anthony, Tasha Kuklewski, Kelly Betts, Helen Dobb, Stephanie Vanderkooi, Pam Kimble, Gina Kim, Shannon Morgan, Mickey Wallace, Kim Davis

Guests Present: Mark Eisenbarth

**MINUTES**

HWB 109-B - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2025 Full Board meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Program Personnel Committee**

HWB 102-P - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2025 meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Recipient Rights Committee**

HWB 103-R - It was moved by Ms. Natte, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2025 meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 104-R - It was moved by Mr. Weerstra, seconded by Ms. Natte to approve the Recipient Rights Reports for June 2025 / July 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Finance Committee**

HWB 105-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve expenditures for the month of June 2025, in the total amount of \$9,029,218.93.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 106 -F -It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve contract with Mission Ambition, LLC for 5 (five)years Fiscal Year 2026 – Fiscal Year 2030 at an amount not to exceed \$30,000 a year. Contingent upon approval to amended request in December 2025 of funding increase at the amount not to exceed \$300,000 over the five-year term without prior approval.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 107-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve the MDHHS Peer Recovery Coach Retention Bonus 2025 grant in the amount of \$8,000 and pay a one-time retention bonus to the Peer Recovery Coaches per the grant requirements before September 30, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 108-F - It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign an Interagency Cash Transfer Agreement with Michigan Rehabilitation Services, effective October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, with a projected expenditure not to exceed \$69,200.00

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

HWB 110-B – It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve HealthWest to participate in the CMHA Special Assessment, in the amount of \$23,363.00, to be paid to the Community Mental Health Association.

**MOTION CARRIED**

HWB 111-B – It was moved by Ms. Natte, seconded by Dr. Sprague, to approve the changes to the HealthWest Consumer Advisory Committee members, effective August 22, 2025.

**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:**

- Following up on PIHP Re-BID: MDHHS has released the RFP on the Sigma site and CMHA has hosted meetings to address the current threat of privatization. CMHA and its members all agree that trying to stop the RFP from happening is the first goal. In the second meeting with CMHA, Greg Moore from Taft law and Neil Marchand from Miller Johnson were both present to talk about the approach. Greg Moore will be representing the PIHP side, and their position and Neil Marchand will be representing the CMHSP side. These efforts will be coordinated. The goal is to have a PIHP and a CMHSP file a lawsuit initially and increase effort if needed. The initial goal is to get an injunction by filing the lawsuit. I can work on an approval motion for the board to sign if the board wishes for HW to participate in the lawsuit.
- PIHP Procurement – there are agencies that are preparing if the RFP goes through. This would allow them to make a bid to be the contractor for the central region. I have shared those options before. One is the formation of a RE (regional entity) that will work with the current 5 PIHPs to make a bid for the RFP utilizing the Urban Cooperation Act (UCA). Another is to have the 44 CMHSP band together to form an RE also using the UCA. Lastly, the option proposed by Rehmann as a public/private partnership – where in the public formation of RE would contract with Rehmann to do the MCO functions of the RE.
- CMHA proposed alternative future design of the current system, a redesign in lieu of the RFP. The concern that has been brought up with this is that this seems to conflict with the initial strategy of trying to defeat the RFP, but at the same time supports a redesign of the system.

### **LRE Level Updates:**

- PIHP FY22 Cost settlement for past years. No new update on this currently. The background is earlier this year, the LRE received a memo indicating that MDHHS is owed \$13.7M and withheld \$4.8 million (in escrow) in LRE revenues. The LRE continues to collaborate with their legal team on this.
- LRE is also collaborating with a consultant (Edgewater Consulting) to review the Specialized Residential rates and has completed phase 1 of the work. This

involved the gathering of various rates from service claims and doing an initial evaluation of how the various CMHSP approve placement in specialized residential settings. CMHSPs has agreed to continue with the work and the LRE will work with making recommendations to get our rates closer.

- Insurance Provider Assessment (IPA). LRE is continuing to work on this issue with the Provider tax. LRE updated the region that the Dept. of Treasury sent the FY2025 tax bill based on FY23 and not FY24 revenues resulting in \$1M more to the tax bill. According to the LRE they have questioned MDHHS on how they will make the PIHP whole the increased amount they are asking of the CMHSPs.

#### **CMH Level Updates:**

- CCBHC Direct payment – HW continues to work on this change in payment system for CCBHCs. HW is preparing and ensuring we have all our processes ready to respond to the changes that MDHHS would like to have in place.
- HW completed the first general session this week on the Disney way customer services training. There were about eighty-five staff that attended. The feedback was positive from the staff that I have talked to so far and some even stated that it was much needed. I want to thank the leadership team and Mary McGhee for being our customer services champion. Our goal is to renew and increase greater emphasis on how we serve our customers.
- I would also like to thank the Customer Services team (Gary and his team) and the many volunteers that participated in the Health, Wellness and Recovery Picnic last Thursday 8/14. The event had record attendees and vendors this year and was a huge success.
- AI or Artificial Intelligence solutions are currently being reviewed at HW for the Electronic Medical record we call Latitude43. We have evaluated Elios product, and we are now going to have a demo of another solution called Clinically AI. The goal is using AI to be more efficient in documentation of progress notes. Most AI solutions with healthcare are claiming that clinicians can save as much as 15 to 20 minutes in clinical documentation which really improves efficiency.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no audience participation.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 a.m.

Respectfully,

Janet Thomas  
Board Chair  
/hb

**PRELIMINARY MINUTES  
To be approved at the Full Board Meeting on  
September 19, 2025**

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

1. The Finance Committee met on September 12, 2025.
- \*2. It was recommended, and I move to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2025 meeting as written.
- \*3. It was recommended, and I move to approve to approve expenditures for the month of July 2025, in the total amount of \$8,327,423.44.
- \*4. It was recommended, and I move to approve acceptance of the attached grants and the requirements withing, for a total of \$5,338.045 for Fiscal Year 2026.
- \*5. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest Board of Directors to approve the FY25 contracted Vendors/Providers listed under the five funding sources. The total budget for the five funding services is \$50,852,923 effective September 19, 2025, through September 30, 2025.
- \*6. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest Board of Directors to approve the FY26 budget for the contracted Vendors/Providers listed under the five funding sources effective October 1, 2025. The total budget for the five funding services is \$51,008,811. The agreements are dated October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027.
- \*7. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest FY2026 Recommended Budget in the amount of \$114,363,368 for both revenues and expenditures.
- \*8. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest FY2025 Projected Budget in the amount of \$110,832,720 for both revenues and expenditures.
- \*9. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign the contract between Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and HealthWest for Managed Mental Health Supports and Services for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.
- \*10. It was recommended, and I move to approve the HealthWest Board of Directors to approve the Vendors listed on Attachment A and further authorize the payment of the contracts.

/hb

## HEALTHWEST

### FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**September 12, 2025**  
**8:00 a.m.**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Fortenbacher at 8:01 a.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Committee Members Present: Jeff Fortenbacher, Janet Thomas, Thomas Hardy, John M. Weerstra  
Committee Members Absent: Charles Nash, Remington Sprague, M.D.  
Also Present: Rich Francisco, Holly Brink, Gina Manaici, Brandy Carlson, Christy LaDronka, Kristi Chittenden, Amber Berndt, Gary Ridley, Helen Dobb, Gina Kim, Gordon Peterman, Jason Bates, Linda Wagoner, Linda Anthony, Melina Barrett, Mickey Wallace  
Guests Present: Matt Farrar

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2025, meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**B. Approval of Expenditures for July 2025**

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve expenditures for the month of July 2025, in the total amount of \$8,327,423.44.

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

Ms. Carlson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the July report, noting an overall cash balance of \$5,203,371.57 as of July 31, 2025.

**D. Finance Update Memorandum**

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

**E. Approval of Grant Funded Agreement**

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve acceptance of the attached grants and the requirements withing, for a total of \$5,338.045 for Fiscal Year 2026.

**MOTION CARRIED**

F. Approval to Increase FY25 Five Funding Sources

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the HealthWest Board of Directors to approve the FY25 contracted Vendors/Providers listed under the five funding sources. The total budget for the five funding services is \$50,852,923 effective September 19, 2025, through September 30, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

G. Approval to Increase FY26 Five Funding Sources

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Weerstra, to approve the HealthWest Board of Directors to approve the FY26 budget for the contracted Vendors/Providers listed under the five funding sources effective October 1, 2025. The total budget for the five funding services is \$51,008,811. The agreements are dated October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027.

**MOTION CARRIED**

H. Approval to FY26 Recommended Budget for Revenue and Expenditures

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the HealthWest FY2026 Recommended Budget in the amount of \$114,363,368 for both revenues and expenditures.

**MOTION CARRIED**

I. Approval to FY25 Projected Budget for Revenue and Expenditures

It was moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Hardy, to approve the HealthWest FY2025 Projected Budget in the amount of \$110,832,720 for both revenues and expenditures.

**MOTION CARRIED**

J. Approval to Contract with MDHHS

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the HealthWest Executive Director to sign the contract between Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and HealthWest for Managed Mental Health Supports and Services for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.

**MOTION CARRIED**

K. Approval to FY26 Vendors / Providers

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the HealthWest Board of Directors to approve the Vendors listed on Attachment A and further authorize the payment of the contracts.

**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 provided an update:**

- **PIHP Procurement** – I provided an update last month on the PIHP procurement, and since that time, there have been a few updates. The most significant update is that three PIHPs and three CMHSPs within those PIHPs have now filed a lawsuit with MDHHS. They are Midstate Health Network, SWMBH, and Region 10. The CMHSPs are Integrated Health of Kalamazoo, St. Clair County CMH, and Saginaw County CMH. I believe this occurred on 9/1/2025. The PIHPs and the CMHSPs are seeking an injunction to halt the PIHP. The hearing for this lawsuit is scheduled for 9/16/2025.
  - [Legal News > Your source for information behind the law](#)
    - a. I have also reached out to various CEOs from other regions, and it seems that most CMHSPs are aligned with CMHA's strategy to halt the RFP. Various CMHSPs are also preparing alternative plans in case procurement goes through. I have heard from the LRE at the Ops meeting this week, that during N180's CMH board meeting this past Monday, West Michigan, N180, and Genesee County are going to work with Carelon (formerly Beacon Health Options, which was purchased by Anthem) to draft a proposal bid for the RFP. The CEOs from these CMHSPs could not comment because they are under an NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement).
    - b. Another strategy being considered is that Midstate is also preparing a plan to bid for the central region or a portion of it. According to Alan Bolter, who presented on the PIHP procurement, there is an update that MDHHS may be considering more than one PIHP per geographic region. For example, the central region could have more than one regional entity. This may mean that CMHSPs would have to contract with more than one regional entity, which would add additional layers of administration.
  - At the director's forum held on September 2 & 3, the discussion surrounding the CCBHC direct payment came up. Some PIHPs, such as Macomb and Oakland, are against this because they have CCBHCs that are not CMHSPs. If the state pays them directly and bypasses the CMHSPs in terms of payment, the PIHP essentially loses that CCBHC funding, which in a way privatizes the system because it takes funds from capitation and gives them to a private CCBHC.
  - HealthWest continues to educate staff on CMH Finance 101. Brandy and Kristi have formalized training that they will be delivering to HealthWest teams to foster staff understanding of how CMH finance works. The goal is to cover material that speaks to each department's budget and to get the cost per unit of service data out. The goal is to educate staff to make better decisions when it comes to their respective budgets and to define outcome measures based on the cost per unit of service that their respective teams deliver.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no audience participation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 a.m.

Respectfully,

Jeff Fortenbacher  
Committee Chair

/hb

**PRELIMINARY MINUTES**  
**To be approved at the Finance Meeting on**  
**October 17, 2025**



Community Mental Health Association of Michigan

# Annual Fall Conference

October 27-28, 2025

Grand Traverse Resort  
Traverse City, Michigan

*Shaping the Future*



# Conference Registration

## REGISTRATION FEES (per person)

Conference registration fee provides you with a program packet, admission to all keynote sessions, all workshops, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and all breaks.

	Member Early Bird	Member After 10/17/25	Non-Member Early Bird	Non-Member After 10/17/25
<b>Full Conference</b>	<b>\$442</b>	<b>\$482</b>	<b>\$524</b>	<b>\$573</b>
<b>One Day</b>	<b>\$347</b>	<b>\$387</b>	<b>\$411</b>	<b>\$459</b>

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

A limited number of scholarships are available to individuals who receive services and their families.

Conference scholarships will cover conference registration fees only.

Consumers who serve as CMH board members are not eligible.

Deadline to request scholarship: Friday, October 17, 2025.

To request a scholarship form, contact Sarah Botruff at [sbotruff@cmham.org](mailto:sbotruff@cmham.org) or 517-237-3143.

## EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025

## PAYMENT METHODS AND CANCELLATION POLICY

- Payment will be required prior to attendance.
- Payment methods are available in advance and onsite: credit card, check or exact cash.
- If payment has not been received, fees will be collected at registration the day of the event unless alternate arrangements are pre-approved by CMHA.
- Purchase orders are not considered payment.
- All no-shows will be billed the full amount.

**To Pay By Check:** Make payable to CMHA and mail to 507 S. Grand Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

**Cancellation Policy:** Substitutions are permitted at any time. No-shows will be billed at the full training rate. Cancellations must be received in writing **BEFORE MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025**, for a full refund less a \$25 administrative fee. If cancellation is on October 13, 2025, or after, no refund will be given.

**Evaluation:** There will be an opportunity for each participant to complete an evaluation of the course and the instructor. If you have any issues with the way in which this conference was conducted or other problems, you may note that on your evaluation of the conference or you may contact CMHA at 517-374-6848 or through our website at [CMHAM](http://CMHAM) for resolution.

**CLICK TO REGISTER FOR  
THE FALL CONFERENCE!**

# Hotel Information & Reservations

## Grand Traverse Resort

**100 Grand Traverse Village Boulevard, Acme, MI 49610-0404**

**2025 Room Rates:** Rates below do not include 6% state tax, 5% city assessment, or \$20.95 nightly resort fee.

Room Type	Rate	Room Type	Rate
Hotel Guest room	<b>\$146</b>	Tower Guest Room	<b>\$166</b>
Studio Condo	<b>\$146</b>	1 Bedroom Condo	<b>\$181</b>
2 Bedroom Condo	<b>\$211</b>	3 Bedroom Condo	<b>\$251</b>

### Guarantee Policy:

A one-night deposit or half your package total required. **Credit cards or debit cards used to confirm your reservation must be presented by the card holder at check-in, otherwise a credit card authorization is required.** Deposit does NOT include taxes or resort fee.

**Online Hotel Reservations:** [\*\*CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR ROOM!\*\*](#)

**Or for reservations by phone (800) 236-1577 and indicate code: MHB2025**

**Deadline for Reduced Hotel Rate: Friday, September 25, 2025.**

### Hotel Cancellation Deadline & Policy:

72 hours' notice required for cancellations for a refund less a \$25 processing fee.

**Check in: 4pm**

**Check out: 11am**

### Early Check-in Fee (based on availability):

There is an early check-in fee of \$35 for any guest checking in between 10am - 1pm.

There is an early check-in fee of \$60 for any guest checking in before 10am.

Early check-in after 1pm is complimentary.

### Resort Amenities and Updated Hours:

The hotel may be experiencing staffing issues. We appreciate your understanding and courtesy to those working hard at the Resort to ensure our conference is a success. In an effort to respect your space, and to keep you and the Resort staff safe, **they will not be providing housekeeping service for the duration of your stay.** Should you need additional towels or other amenities, please call the front desk and they will be happy to deliver the items and place them outside your door.



# Keynotes

## **State Legislative Panel - Key Policy Issues Facing Michigan**

- *Moderator: Alan Bolter, Associate Director, Community Mental Health Association of Michigan*

This keynote is a great opportunity to hear directly from state lawmakers on the key policy issues facing the state of Michigan. What impact has the shift in political control had on the legislative process? What are the key legislative efforts impacting the public mental health system and what are the other hot button issues the legislature will address in the coming months?

## **Education and Mental Health Partnerships: Case Studies in Three Communities**

- *Connie Conklin, MSW, Executive Director, Livingston County CMH Authority*
- *Nicholette Cheff, Livingston ESA*
- *Lisa Gentz, Washtenaw County CMH*
- *DarNesha Green, LMSW-C, Assistant Director, of Community School Partnership with the Washtenaw Intermediate School District*
- *Hollie Nash, CMH for Central Michigan*
- *Nick Winter, Clare-Gladwin ISD*
- *Moderator: Lauren Kazee, LMSW, Consultant Living SLOW, LLC*

The partnerships between Michigan's local education community and its community mental health organizations are vital and dynamic. This keynote will provide you with a look at three successful real-life partnerships across these sectors of their community - representing a range of communities and approaches. Objectives: 1. Describe the value of school-CMH partnerships. 2. Identify the factors that foster strong and healthy school-CMH partnerships. 3. List the factors that hinder the development of strong and healthy school-CMH partnerships.

## **Innovations in the Intersection Between Behavioral Health and Justice**

- *Kevin Fischer, Executive Director, CITI/NAMI Michigan*
- *Judge Milton Mack, Jr., Chair of the Governor's Mental Health Diversion Council*
- *Marti Kay Sherry, Planning Manager, Bureau of Health Care Services, Michigan Dept. of Corrections*

Over the past decade, the importance of and best practices in cross-boundary partnerships between the justice system and the mental health system have been recognized and identified - leading to innovation and impact. This keynote will bring this message home through the voices of three leaders of this movement in Michigan. Objectives: 1. Describe the importance of partnerships between the local justice and community mental health systems. 2. Describe at least two efforts taking place in Michigan, to link the state's justice and mental health systems. 3. Describe areas in which continued growth is needed in linking the justice and mental health systems at the state and local levels.

## **The Story You Don't Hear About: How Caregivers Changed My Life for the Better**

- *Cody Burns, Transformational Speaker, Author and Life Coach*

In May of 2013, Cody stopped at a red light on the highway and was rear-ended by a box truck, causing a fire to break out, leading to severe burns on almost 40% of Cody's body. After months of both physical and spiritual recovery, his journey led him to see the powerful impact that today's medical professionals deliver to those they care for. Many medical professionals are very overburdened with heavy workloads and long shifts, and too often, people take them for granted. During this dark point in his life, Cody and his family witnessed firsthand the heart behind the caregivers who led to his shift recovery. Together, they shared laughter and tears, but through it all, these bonding moments created heartfelt connections that greatly stood out to him and forever changed the way he saw the caregiving industry. This talk will remind caretakers of the difference they are making in the world, and why they have one of the best occupations in the world.



# Educational Workshops

**Monday, October 27, 2025, 10:00am - 11:30am**

1. Michigan's Statewide Approach: Advancing Behavioral Health Crisis Response Through Evidence-Based Practices
2. Direct Support Professional Training: How Can Self-Paced, Flexible Options Work?
3. CMH Public Policy Governance Board Ends/Goals Overhaul
4. Developments in Artificial Intelligence: What's Changed in 2025
5. Building and Supporting Teams Using Emotional Intelligence
6. From Policy to Practice: Using WHODAS 2.0 for 1915(i) and HSW Eligibility
7. Peer Expansion Project for Parents and Youth
8. Diversion Intervention Through Boundary Spanning: Charting a Path to Improve Systems for Justice-Involved Individuals

**Monday, October 27, 2025, 1:30pm - 3:00pm**

9. Behavior Treatment Plans and Behavior Support Plans: How to Differentiate Between the Two
10. Leading Edge Crisis Systems: Looking Inside the Work of Five Innovators
11. Empowering Student Voices: Community Partnered Mental Health Initiatives for Schools
12. A Future that Includes Employment for People with IDD
13. Using MichiCANS Data to Understand Community Needs and Plan for the Future
14. Shaping Our Future Leaders: How to Use Leadership Opportunities to Develop Youth in Our Systems
15. Unified Solutions: A Collaborative Approach to Jail Diversion in the Community
16. Getting the Job Done Right: EBP Implementation and Sustainment and the Michigan SBIRT Project

**Monday, October 27, 2025, 3:30pm - 5:00pm**

17. Suicide Awareness and Prevention: An Educator's Perspective
18. Children's Behavioral Health: Litigation Updates and Impact
19. Not My Addiction—Still My Struggle: Supporting Families on the Frontline
20. Behavioral Health Treatment Autism Services Updates: Data Trends and Policy Review for ASD Related Services
21. Physical Safety Training within a CMH Framework
22. Bridging the Gap: The Impact of Motivational Interviewing Training on Client Retention in CMH/CCBHCs - And Future Directions
23. Family Psychoeducation (FPE): Bringing Hope and Recovery to People and Families Experiencing Psychosis
24. The Role of the Peer Mentor in Person-Centered Planning

**Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 10:30am - 12:00pm**

25. What's Going on in Lansing
26. Substance Use Disorder Health Homes: Keys to Engaging the SUD Population in Holistic Healthcare
27. Community Partner Collaboration: The Key to Successful AOT Programs
28. Integrating Sensory Devices in Work with Neurodivergent/Trauma-Impacted Children
29. Social Media and Mental Health
30. Demolition Day: Removing Walls to Healing and Justice for Sexual Assault Victim/Survivors
31. Mind the Gap: Unleashing the Inner Thinker
32. Partners in Care: Integrating the Clubhouse Model into Clinical Practice for Recovery-Oriented Mental Health



September 19, 2025

## MEETING NOTICE OCTOBER 2025

The HealthWest Board will meet in the following sessions during the month of October 2025. Please remember we must have a quorum in person for these meetings. If you participate remotely, your vote will not count. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Program Personnel Committee	Friday, October 10, 2025
Recipient Rights Committee	Friday, October 10, 2025
Finance Committee	Friday, October 17, 2025
Full Board Meeting	Friday, October 24, 2025

The administrative office will contact you via email to remind you of these meetings.

The complete schedule of committee and board meetings for 2025 can be found online at <https://healthwest.net/about-us/healthwest-board-agendas-minutes/2023-board-of-directors-schedule/>

\hb

cc: HealthWest Board Members



**MEMORANDUM**

Date: 09/19/2025

To: HealthWest Board of Directors

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

From: Rich Francisco, Executive Director

Subject: **Director's Update**

**MDHHS Updates:**

**PLACE HOLDER**

