



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021**

The LifeWays Board of Directors met in regular session in the Board Room at the LifeWays Building, 25 Care Drive, Hillsdale, Michigan on Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeffrey Peterson (Chair); Bruce Caswell (Vice Chair); Ruth Brown (Secretary); John Clark (Treasurer) via Zoom from Jackson, MI; Bradley Bohner; Melissa Callison via Zoom from Columbia Township, MI; Christine Carlson via Zoom from Jackson, MI; Earl Poleski via Zoom from Jackson, MI; Carl Rice, Jr. via Zoom from Leoni Township, MI; Jim Shotwell, Sr. via Zoom from Jackson, MI; Mark Wiley via Zoom from Allen Township, MI; Edward Woods via Zoom from Jackson, MI

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Maribeth Leonard (Chief Executive Officer), Kenneth Berger, Latrelle Burk, Karen Cascaddan, Shannan Clevenger, Michael Cupp, Jon Johnston, D'Angela O'Dowd, Casie Robertson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Alan Bolter, Felisha Crockett, Zachary Gleeson, D.O., Cayla Upham

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Peterson called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A moment of silence was held in memory of former board member Alan Ringenberg.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Invocation was presented by Bruce Caswell, which was followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by audience and Board members.

**RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE**

The presence of all attending this meeting was recorded.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA**

LW 20-21-022 - Approval of Agenda of the April 21, 2021 Regular Business Meeting

MOTION BY BRADLEY BOHNER, SUPPORTED BY CARL RICE, JR., FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE APRIL 21, 2021 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED: 12-0

**APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

LW 20-21-023 - Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting held on March 17, 2021

MOTION BY BRADLEY BOHNER, SUPPORTED BY MARK WILEY, FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING HELD ON MARCH 17, 2021, AS PRESENTED. MOTION APPROVED: 12-0

**CEO COMMUNICATIONS**

Maribeth Leonard, Chief Executive Officer, briefly highlighted the communications provided in the Board Folder.

It was noted that Michigan's private insurance parity law was passed in 2012. This ensures that all health care, whether physical, mental or behavioral, is covered by all insurance programs.

Mr. Bohner recommended the book "Crazy" by Pete Earley for a good read about the background of mental health and how it is handled within the criminal justice system.

(A copy of the Board Folder contents can be found in the Supplemental Minutes portion of the Board Minutes Book.)

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cayla Upham, Foster Caregiver and Advocate: spoke regarding a recent situation of a child's placement and her concern about advocacy for clients.

**SPECIAL ORDER TOPIC: STATE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS IN MICHIGAN – ALAN BOLTER, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

Alan Bolter, Association Director, Community Mental Health Association (CMHA), spoke about the Gearing to Integration plan. Highlights included:

- Moving Michigan Forward
- The Big Picture Proposal
- Clinical Integration Components

- **Financial Integration Components**
- **Proposed Timeline to Implement**

**Mr. Bolter then answered questions from the Board.**

**Q. Has there been any more discussions on providing performance metrics or have they been provided to the state legislature?**

**A. Outcome Data from established Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) has been shared with various legislative offices. It was also shared at the Senate Budget Committee for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).**

**Q. Have you been in contact with colleagues in other states where mental health care has been privatized to obtain their results?**

**A. Data has been collected from Idaho and Kansas as good examples. Data and information won't be lacking; the real question is how best to use the information to be the most persuasive.**

**Q. How will privatization affect mental health millages?**

**A. The only way the mental health millages will be affected may be in the services they cover. Should privatization legislature pass, the role of the Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs) may change from services coordinator to contracted provider (the Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan, or PIHP, will likely become the services coordinator). The PIHP will determine what services will be contracted with each provider; it is possible that the contracted services will be reduced. The mental health millages could help cover services that are not contracted with the PIHP.**

**Q. Is it possible that the CMHSPs' will close?**

**A. The role of the CMHSP could be dramatically reduced as the PIHP will choose which provider received which contract (as has happened in other states where privatization has already occurred).**

**Q. Would it not be an improvement of the system to disperse contracts among providers?**

**A. As long as the disbursement is based on performance and not on costs. For example, a private entity may not need to provide services under a set of standards (such as the Mental Health Code) or credentialing requirements, to which the CMHSPs must adhere.**

**Q. To reiterate, as long as the playing field is level with respect to criteria and requirements of all players on the field?**

**A. It is preferred that the focus be on the quality of care, not on the lowest cost to provide care for the sake of profit. If outside entities are brought in, the ideal would be to bring**

them under the CMHSP umbrellas to the same standards as current providers.

Dr. Rice commented that It is understood that the current health insurance industry is in business to make money. The CMHSPs are in business to provide services to consumers and quality of care is of utmost importance.

Dr. Rice also stated that the Persons Served Committee would like to offer feedback when the time is right on how privatization will affect their care.

**Q. Is Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan supportive of these bills?**

**A. Yes, they are part of the group that have called meetings with Senators Mike Shirkey and John Bizon as well as being at meetings where these discussions have taken place.**

**(A copy of Mr. Bolter's presentation and handout can be found in the Supplemental portion of the Board Minutes Book.)**

#### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**LW 20-21-024 - Approval of the Consent Agenda (April 21, 2021 Regular Business Meeting)**

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Mr. Woods asked that the QI&CR Committee Meeting Minutes be updated to reflect that the investigation into family complaints is geared more towards comments about LifeWays and not the psychologist who raised concerns.

**MOTION BY BRADLEY BOHNER, SUPPORTED BY MELISSA CALLISON, FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA (APRIL 21, 2021 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING), AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED: 12-0**

#### **A. Facilities**

- 1. Approval to Accept RW Mercer Co. Invoice #337821 | Draw #15 in the Amount of \$273,832.19 [Scrivener's Error – should be \$246,448.97] and Recommendation to LifeWays Finance Committee Approval for Payment for Period Ending 3/31/2021**
- 2. Approval to Accept Asbestos and Lead Abatement of Michigan (ALAM) Invoice #1014 in the Amount of \$45,492.00 and Recommendation to LifeWays Finance Committee Approval for Payment**

#### **B. Program & Finance**

- 3. Approval to Accept Finance Report – February 2021**

4. Approval to Accept Expenses Report – February 2021 - \$6,799,431.00
5. Approval to Accept the Facilities Committee Recommendation for Payment to RW Mercer for Invoice #337821 | Draw #15 in the Amended Amount of \$246,448.97 for Payment for Period Ending 3/31/2021
6. Approval to Accept the Facilities Committee Recommendation for Payment to Asbestos and Lead Abatement of Michigan (ALAM) Invoice #1014 in the Amount of \$45,492.00

**C. Quality Improvement and Credentialing**

7. Approval of the Quality Improvement/Credentialing Report – April 2021
8. Approval of Board Resolution #0040 of Governing Body for Restatement and Amendment of LifeWays Section 125 Plan
9. Approval of New Policy: 16-04 Jail Services
10. Approval of Reviewed Policy: 13-10 Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) Waiver Coordinator
11. Approval of Revised Policy: 04-01 Service Authorization

**APPOINTED COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **LIFEWAYS BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
- **LIFEWAYS RECIPIENT RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
- **MID-STATE HEALTH NETWORK (MSHN) BOARD**
- **MSHN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT POLICY BOARD**
- **NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD**
- **COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

- **LIFEWAYS MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
- **LIFEWAYS SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**REPORTS**

- **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)**

**Ms. Leonard thanked Ms. Upham for her statements under Public Comments.**

**Ms. Leonard then presented the CEO report on the following topics.**

- **LifeWays Update**
  - **Strategic Plan Update**
  - **COVID-19 Status Update**
  - **Diversity Equity and Inclusion Update**
  - **Senator Stabenow Site Visit March 30**
  - **LifeWays CEO Held Virtual Meetings with Legislators/Aides**
  - **Hillsdale Building Capital Needs and Service Planning**
  - **Mental Health Block Grant**
  - **SAMHSA Community Mental Health Grant Announcement**
  - **Hillsdale Stepping Up Initiative (See Handout in Board Folder)**
  - **LifeWays Crisis Services Community Work**
  - **Central Michigan 2-1-1 Accreditation**
- **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)**
  - **MDHHS Update**
- **State Legislative Update**
  - **Budget 2022**
  - **Gearing Up to Integration**
  - **Good News: Organization Readiness Regardless of the Direction**
- **Community Mental Health Association (CMHA) Update**
  - **Youth Suicide Prevention Summit 2**
  - **Law Enforcement and Mental Health Partnerships**
  - **CMH Beyond Tokenism Initiative**
- **Upcoming Events**
  - **LifeWays 2021 Strategic Planning Summit**

**(A copy of the CEO Report can be found in the Supplemental portion of the Board Minutes Book.)**

- **BOARD CHAIR**

I want to express my sadness at [former board member] Al Ringenberg's passing. I also want to thank everyone for contributing to this meeting and also participating in all meetings. We still aren't sure what's going to happen with the in-person meetings, but we'll make it work no matter what.

- **MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Ms. Brown – On page 159 of the Board Folder is the Michigan Suicide Commission report. I had already seen it and I encourage everyone to read it and keep following their work.
- Mr. Caswell – I sat in on a recent [MSHN SUD] prevention committee meeting where Barry Schmidt of Bay County's program Chances Are spoke. This is a program that works to reduce stigma around Substance Use Disorder (SUD). I asked three questions of him, the first being who is this directed to? As they are just getting started, he said it could be directed to the entire community, the emergency room where they hear a lot of bad comments, or it could be directed to doctors and nurses. My next question was does it work and do you have proof? He said that they don't, but the hope is to reduce the number of negative comments in emergency rooms by 25%. I'm not sure they know how many negative comments they receive and am unsure how you reduce that by 25%. Then I asked how they measure success and he said that it would be measured by that deduction. There are about eight counties in our PIHP that are involved. I'm not certain that we want to get involved at this point but that's just me talking; others on the prevention council may feel different. I don't think it's far enough along to know what they're doing is doing any good. Another thing is that the Chair of the CMHA's Persons Served Advisory Group asked the committee members to write letters of their own personal experiences to their state legislators. If you know of anyone who would be willing to offer ideas or their experiences, please send to [Malkia.Newman@gmail.com](mailto:Malkia.Newman@gmail.com).
- Mr. Bohner – I will miss Al [Ringenberg]. May he rest in peace.
- Mr. Shotwell – It's good to be back in the swing of things. I know I have a lot of catching up to do but I'll take it as it comes.
- Dr. Rice – In response to Ms. Upham's comments, I hope we are able to do some research and respond to her fairly quickly. Much appreciated.
- Ms. Callison – I recently completed my Mental Health First Aid certification online. I was concerned that it wouldn't be as interactive as the face-to-face class, but I truly enjoyed going through the exercise. For those of you that have not yet completed the training, I highly recommend it. It's amazing. I don't know how many of you have seen the new Petco commercials about the company now treating the whole animal, physically and mentally. I thought that was a nice CCBHC tie-in and we should show that commercial a lot. On a personal note, if anyone is interested in supporting the Special Olympics golf scramble in May,

let me know.

- **Ms. Carlson – Retirement looks good on you, Mr. Chair.**
- **Mr. Clark – I would like to congratulate Jeff on his retirement. I hope you find things to do with your spare time; I'm sure you will. But you'll probably also find something to make yourself a little useful as you might get bored cause it is an adjustment. It was a good meeting tonight and good hearing from Alan [Bolter]. There's a lot we can anticipate looking forward to. Hope everyone has a good evening.**
- **Mr. Poleski – I would simply note, Mr. Chair, that if you get a To Do List in your retirement, your significant other will be glad to remind you of that list on a monthly basis.**
- **Mr. Wiley – If anyone wants the [COVID-19] vaccine, just go to Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joe Health Department, which has plenty of openings for appointments. Just go to BHSJ.org and it will jump right out at you on the opening page. I know there is one scheduled at the Hillsdale Intermediate School District on Friday [April 23]. If anyone is on the call tonight or if you know of anyone having trouble getting the shot, the Health Department doesn't care if you live in the county, they just want to get the shots in arms. I also want to remind Bruce that season ticket renewal for Michigan State is May 1 and he needs to talk to Ruth about coming over to the green side.**
- **Mr. Woods – During the Senator Stabenow visit, I got my first tour of the building since the remodel. I only seem to go to the tours when we have I-beams torn apart; I seem to like those more than the other ones. But the final tour revealed a beautiful remodel; hats off to staff and the Contracts staff as well as Facilities and their whole team. You can see the quality in the details of the work done as well as the quality that I know is behind the walls. I wanted to make sure that the board knows what a great job they all did. During my remarks [at the tour], I gave great deference to our board chair, too.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

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Ruth Brown, Secretary