



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021**

The LifeWays Board of Directors met in regular session in the Board Room at the LifeWays Building, 1200 N West Avenue, Jackson, Michigan on Wednesday, December 15, 2021.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeffrey Peterson (Chair); Bruce Caswell (Vice Chair); Ruth Brown (Secretary) via Zoom; John Clark (Treasurer); Melissa Callison; Christine Carlson via Zoom; Carl Rice, Jr. via Zoom; Ray Snell; Mark Wiley via Zoom; Edward Woods

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bradley Bohner, Earl Poleski

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Maribeth Leonard (Chief Executive Officer), Kenneth Berger, Latrelle Burk, Karen Cascaddan, Shannan Clevenger, Bobby Coleman, Michael Cupp, Jon Johnston, Chad Surque

OTHERS PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was presented by Melissa Callison, 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 21-22-010 - Approval of Agenda of the December 15, 2021 Regular Business Meeting

MOTION BY MELISSA CALLISON, SUPPORTED BY RAY SNELL, FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2021 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

LW 21-22-011 - Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting held on November 17, 2021

MOTION BY CARL RICE, JR., SUPPORTED BY RUTH BROWN, FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2021, AS PRESENTED. MOTION APPROVED: 9-0

CEO COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

SPECIAL ORDER TOPIC: LIFEWAYS NEW LOGO PRESENTATION - CHAD SURQUE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Chad Surque, Director of Communications, presented the new LifeWays logo to the Board. Some key notes included:

- LifeWays Current Brand
- An Overview of All Logo Concepts
- Poll Results: Who Was Polled
- Poll Results: Executive C-Team
- Poll Results: Board of Directors
- Poll Results: All LifeWays Employees
- Poll Results: Consumer Advisory Council (CAC)
- Poll Results: Human Services Networks (in both Jackson and Hillsdale)
- Poll Results: Provider Network
- An Additional Note on All Groups
- And the winner is...

Mark Wiley joined the meeting at 7:05 pm.

After the presentation, Mr. Surque answered questions from the Board.

Q. Great job! How long was this process from start to finish?

A. From the time our team started talking about possibilities until today, it has been almost a year.

Q. Given how long this process took and the fact that it will take about a year to implement, how long does LifeWays plan to keep this logo?

A. Industry standard is for an agency to review their logo every five years. It is not always necessary to change but it is a good idea to at least reassess periodically.

Q. Not a question but more of a comment: it sounds like the consumers got to the heart of the matter right away and was able to steer the conversation to a logo that is most appealing to the public. This is why the Recipient Rights Advisory Council is advocating for more consumers to be on that committee as well as others. It's very important to get them involved.

A. Couldn't agree more!

Q. Will the website address be included on some of the logos?

A. Absolutely. There is a possibility of changing the domain address [from lifewayscmh.org to lifeways.org] so the addition of the website address is being done only on things that are not permanent.

Q. Can board members buy LifeWays logo wear?

A. Yes, and an order form will be sent out.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

LW 21-22-012 - Approval of the Consent Agenda (December 15, 2021 Regular Business Meeting)

MOTION BY JOHN CLARK, SUPPORTED BY EDWARD WOODS, FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA (DECEMBER 15, 2021 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING), AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED: 10-0

A. Facilities

[No action items]

B. Program & Finance

1. **Approval of Reviewed Policies: 03-03 Expenses; 03-06 Board and Staff Expenses; 03-07 Rate Setting; 03-08 Financial Reports and Audits**
2. **Approval of Out-of-State Travel for Edward Woods, Board Member, Carl Rice, Jr., Board Member, Melissa Callison, Board Member, and Maribeth Leonard, Chief Executive Officer, to attend the National Council for Mental Wellbeing Annual Conference, April 11-13, 2022, in Washington, DC for an Estimated Amount of \$14,982.00 to include Registration, Transportation, Lodging and Meals**

C. Quality Improvement and Credentialing

3. **Approval of the Quality Improvement/Credentialing Report – December 2021**
4. **Approval of Reviewed Policies: 07-01 Information Systems Infrastructure, Strategy and Management; 07-02 Information Security and Risk Management; 07-04 Telecommunication Systems**
5. **Approval of Revised Policy: 07-03 Computer Systems**
6. **Approval of Revised Governance Procedure: 01-02.02 Board Meetings**
7. **Approval of 2022 Board Meeting Calendar Revision 1**
8. **Approval of 2022 Board Committee Meeting Calendar Revision 2**

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 MENTAL WELLBEING BOARD**
- **COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Peterson appointed Ruth Brown as Chair, as well as John Clark and Melissa Callison, to the Ad Hoc Board Officers Nominating Committee. The Committee will report back to the Board through the Governance office one week prior to the January 2022 meeting with nominations for Board Officers for the coming year [as specified in the Board's Bylaws].

Ms. Brown requested that any member having an interest in the Secretary position contact her or a member of the Nominating Committee.

REPORTS

- **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)**

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

- **LifeWays Update**
 - COVID-19 Update
- **Federal Legislative Update**
 - FCC Approves Text-to-988 to Expand Access to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Update**
 - Michigan Central Bed Registry Update
- **Community Mental Health Association (CMHA) Update**
 - Legislative Video on CMHA's Website
 - CMHA Posts Latest Update on Exceptions to Michigan's Open Meetings Act
- **State Legislative Update**
 - House Committee Takes Testimony on HB 5165
- **Upcoming Events**
 - CMHA Winter Conference

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

- **BOARD CHAIR**

Two things: It's been suggested to roll the Facilities Committee into the Program and Finance Committee. Now that the remodel is completed, the Facilities Committee has essentially completed its usefulness. This will be discussed further at the January committee meetings so please be thinking about this.

Secondly, thank you to Maribeth for doing something special for all of the board and staff members. We appreciate you putting so much of your time and effort – as well as your

husband's – into providing so many special things to us at Christmas time.

The board would also like to present you a gift to say thank you for all your efforts. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope you enjoy.

- **MEMBER COMMENTS**

- **Dr. Rice – I just want to point out for some of the board members that couldn't go to the Jackson Board of County Commissioners [BOCC] meeting to show support for the Resolution to oppose Senate Bills (SBs) 597 and 598, that our CEO was quite dynamic in her presentation. The health plan representative that attended was scared away. Thank you for the gift, Maribeth; I'm sure my wife will take it. I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**
- **Ms. Brown – I wish everyone very happy holidays. Thank you to Maribeth and the whole Governance staff as well as leadership for the fantastic job this past year. We have a great organization. I appreciate everyone on the Board and my board seat very much. I wish everyone good health and happiness.**
- **Ms. Carlson – I hope everyone stays safe and wish you all happy holidays.**
- **Mr. Wiley – If anyone is interested, I'll send on a 15-page document provided to the Hillsdale Board of County Commissioners on the use of funds for opioid overdoses. Counties have to register for these settlement payments and that could impact what we get. If counties don't register, they will not get a payment; registration is due January 5, 2022. This could actually increase the size of payments. Also, Bruce mentioned that, depending when you enter the pool, the more payment dollars the county will receive. This is the first of several settlements; there are at least two or three different litigations that are still ongoing so there will be other pods of settlement money coming. Lastly, the resolution to oppose the senate bills: there was a blip in communication, so it wasn't on the last [Hillsdale] commission meeting agenda and was tabled for the meeting on Tuesday, December 28. Maribeth will be attending to present on the topic. Merry Christmas!**
- **Mr. Clark – Thank you, Maribeth, for the present, something simple you made in your spare time. This will be my last time in person for the next three months; hope to see you all when I get back in April. Merry Christmas!**
- **Mr. Caswell – Maribeth, thank you for the present and also for the job you've done this year. If you need any help in spending your gift from the board, please call my wife, Beth, as she loves to go shopping. Four things: (1) Meth causes psychosis, paranoia, and depression. The way the laws are written right now, those that take meth cannot be admitted to a psych ward to get help due to the drug-induced paranoia. Keep this in mind as the law might be changed. Individual homes are being set up because they can't get treatment other places. (2) I don't know if this is possible or not but as we move into the new year there will be more and more discussion over the two senate bills. As board members, it would be very helpful to us if the Finance Department could put together a document showing how much LifeWays has saved since implementing the KPIs [Key Performance Indicators for staff] and how services haven't been cut but**

we've saved money. Also, how much of the taxpayer money has gone back to the state as a savings instead of keeping it as profit. I think it's a good talking point going forward. (3) Mark, it came up before in another meeting, but could you talk to Mark Bernstein and ask him to write language into the final document so that counties can use this money in the childcare fund. It needs to be spelled out; it would be helpful to many counties across the state because of all the money spent over the years trying to take care of family problems caused by drugs. (4) Finally, I want you all to know as a group that I wrote up the five-year plan for the Parks and Recreation Commission in Hillsdale County; they haven't had one in twenty years. It got approved by the state. The Parks Commission then decided that the first two projects they want to do are to put metal docks in the ponds in Lewis Emery Park with handicap accessible approaches. Also, they want to convert a trail into one that is handicap accessible. I contacted SPARC [St. Paul's Ability Resource Center] today to ask Tammy Ryan to attend the Park Commission's public meeting on January 12 at the Road Commission office. I also asked her for a letter of support to put with the grant application to send to Lansing. If this board would also like to come to that meeting with a letter of support to do these things, it would be appreciated. Just throwing that out to you. Merry Christmas to all!

- **Mr. Snell – I'd like to talk about the resolution that we have coming up before us at our meeting [the Jackson BOCC] next Tuesday. I am cautiously optimistic that it will pass. Without Chair [Steve] Shotwell's ex officio vote at the last meeting, it would have failed to go forward by 2-2. If you would please contact your commission representative to reiterate your support, it would be appreciated. The health plan representative at the last meeting didn't do very well at all. I confronted them on a couple of things, including what the whole project is supposed to do. Their response is that it's all about consumer choice; however, there isn't much choice there as there are only, maybe, two choices. There's no doubt that [private company] administrative costs are higher than the 6% they estimate; it's traditionally closer to 12% and sometimes even up to 21%. I don't see the state coming in and making up the difference. Whatever those organizations get, the less the services get. Sometimes privatization is a good thing but not for mental health. I know I'm preaching to the choir. I've tried talking to all of the other commissioners and have been somewhat successful. I think we have work to do and I'm optimistic it will pass but it will be a close vote. We'll vote on this on Tuesday, though it might be overshadowed by an appointment to a vacant seat. Again, if any of you know any of the commissioners, feel free to reach out and talk to them. Maribeth, your presentation was good, and I appreciate you being there. Without you being there, we wouldn't have gotten the two positive votes.**
- **Mr. Woods – Chair Shotwell asked some really good questions at the meeting Ray was just talking about, as did Ray himself. One thing I haven't thought about is the fact that there are a number of consumers that are difficult to take care of. The health plan person had the nerve to stand there and, when asked who was going to be called when there is a problem, to say that the local community health would be called as the health plan doesn't have control of the provider network or have daily contact with them. They can't have it both ways, either**

you have contact or you don't. People believe that it's going to be simpler than it is. Also, today I finished a book about Chernobyl and, as I was driving here tonight, I thought that I need to make sure to tell Jim Shotwell about this book. I had momentarily forgotten that Jim's not here anymore. I ask that everyone take a quiet moment this holiday season to remember Jim and think about his family as they go through their first Christmas without him. He's greatly missed. I did hear that his dog is getting along ok though.

Chair Peterson added that we all miss Jim's Christmas outfits.

Mr. Woods said that he always called it "Jim's ridiculous Christmas outfit," but that he knew he was one of the few that could get away with that.

- Ms. Callison – The Special Olympics Polar Plunge is back in action in-person next month at Clark Lake. Unfortunately, I will be in Florida and won't be able to participate. Maribeth has done her jumps (three in total). I'm not asking everyone to jump in Clark Lake in January, but it is a great event to watch if you want to go and support the Special Olympics. I will also say that the concept of the co-response team in terms of 911 calls was actually portrayed on TV last month. They actually brought awareness to it through that show, which was really cool. Thank you, Maribeth, for the gift. I'll make sure to get Earl Poleski's to him though, if the cookies fall out, I can't be held responsible.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Ruth Brown, Secretary