



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020**

The LifeWays Board of Directors met in regular session in the Board Room at the LifeWays Building, 25 Care Drive, Hillsdale, Michigan, on Wednesday, October 21, 2020.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeffrey Peterson (Chair), Bruce Caswell (Vice Chair, via Zoom), Ruth Brown (Secretary), Bradley Bohner, Melissa Callison (via Zoom), Christine Carlson (via Zoom), Earl Poleski (via Zoom), Carl Rice, Jr. (via Zoom), Jim Shotwell, Sr. (via Zoom), Edward Woods (via Zoom)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: John Clark, Treasurer; Mark Wiley

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Maribeth Leonard (Chief Executive Officer), Ken Berger (via Zoom), Latrelle Burk, Karen Cascaddan, Shannan Clevenger, Michael Cupp (via Zoom), Angie O'Dowd (via Zoom)

OTHERS PRESENT: Brad Benzing

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 Ruth Brown, which was followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by audience and Board members.

RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE

An attendance sheet was distributed for those present for their signature. Those that appeared via Zoom were noted, also.

APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

LW 20-21-001 - Approval of Agenda of the October 21, 2020 Regular Business Meeting

MOTION BY BRADLEY BOHNER, SUPPORTED BY JIM SHOTWELL, SR., FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2020 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED: 10-0

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

LW 20-21-002 - Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting held on September 16, 2020

MOTION BY BRADLEY BOHNER, SUPPORTED BY JIM SHOTWELL, SR., FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2020, AS PRESENTED. MOTION APPROVED: 10-0

CEO COMMUNICATIONS

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

It was noted that LifeWays does have an opportunity to become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) though it is unclear as to when that decision will be made.

(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.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

LW 20-21-003 - Approval of the Consent Agenda (October 21, 2020 Regular Business Meeting)

MOTION BY BRADLEY BOHNER, SUPPORTED BY CARL RICE, JR., FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA (OCTOBER 21, 2020 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING), AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED: 10-0

A. Facilities

1. Approval to Accept RW Mercer Co. Invoice #337242 | Draw #9 in the Amount of \$189,702.56 and Recommendation to LifeWays Finance Committee Approval for Payment for Period Ending 09/20/2020
2. Approval to Accept ALAM Asbestos and Lead Abatement of Michigan Inc. Invoice #1154 in the Amount of \$6,780.00 and Recommendation to LifeWays Finance Committee Approval for Payment
3. Approval of Expenditure to NuWave Technology Partners for Planned Data Drops and Cabling in the Amount of \$3,586.20 and

Recommendation to LifeWays Finance Committee Approval for Payment

B. Program & Finance

- 4. Approval to Accept Finance Report – August 2020**
- 5. Approval to Accept Expenses Report – August 2020 - \$6,948,976.90**
- 6. Approval to Accept the Facilities Committee Recommendation for Payment to RW Mercer for Invoice #337242 | Draw #9 in the Amount of \$189,702.56 for Period Ending 9/30/2020**
- 7. Approval to Accept the Facilities Committee Recommendation for Payment to ALAM Asbestos and Lead Abatement of Michigan Inc. for Invoice #1154 in the Amount of \$6,780.00**
- 8. Approval to Accept the Facilities Committee Recommendation for the Expenditure to NuWave Technology Partners for Planned Data Drops and Cabling in the Amount of \$3,586.20**

C. Quality Improvement and Credentialing

- 9. Approval of the Quality Improvement/Credentialing Report – October 2020**
- 10. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Spenddown Payment for Clubhouse Activities between Mid-State Health Network and LifeWays Community Mental Health for Fiscal Year 2021**
- 11. Approval of 2021 Board Meeting Calendar**
- 12. Approval of the 2021 Board Committee Meetings Calendar**

APPOINTED COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

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

NEW BUSINESS

LW 20-21-004 - Approval of Revised Governance Procedure 01-02.02 Board Meetings

MOTION BY JIM SHOTWELL, SR., SUPPORTED BY BRADLEY BOHNER, FOR APPROVAL OF REVISED GOVERNANCE PROCEDURE 01-02.02 BOARD MEETINGS, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED: 10-0

REPORTS

- **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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

- **LifeWays Update**
 - Albert Kahn Apartments
 - Return to School Mental Health Toolkit
 - COVID-19 Status Update
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Plan
- **Mid-State Health Network (MSHN)**
 - MSHN's Integrated Health Plan
- **Community Mental Health Association (CMHA)**
 - CMHA CEO Report
- **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)**
 - Weekly Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP), Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP), and MDHHS Meetings
 - Michigan Integrated Crisis and Access Line (MiCAL) Update
 - MDHHS Joins CDC's New Comprehensive Suicide Program
- **State Legislative Update**
 - Crisis Stabilization Units – House Bill (HB) 5832
 - Universal Credentialing – HB 5178
 - Psychiatric Hospital Death Reports – Senate Bill (SB) 813
- **Upcoming Events**

- **Annual Board and Staff Recognition Event**

It was requested that the Quality Improvement team's satisfaction surveys begin to include race in order to break down data by these criteria as well. This will help in future problem solving and with tracking potential challenges.

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

- **BOARD CHAIR**

Several months ago, I came to the Board with the idea of a new advisory committee, which was approved then put on hold. It seems that it is now time to implement the Self-Determination Advisory Committee [SDAC or Self-D]. I am appointing Melissa Callison as Chair and Christine Carlson as Vice Chair. I task this advisory committee with recruiting (staff, providers, community members), education (both receiving and distributing to community), streamlining processes, and advocating throughout and possibly state-wide.

Ms. Callison noted that this is very timely, and they have some good ideas on how to get started. Just in the context of the self-determination arena, there is a good basis for streamlining and modernization of some of the processes.

Chair Peterson added that there are a lot of resources in the community that the committee can draw from to pull in experienced people that have gone through the processes.

For new members' information, and especially since not everything is explained clearly, the Member Comments portion of this meeting was started just a few years ago by a past chair. It was thought that this time at the end of the meeting, a few minutes could be given to board members to express any issues, ideas...I usually talk about the Red Wings, which doesn't take very long right now. It's just an open forum. I'd really like everyone, particularly those that are new, to not feel intimidated and not say anything. If there is an event coming up that you're involved with that you'd like to plug, for example disAbility Connections' upcoming Chuckles for Charity, this would be the time to do that.

- **MEMBER COMMENTS**

- **Mr. Caswell** – I spent 2-1/2 hours today raking my lawn and I have huge piles of leaves. If anyone would like to stop by and pick them up, they're free.
- **Mr. Woods** – Following up from last month to let everyone what's going on, I met with the Jeff [Peterson, Chair] and Maribeth [Leonard, CEO] on September 24. We talked about some of the issues I brought up at the last meeting; Maribeth also followed up with an email on October 7. I felt her email didn't quite hit the mark on why we were meeting or what the issues were, so I responded with an email on October 8 to follow-up. Maribeth and I talked on the phone later that day. In my email to her, I clarified why we were meeting and some of the issues she talked about tonight are going to take care of the concerns that I had about the organization itself. The email also told her about some questions that have been out there for a number of months that haven't been answered and I was just going to let that go as I think it's just taking too much of a toll on me and

everyone else. I don't know what the issue is, but we weren't getting answers and I think it's just something that isn't going to happen. So, what I agreed to do was to re-submit two of the questions that were most important. Maribeth followed up on October 8 with a document that staff gave us back in March or April when the questions were initially asked. It's been 13 days since then and the questions are still unanswered but, in the end, I just wanted to say that Maribeth and I did agree that there are a lot of walls being put up and we recognize it's happening though neither of us want that. We want to continue this dialogue, but I can tell you that it's painful and gut-wrenching dialogue to go through. It's taking a big toll on me and taking a toll on her, but we are committed to go through the dialogue that we have to go through. We don't want these walls built, we want to bring these walls down, but it hasn't been easy. The thing that Maribeth is going to find out when she goes through her training, that anytime you go through diversity training, if you're not uncomfortable and you don't have a sick feeling in your stomach while you're in that room, you aren't talking about the right things. I can tell you that this whole thing is very difficult to go through; I appreciate the time that's been put into trying to address my concerns. As I've said, I've paired down the questions to just one that Dr. Rice asked in March and one I asked in April and re-submitted in writing. I also provided the back-up documents that staff gave to us at the time that generated those questions in the first place. Hopefully, we'll continue to talk about some of this; Maribeth and I have been in contact several times over the last few days. We're trying our best to make this work. In the end, it's just the things we talked about tonight – services for our consumers. We want to make sure our consumers are getting services, and no matter how tough this is for me nor how sick I feel some nights laying there thinking about this stuff, it's not as tough as my brother lives every day and has for the past thirty years. So, I'm committed to continue to do this, I'm not going away, I'm not going to shrink in a corner nor am I going to submit my resignation. I'm going to keep fighting as long as he's out there fighting to try to have as normal a life as he can. I'm going to continue to try to fight from this direction for him.

- **Mr. Poleski – I just have one question: under New Business, we had another item that wasn't covered tonight.**

It was noted that there was another item under New Business originally, but it was pulled from the agenda on Monday, October 19. Mr. Poleski had accessed the agenda before October 19.

- **Dr. Rice – The first comment I'd like to make is that I really appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Mental Health in Schools committee. I appreciate everyone on that committee. I'm extremely excited about where events have taken us and the opportunity that we have. When we started this, we had no clue how we were going to provide any kind of training for everyone involved in education or that has contact with young people. And now everything is moving forward to the point where we might actually be able to do that and to improve greatly on prevention and intervention for youth suicide as well as to have mental health services in our school. I'm thrilled to be a part of**

- this. You're right, Jeff, there's a lot to it but, like a lot of things, if you have a passion it's worth the work. I hope everyone has a good rest of their week.
- **Ms. Callison** – I just wanted to say that, within the community at large and the circumference of people that I consider family, the continued emphasis of COVID-19 cases that are on the rise have people feeling really isolated. If you haven't reached out to people in your family or those you haven't heard from in a while, please do so. There's a lot of fear, social isolation and misinformation online. I see it more within the millennials; [my family members] in that age group are afraid to go out and engage in any kind of social activity at all. I encourage you to reach out to your family to let them know you're there for them.
 - **Mr. Shotwell** – I don't know what to say to the board but thanks for the concern and prayers that you sent our way. [My wife] Letha is getting better every day. I don't know if everyone knows what happened, but she had knee surgery and now she's running around like she has a new knee. You've all been so committed to the program and that's what makes this board so great. One question: a substantial lawsuit was settled today with one of the major drug companies that made opioids. I think we need to keep a watchful eye on the results to ensure there's a reduction of new drugs and that they are well tested.
 - **Mr. Bohner** – Three things: first, after listening to Ed [Woods] last week, I thought long and hard about that. And, I know it's hard to do special orders now, but I would urge us to consider bringing someone in to talk about the black experience in America. I have friends who say that they aren't racist; they also don't understand why [people of color] feel the way they do. I believe that there is still a lot of institutionalized racism and I think it would do the board well to bring someone in when and if we're able. Secondly, once again in respect to Ed, with all the electronics and virtual stuff we have now, I'm not aware of any policy we have in respect to giving timely answers to any questions board members may have. I'm not looking to put anything out but we sometimes have officers and leaders that are on vacation or gone for another reason so it might be something to consider on how to get answers out when needed. And lastly, just because the Lions won this past weekend, don't start drinking the Kool-Aid.
 - **Ms. Brown** – The Suicide Prevention Coalition of Hillsdale County is partnering with the Jackson Suicide Prevention Coalition; the Jackson coalition has a lot of events coming up. I encourage everyone to look at LifeWays website, under Training and Events, for a list. For Veteran's Day, they're doing the Stop 22 event, named for the 22 veterans a day that commit suicide, during the virtual Veterans Day Summit on November 6 at 5:30 – 7:00 pm [to sign up: <https://www.facebook.com/events/786021125529903/>]. Also, on Saturday, November 21 is the International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day; this is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving every year [for more info, go to https://www.facebook.com/events/332340444658318/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D%7D].

The American Federation for Suicide Prevention [AFSP] - Michigan Chapter is also hosting events in observation of this day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon:

[\[https://www.facebook.com/AFSPMichigan/events/?ref=page_internal\]](https://www.facebook.com/AFSPMichigan/events/?ref=page_internal).

There are also some virtual trainings coming up: Adult Mental Health First Aid on November 19 and Youth Mental Health First Aid on December 9. Other trainings are available as well [\[https://lifewayscmh.org/Training-Events\]](https://lifewayscmh.org/Training-Events).

We know that suicide has been increasing because of COVID-19 and one of the things that people don't think about is the financial impact of the pandemic. Sometimes when stuff doesn't affect us personally, we don't think about it. If we're ok and everyone around us is ok, we don't think much beyond that. There's a lot of people that have lost their jobs and having trouble readjusting. I'm thinking about resilience because Maribeth came to my American Association of University Women (AAUW) and gave a presentation on resilience for families and children, which was really good. We all know resilience is getting back up, adjusting to situations and getting going. There's a segment of our population that don't know how to do this or can't do it. Sometimes that results in a suicide. So, anything we can do for suicide prevention is helpful.

- Ms. Carlson – Thanks for the appointment to the new Self-Determination Advisory Committee. Also, I have completed all of the BoardWorks trainings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shannan Clevenger, LifeWays Chief Operations Officer: I just wanted to make sure the Board is aware that, in Hillsdale County, the Intermediate School District (ISD) is championing a county-wide school mental health team. LifeWays has been invited to attend and the first meeting is next Wednesday [October 28, 2020]. Some of the individuals involved in this group are involved with the Mental Health in School Committee, in particular Superintendent Troy Reehl. I did provide them with the information about the Youth Suicide Prevention Summit in December and encouraged them to pass it along to teachers, para-pros and others that work with children in the schools. We're very excited about these new opportunities that will be able to help support the work being done concerning mental health services in schools.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Ruth Brown, Secretary