



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022**

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, August 17, 2022.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Melissa Callison

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Maribeth Leonard (Chief Executive Officer); Kenneth Berger; Latrelle Burk; Karen Cascaddan; Shannan Clevenger; Tyler Crawford; Michael Cupp; Tyler Friend; Ashlee Griffes; Jon Johnston; David Lowe; Sherry Mills; Taylor Owens; Laurie Smith; Chad Surque

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Anne Sayers

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was presented by Christine Carlson, 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 (note: Board Members Christine Carlson and Carl Rice, Jr. were noted as present; however, due to Open Meetings Act restrictions, they were not eligible to vote on action items).

APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

LW 21-22-048 - Approval of Agenda of the August 17, 2022, Regular Business Meeting

MOTION BY JEFFREY PETERSON, SUPPORTED BY RAY SNELL, FOR APPROVAL OF THE

**AGENDA OF THE AUGUST 17, 2022, REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING, AS PRESENTED.
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0**

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

LW 21-22-049 - Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting held on July 20, 2022

MOTION BY BRADLEY BOHNER, SUPPORTED BY JEFFREY PETERSON, FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING HELD ON JULY 20, 2022, 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.)

SPECIAL ORDER TOPIC: ENGAGEMENT TEAM PRESENTATION, LIFEWAYS ENGAGEMENT TEAM

The LifeWays Engagement Team was represented by Sherry Mills, Peer Support Specialist, Laura Smith and Taylor Owens, Engagement Clinicians, and David Lowe, Executive Director of Access & Crisis Services. Staff gave an overview of the Team's work and answered questions from the Board.

(A copy of the presentation can be found in the Board agenda packet as well as in the Supplemental Minutes book.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Caswell read the ground rules for public comment.

There were no public comments.

RECESS BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Caswell recessed the Regular Business Meeting at 7:28 p.m. to convene the Public Hearing.

RECONVENE

The Regular Business Meeting reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Board Member Ruth Brown announced her resignation from the LifeWays Board of Directors effective August 18, 2022.

In response, Chair Caswell appointed the Nominating Ad Hoc Committee with Bradley Bohner as Chair and John Clark and Christine Carlson as members. The Committee will meet in the coming month to appoint a new Board Treasurer. Any board members interested in the position should contact the Committee.

Additionally, Chair Caswell asked the Program and Finance Committee Vice Chair, Jeffrey Peterson, to serve as Chair until a new Treasurer is in place.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

LW 21-22-050 - Approval of the Consent Agenda (August 17, 2022, Regular Business Meeting)

MOTION BY RUTH BROWN, SUPPORTED BY RAY SNELL, FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA (AUGUST 17, 2022, REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING), AS PRESENTED.
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

A. Facilities

[No action items]

B. Program & Finance

1. Approval to Accept Finance Report – June 2022
2. Approval to Accept Expenses Report – June 2022 - \$8,124,589.46
3. Approval of Out-of-State Travel for David Sprunger, Crisis Residential Unit Program Manager, to Attend the Crisis Residential Conference, October 11-13, 2022, in Austin, TX
4. Approval of Out-of-State Travel for Edward Woods, Board Member, to Attend the National Council for Mental Wellbeing Fall Board Meeting, September 18-21, 2022, in Washington, DC
5. Approval of Out-of-State Travel for Joshua Williams, Director of Quality Management, and Philip Hoffman, Quality Management Supervisor, to Accompany Michael Cupp, Contracts Management Director, on a Site Visit of Prader Willi Homes, August 24-26, 2022, in Oconomowoc, WI

C. Quality Improvement and Credentialing

6. Approval of the Quality Improvement & Credentialing Report – August 2022
7. Approval of Amendment to Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Prevention Contractual Agreement between Mid-State Health Network (MSHN) and LifeWays, for an Amendment Term Effective 1 May 2022 through 29 September 2022
8. Approval to Accept and Place on File the 2022 Board Evaluation
9. Approval to Accept and Place on File the 2022 CEO Evaluation
10. Approval of Self-Determination Advisory Committee Application for Debora Slone

APPOINTED COMMITTEE REPORTS

- LIFEWAYS BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- MID-STATE HEALTH NETWORK (MSHN) BOARD
- MSHN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT POLICY BOARD
- NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING BOARD
- MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (MDHHS) OFFICE OF RECIPIENT RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY

- LIFEWAYS DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AD HOC COMMITTEE
- LIFEWAYS MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- LIFEWAYS RECIPIENT RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- LIFEWAYS SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

REPORTS

- CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

In addition to the information included in the CEO Report, Ms. Leonard reported that the MDHHS Senior Deputy of Health will be at LifeWays in late September. This visit will be to walk through the process of both the consumer and family members in pursuit of services. Other announcements included the anticipated lifting of the internal mask mandate on August 22; and appreciation to Ms. Brown for her dedicated service for the last four years.

Ms. Leonard then gave an overview of the CEO report that contained information on the following topics.

- Engagement Team Data
- LifeWays Vitality Academy
- CMHA Board Meeting Highlights
- \$300M to go towards School-Based Mental Health Services
- MDHHS State Hospital Capacity Reduction Issues
- Michigan's State Demonstration CCBHC and Future SPA or Medicaid Waiver
- CMHA Directors Forum
- CMHA Proactive Efforts to Thwart Privatization Threat
- Upcoming Events

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

- BOARD CHAIR

Ruth, I understand you ran last month's meeting and I thank you for that. I hope that didn't have anything to do with your resignation. Thank you very much for your service on the board, you've done a really nice job. I really appreciate all you have done.

I think this organization, and possibly the Mental Health in Schools committee, needs to look at the explosion of fentanyl distribution. There have already been deaths and close calls across the country; sometimes dollar bills are laced with it and, when someone picks it up, the close contact with skin can be horrible. I'd like to see more public discussion of the issue before things get worse.

- MEMBER COMMENTS

- **Dr. Rice – From my heart, I really appreciate Ruth Brown. I appreciated her public service as a [Hillsdale] county commissioner and as a board member at LifeWays. She took it upon herself to raise awareness of suicide and get a prevention group going in Hillsdale. I've enjoyed our conversations both past and present. None of us want to see you move on, but I believe you are making the right decision.**
- **Ms. Carlson – Congratulations to Ruth on your new position. I'll be forever grateful for your guidance and kindness. Thank you for being such a wonderful role model. I'll be in touch about booking my cruise.**
- **Mr. Woods – Thank you to Ruth for her service to this board and to the mentally ill, and particularly for your work on suicide prevention. I went to a few of the meetings in the early days and Ruth really committed her efforts to the issue.**
- **Mr. Bohner – I've known Ruth for quite some time and everything she does is 130%. I'd like to thank you for that on behalf of the Hillsdale community. As someone who lost a loved one to suicide, the issue is a passion of mine, too. The board's loss is LifeWays' gain as I know you'll give the same effort. Thank you for all you've done over the years, thank you for all you've done in the community, and thank you for all you've done during your service on the board.**
- **Mr. Snell – I haven't known Ruth very long, but it's been a pleasure serving with you and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. As for as the fentanyl issue, I find it disturbing that after having the largest collection of income tax ever, our government has decided to go after the medium- and small-tax payers with the hiring of 87,000 Internal Revenue Service [IRS] agents over the next few years. In the meantime, we continue to let the border where the fentanyl is coming from to continue to be porous.**
- **Mr. Clark – Ruth, I've served on several committees with you, and you always brought enthusiasm and attention-to-detail. I've enjoyed working with you and wish you the best of luck.**
- **Mr. Peterson – Ruth, I'm sad and I'm happy. I'm sad that you're not going to be sitting here at this table with us. And I'm happy that LifeWays gets to have you as an employee. Your tireless work ethic, especially for suicide prevention, is amazing. Thank you for everything you've done, we really appreciate it. Bruce didn't fill one position that she holds that we're going to have to fill and that's the person that gives Brad crap during football season. That'll have to be in the info to give to Mr. Wiley when he posts the position.**
- **Mr. Poleski – I'll also wish Ruth best wishes and thanks for being our colleague.**

- Mr. Wiley – Can I just say “ditto?” And note that I get the final say on the football fan that fills Ruth’s position.
- Ms. Brown – I appreciate this board very much, especially the Hillsdale County commissioners, Mark and Bruce, who backed me from day one. I will just ask you all to not get complacent and stay energetic. I ask for consideration for another female to be appointed to this board; we need more female representation. If you don’t understand my reasoning, I suggest you read *Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus*. If you haven’t figured it out already, men and women really are wired differently. This is a great board, and LifeWays has great leadership and staff. You all have my phone number if you need me. I wish you all the best.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Caswell adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Christine Carlson, Secretary



**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON NEEDS ASSESSMENT – JACKSON COUNTY
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022**

The LifeWays Board of Directors held a Public Hearing on Needs Assessment – Jackson County in the Board Room at the LifeWays Building, 1200 N West Avenue, Jackson, Michigan, on Wednesday, August 17, 2022

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Melissa Callison

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Maribeth Leonard (Chief Executive Officer); Kenneth Berger; Latrelle Burk; Karen Cascaddan; Shannan Clevenger; Tyler Crawford; Michael Cupp; Tyler Friend; Ashlee Griffes; Jon Johnston; David Lowe; Chad Surque

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Anne Sayers

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Caswell called to order at 7:28 p.m. the Public Hearing on Needs Assessment – Jackson County.

Ms. Leonard stated that, in accordance with the Michigan Mental Health Code, each Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP) is required to annually conduct a needs assessment to determine the mental health needs of the residents of the county or counties it represents as well as to identify public and nonpublic services necessary to meet those needs. The information and data concerning the mental health needs of individuals with developmental disability, serious mental illness, and serious emotional disturbance is reported to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). This Public Hearing is only one component of data gathering as LifeWays also involves the public and providers in Hillsdale and Jackson counties in various ways to ensure that information is collected from numerous and appropriate sources.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

Edward Woods – I submit that the Needs Assessment reflect some of the issues brought up by our Engagement Team tonight. They did a good job talking about our community-related need for services in both Hillsdale and Jackson counties.

Earl Poleski – I think we're going to get a presentation in September related to my earlier question concerning what the steps are to respond to problematic behavior. I think that should be part of this Needs Assessment.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY RAY SNELL, SUPPORTED BY BRADLEY BOHNER, TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT – JACKSON COUNTY AND RETURN TO THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING AT 7:31 PM. MOTION CARRIED: 9-0.

Christine Carlson, Secretary