

**NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00AM – MARCH 3, 2025
GAYLORD CONFERENCE ROOM & MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Alcona	☒ Carolyn Brummund	Kalkaska	☐ David Comai
Alpena	☐ Brenda Fournier	Leelanau	☐ Vacant
Antrim	☒ Pam Singer	Manistee	☐ Vacant
Benzie	☒ Tim Markey	Missaukee	☒ Dean Smallegan
Charlevoix	☐ Anne Marie Conway	Montmorency	☒ Michelle Hamlin
Cheboygan	☒ John Wallace	Ogemaw	☒ Ron Quackenbush
Crawford	☒ Matthew Moeller	Oscoda	☒ Chuck Varner
Emmet	☐ Terry Newton	Otsego	☒ Doug Johnson
Grand		Presque Isle	☒ Dana Labar
Traverse	☒ Dave Freedman	Roscommon	☒ Darlene Sensor
Iosco	☒ Jay O'Farrell	Wexford	☒ Gary Taylor
Staff	☒ Bea Arsenov	Chief Clinical Officer	
	☒ Jodie Balhorn	Prevention Coordinator	
	☒ Carol Balousek	Executive Administrator	
	☒ Lisa Hartley	Claims Assistant	
	☒ Eric Kurtz	Chief Executive Officer	
	☒ Heidi McClenaghan	Quality Manager	
	☒ Pamela Polom	Finance Specialist	
	☐ Brandon Rhue	Chief Information Officer/Operations Director	
	☒ Denise Switzer	Grant and Treatment Manager	
	☐ Chris VanWagoner	Contract and Provider Network Manager	
	☒ Deanna Yockey	Chief Financial Officer	
Public	Samantha Borowiak, Lou Gamalski, Pamela Lynch, Brian Martinus, Diane Pelts, Corey Winfield		

CALL TO ORDER

Let the record show that Committee Vice-Chair, Jay O'Farrell, called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.

ROLL CALL

Let the record show that David Comai, Anne Marie Conway, Brenda Fournier, and Terry Newton were absent for the meeting on this date; all other SUD Oversight Committee Members were in attendance either in Gaylord or virtually.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Let the record show that the Pledge of Allegiance was recited as a group.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

The January minutes were included in the materials for the meeting on this date.

MOTION BY CAROLYN BRUMMUND TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2025 NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING; SUPPORT BY PAM SINGER. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Let the record show that no additions or revisions to the meeting Agenda were proposed.

MOTION BY CHUCK VARNER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE MARCH 3, 2025 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AS AMENDED; SUPPORT BY DOUG JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let the record show that new SUD Oversight Committee members Matt Moeller, and Michelle, Hamlin, representing Crawford, and Montmorency counties were introduced to the group. Brenda Fournier, newly appointed to the SUD Oversight Committee by Alpena County, was not in attendance.

Mr. Kurtz referenced a press release titled, "MDHHS Launches Initiative to Strengthen Behavioral Health Care Access, Quality, and Choice for Michigan Families" sent by MDHHS on February 28, 2025. Essentially, MDHHS is moving to a competitive procurement process for the state's Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) contracts. MDHHS is seeking input from people currently enrolled in Medicaid and their families, advocacy groups, community-based organizations, federally recognized tribal governments, providers of health care, behavioral health, and other interested parties through an online survey. The survey may be accessed by visiting: [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Stakeholder Engagement Solicitation \(Page 1 of 2\)](#).

Diane Pelts reported that she took the survey, and it references the public mental health system as a whole and questions were skewed against the status quo.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Let the record show that Mr. O'Farrell called for any conflicts of interest to any of the meeting agenda items; none were declared.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

FY25 Admissions Report

The admissions report through January 31, 2025 was included in the materials for the meeting on this date. Admissions were down 12.9% from the same period in FY24, likely due to individuals losing Medicaid and Healthy Michigan (HMP) after the resumption of redeterminations, particularly for individuals on Healthy Michigan (20% decline). The data showed that outpatient was the highest level of treatment admissions at 43%, and alcohol was the most prevalent primary substance at 59%, all opiates (including heroin) were the second most prevalent primary substance at 18%, and methamphetamine was the third most prevalent primary substances at 16%. It was noted that stimulant use has risen sharply throughout the 21-county region.

County-specific reports were posted to the NMRE website at [County Admission Reports | NMRE](#). The county-specific reports are intended to be shared with Boards of Commissioners and other community stakeholders.

Financial Report

All SUD funding through December 31, 2024, showed revenue of \$7,099,330 and \$5,576,966 in expenses, resulting in a net surplus of \$1,522,364. Total PA2 funds were reported as \$4,574,377.

NMRE continues to monitor block grant funding for treatment services. Quarter 1 appears to be in line with the budget.

PA2/Liquor Tax was summarized as follows:

Projected FY25 Activity			
Beginning Balance	Projected Revenue	Approved Projects	Projected Ending Balance
\$4,765,231	\$1,847,106	\$2,150,940	\$4,461,397

Actual FY25 Activity			
Beginning Balance	Current Receipts	Current Expenditures	Current Ending Balance
\$4,765,231	\$92,609	\$283,464	\$4,574,377

LIQUOR TAX PARAMETERS

The Liquor Tax funds parameters approved by the NMRE Board of Directors on April 24, 2024 were included in the meeting materials to inform the SUD Oversight Committee's decision whether to recommend approval of the liquor tax requests brought before the Committee on this date.

FY25 LIQUOR TAX REQUESTS

1. 217 Recovery Recovery Stories: Grand \$5,800.00 New Request
Message of Hope Part V Traverse

Meets PA2 Parameters? ☒ Yes ☐ No

MOTION BY TO DAVE FREEDMAN APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE 217 RECOVERY FOR GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY LIQUOR TAX DOLLARS IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$5,800.00) TO SPONSOR PART FIVE OF THE RECOVERY STORIES: MESSAGE OF HOPE SERIES; SUPPORT BY CAROLYN BRUMMUND.

Discussion: Mr. Labar asked whether any surveys have been conducted following the previous events. 217 Recovery Executive Director, Corey Winfield, responded that 217 stays in contact with participants and participants are encouraged to provide feedback. The pervious events have been very well attended.

MOTION CARRIED.

2. Harm Reduction Activities to Combat the Multi County \$52,700. New Request
Michigan Opioid Epidemic 00

Meets PA2 Parameters? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Antrim	\$	15,313.75
Benzie	\$	11,553.68
Kalkaska	\$	11,593.79
Leelanau	\$	14,238.78
Total	\$	52,700.00

Mr. Markey indicated that he is inclined to pull Benzie County from the request until he has had time to conduct further research. Harm Reduction Michigan Director, Pamela Lynch, responded that Harm Reduction Michigan staff regularly interacts with the Benzie-Leelanau Health Department about local efforts. A new naloxone distribution box has recently been placed at Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital. Ms. Singer voiced support for the request as it pertains to Antrim County, adding that Harm Reduction Michigan has done a great job with access to naloxone.

Mr. Freedman noted that county representatives are supposed to be contacted prior to liquor tax requests coming before the SUD Oversight Committee. Lou Gamalski, a volunteer with Harm Reduction Michigan, responded that she sent emails to the SUD Oversight Committee Members representing the affected counties along with the liquor tax request application but did not receive any responses.

MOTION BY PAM SINGER TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM HARM REDUCTION MICHIGAN FOR LIQUOR TAX DOLLARS FROM ANTRIM, KALKASKA, AND LEELANAU COUNTIES IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FORTY-ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$41,147.00) TO FUND ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC; SUPPORT BY CHUCK VARNER. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Markie agreed to respond to the NMRE prior to the Board meeting regarding whether to include Benzie County in the motion.

County Overviews

The impact of the liquor tax requests approved on this date on county fund balances was shown as:

	Projected FY25 Available Balance	Amount Approved March 3, 2025	Projected Remaining Balance
Antrim	\$188,614.67	\$15,313.75	\$173,300.93
Grand Traverse	\$389,075.88	\$5,800.00	\$383,375.88
Kalkaska	\$23,406.64	\$11,593.79	\$11,812.85
Leelanau	\$57,428.57	\$14,238.78	\$43,189.79
Total		\$46,946.32	

The "Projected Remaining Balance" reflects funding available for projects while retaining a fund balance equivalent of one year's receivables.

PRESENTATION

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Health Home (HH) Program

The NMRE's Quality Manager, Heidi McClenaghan, was in attendance to provide an update on the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Health Home Program.

The Health Home model offers comprehensive case management and care coordination to Medicaid beneficiaries with a qualifying health condition to address their health care and social support needs. The goals of the program are to improve care by managing an individual's prescribed medications for Opioid and Alcohol Use Disorder, coordinating between physical and behavioral health care services, and transitioning between primary, specialty, and inpatient settings of care.

The NMRE was selected by MDHHS as first PIHP to participate in the Opioid Health Home Pilot Program and began enrolling beneficiaries with Opioid Use Disorder diagnoses in October 2018. The NMRE contracts with Health Home Partners (HHP) who enroll and serve beneficiaries and manage all their health and social needs. The current number of individuals enrolled in the program in the 21-county region is 2,877.

In FY25, the Opioid Health Home Program expanded to include individuals with an Alcohol Use Disorder or Stimulant Use Disorder and renamed the SUD Health Home Program. Since October 2024, the NMRE has added 462 unique individuals to the program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Singer requested a future presentation from a Medical Examiner to address the region's opioid overdose deaths.

Mr. Freedman expressed concern about the rebidding of the PIHPs, particularly in light of possible cuts to Medicaid.

Pamela Lynch questioned whether the state's intention to rebid the PIHPs is tied to the recent lawsuits filed against MDHHS regarding the FY25 Contract.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for May 5, 2025 at 10:00AM.

ADJOURN

MOTION BY JOHN WALLACE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR MARCH 3, 2025; SUPPORT BY CHUCK VARNER. MOTION CARRIED.

Let the record show that Mr. O'Farrell adjourned the meeting at 11:04AM.