NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00AM – NOVEMBER 2, 2026
GAYLORD CONFERENCE ROOM & MICROSOFT TEAMS

Alcona	☐ Adam Brege	**Kalkaska**	☐ David Comai
Alpena	☐ Lucille Bray	**Leelanau**	☐ Vacant
Antrim	☐ Pam Singer	**Manistee**	☐ Janice McCraner
Benzie	☒ Tim Markey	**Missaukee**	☐ Dean Smallegan
Charlevoix	☒ Annemarie 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
	☒ Carol Balousek	Executive Administrator
	☐ Brady Barnhill	IT Specialist
	☐ Lisa Hartley	Claims Assistant
	☒ Eric Kurtz	Chief Executive Officer
	☐ Heidi McClenaghan	Quality Manager
	☒ Brie Molaison	Compliance and Customer Services Officer
	☒ Pamela Polom	Finance Specialist
	☐ Brandon Rhue	Chief Information Officer/Operations Director
	☒ Denise Switzer	Grant and Treatment Manager
	☐ Deanna Yockey	Chief Financial Officer
Public:	Anonymous (1), Andrew Gerling, Kayla Thomas, Rebecca Yuncker	

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

ROLL CALL
Let the record show that Adam Brege, Lucille Bray, Pam Singer, Matthew Moeller, David Comai, Janice McCraner, and Dean Smallegan were not in attendance for the meeting on this date. All other Board Members were present either virtually or in person.

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

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES
The September minutes were included in the materials for the meeting on this date.

MOTION BY TERRY NEWTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2026, NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING; SUPPORT BY JOHN WALLACE. MOTION CARRIED.

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

MOTION BY TERRY NEWTON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER 2, 2026 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE; SUPPORT BY DOUG JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Let the record show that there were no announcements during the meeting on this date.

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
Regional Admissions Report
Staff reviewed regional admissions data and reported that admissions during the current reporting period decreased approximately 15% compared to the same period in FY 2025. It was noted that overall eligibility enrollment also declined by approximately 10.2%, likely accounting for a significant portion of the reduction in admissions. Committee members reviewed utilization trends by level of care. Outpatient treatment remained the most utilized level of care throughout the region at 35%, followed by residential treatment and withdrawal management services. These utilization patterns were reported to be consistent with prior years.

Staff further reported that alcohol continues to be the primary substance of use across the region, representing approximately 60% of admissions. Members were advised that primary substances vary among counties and that county-specific reports provide a more detailed view of local trends.

County-specific reports were posted to the NMRE website at SUD_ADMISSIONS_REPORT_110226.pdf. The county-specific reports are intended to be shared with Boards of Commissioners and other community stakeholders.

Financial Report
The August SUD report showed all funding source revenue of $21,010,458 and $18,811,216 in expenses, resulting in a net surplus of $2,199,242. Total PA2 funds were reported as $4,947,898.

PA2/Liquor Tax was summarized as follows:

Projected FY26 Activity			
Beginning Balance	Projected Revenue	Approved Projects	Projected Ending Balance
$5,137,481	$1,847,106	$2,071,443	$4,913,143

Actual FY26 Activity			
Beginning Balance	Current Receipts	Current Expenditures	Current Ending Balance
$5,137,481	$1,147,646	$1,337,229	$4,947,898

Staff reported that financial activity continued to trend as anticipated and discussed expectations that claims activity would increase during the final months of the fiscal year as claims are submitted and processed.

Discussion occurred regarding prevention efforts focused on alcohol use among middle and high school students. A committee member inquired about alcohol prevention programming following recent vehicle accidents involving youth. Staff reported that prevention activities vary by county and provider and include evidence-based curricula such as Guiding Good Choices and Prime for Life, among others, implemented through local prevention providers.

Additional discussion occurred regarding county fund balances and reserve amounts. Staff explained that county overviews are available upon request and include projected revenues, approved project expenditures, remaining balances, and required withhold amounts.

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.

FY27 Liquor Tax Requests

1. Charlevoix County Individual Jail Counseling Charlevoix $25,000 Continuation

   Meets PA2 Parameters? ☒ Yes ☐ No

   Staff presented a continuing funding request from Charlevoix County in the amount of $25,000 to support substance use counseling services within the county jail. The program provides individual counseling and assessment services by a master's-level social worker and utilizes screening tools, including adverse childhood experience assessments, to identify trauma and treatment needs among incarcerated individuals.

   Committee discussion highlighted the value of addressing underlying trauma and substance use issues while individuals are in a stable environment, as well as the collaboration among treatment providers, the county jail, and recovery court programs. Members noted positive outcomes associated with the ongoing project.

   MOTION BY ANNEMARIE CONWAY TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM CHARLEVOIX COUNTY FOR IQUOR TAX DOLLARS IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR ($25,000.00) TO FUND INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING WIHTIN THE COUNTY JAIL; SUPPORT BY TERRY NEWTON. ROLL CALL VOTE.

   "Yea" Votes: A. Conway, D. Freedman, M. Hamlin, D. Johnson, D. Labar, T. Markey, T. Newton, J. O'Farrell, R. Quackenbush, D. Sensor, J. Wallace, G. Taylor, C. Varner

   "Nay" Votes: Nil

   MOTION CARRIED.

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2.	Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center	Prevention, Advocacy, and Educational Support	Multi	$66,106	Continuation

		Amount Approved on September 14, 2026	Amount Revised November 2, 2026
Crawford	$	10,035.54	9,898.64
Iosco	$	—	$17,909.65
Ogemaw	$	15,140.27	14,933.73
Oscoda	$	5,980.05	5,898.47
Otsego	$	17,707.07	17,465.51
~~Roscommon~~	~~$~~	~~17,243.07~~	
Total	**$**		**$66,106.00**

Meets PA2 Parameters? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Staff presented a revised request from the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center. Members were reminded that the project had previously been approved for Crawford, Ogemaw, Oscoda, and Otsego Counties. Following review, it was determined that Iosco County had been inadvertently omitted and Roscommon County mistakenly included in the original request.

The revised allocation adds Iosco County and adjusts county funding shares based on population calculations. The overall project amount remained unchanged at $66,106, with Iosco County's allocation totaling $17,909.65. Staff also provided updated county balances reflecting the proposed adjustments.

MOTION BY RON QUACKENBUSH TO APPROVE THE REVISED REQUEST FROM NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT CENTER FOR CRAWFORD, IOSCO, OGEMAW, OSCODA, AND OTSEGO COUNTY LIQUOR TAX DOLLARS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIX DOLLARS ($66,106.00) TO FUND PREVENTION, ADVOCACY, AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT; SUPPORT BY TERRY NEWTON. ROLL CALL VOTE.

"Yea" Votes: A. Conway, D. Freedman, M. Hamlin, D. Johnson, D. Labar, T. Markey, T. Newton, J. O'Farrell, R. Quackenbush, D. Sensor, J. Wallace, G. Taylor, C. Varner

"Nay" Votes: Nil

MOTION CARRIED.

County Overviews

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

	Projected FY27 Balance	Amount Approved September 14, 2026	Projected Remaining Balance
Charlevoix	$104,087.09	$25,000.001	$79,087.09

Iosco	$195,214.28	$17,909.65	$177,304.63
Total		**$42,909.65**	

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

PRESENTATION

FY25 Substance Use Disorder Services Customer Satisfaction Survey Report

NMRE Compliance and Customer Services Officer, Brie Molaison, presented preliminary findings from the FY26 SUD Customer Satisfaction Survey. It was explained that only outpatient Services would be reviewed as it was the only one of the four planned surveys that generated sufficient responses to produce meaningful results. One survey received no responses, another received responses from only a single provider, and a third generated only eight responses. Staff indicated additional survey efforts would be conducted to improve participation and provide more comprehensive data.

Response Rates

Provider participation was limited. Reported response rates included:

- Catholic Human Services: 32%
- B.A.S.E.S.: 21%
- Bear River Health: 13%
- Harbor Hall: 4%

Seven additional providers did not submit responses despite serving beneficiaries in outpatient settings.

Key Findings

Survey results generally reflected positive perceptions of treatment services:

- 96% reported receiving services quickly after contacting the program.
- 94% indicated staff explained services in an understandable manner.
- 96% reported being informed about service funding.
- Approximately 96% felt comfortable asking questions about services.
- 95.5% reported receiving assistance in locating recovery supports.

Areas of Concern

Ms. Molaison highlighted several areas requiring improvement:

- Participation in treatment planning decreased from prior years.
- Knowledge of appeal rights declined significantly.
- Awareness of grievance procedures showed a substantial decrease.
- Fewer respondents reported receiving information regarding recipient rights.

The survey included a total of 57 respondents, substantially fewer than the more than 200 responses received in the prior year. Committee members expressed concern regarding the low response rate and the limited ability to draw conclusions from the data. Discussion focused on the need for provider accountability and the importance of obtaining meaningful beneficiary feedback to evaluate service quality and contract compliance.

Ms. Molaison reported plans to immediately re-administer portions of the survey and develop corrective action plans for participating providers. Additional efforts will be undertaken to engage

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providers that failed to participate. It was also noted that mental health surveys achieved significantly higher participation rates, demonstrating that stronger engagement is possible.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Let the record show that no public comments were offered.

NEXT MEETING
The next meeting was scheduled for January 4, 2027, at 10:00AM.

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION BY JOHN WALLACE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE; SECOND BY TERRY NEWTON. MOTION CARRIED.

Let the record show that Mr. O'Farrell adjourned the meeting at 10:40AM.

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