

**RTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00AM – JANUARY 5, 2026
GAYLORD CONFERENCE ROOM & MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Alcona	☒ Carolyn Brummund	Kalkaska	☐ David Comai
Alpena	☐ Lucille Bray	Leelanau	☐ Vacant
Antrim	☒ Pam Singer	Manistee	☐ Vacant
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 ☒ Jodie Balhorn ☒ Carol Balousek ☐ Brady Barnhill ☒ Lisa Hartley ☒ Eric Kurtz ☒ Heidi McClenaghan ☒ Pamela Polom ☐ Brandon Rhue ☒ Denise Switzer ☐ Chris VanWagoner ☒ Deanna Yockey	Chief Clinical Officer Prevention Coordinator Executive Administrator IT Specialist Claims Assistant Chief Executive Officer Quality Manager Finance Specialist Chief Information Officer/Operations Director Grant and Treatment Manager Contract and Provider Network Manager Chief Financial Officer	
Public:	Nichole Flickema, Donna Hardies, Sarah Hegg, Taylor Ignaczak, Chip Johnston, Vicki Konczak, Larry LaCross, Susan Pulaski, Rhonda Reynolds, Ellen Templeton, Kayla Thomas, Lynda Zeller		

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Let the record show that Lucille Bray, David Comai, Michelle Hamlin, Matt Moeller, Ron Quackenbush, and Dean Smallegan, 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 November minutes were included in the materials for the meeting on this date.

MOTION BY CHUCK VARNER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2025 NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING; SUPPORT BY DOUG JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

MOTION BY GARY TAYLOR TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 5, 2026 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE; SUPPORT BY ANNE MARIE CONWAY. MOTION CARRIED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NMRE staff announced that the new IRS reimbursable mileage rate as of January 1, 2026, is \$0.725 per mile.

Mr. Kurtz wished attends a Happy New Year and reported that there has been no decision from Judge Yates in the lawsuits (25-000143-MB and 25-000162MB) related to the PIHP bid out.

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

The admissions report through November 30, 2025, was included in the materials for the meeting on this date. Admissions were down 8.35% from the same period in FY25. It was noted that the number of covered lives in the region has also declined. The data showed that outpatient was the highest level of treatment admissions at 38%; residential withdrawal management was the second highest level of treatment at 30%. Alcohol was the most prevalent primary substance at 63%, all opiates (including heroin) were the second most prevalent primary substance at 16%, and methamphetamine was the third most prevalent primary substance at 15%.

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

At the end of FY25 (September 30, 2025) SUD showed all funding source revenue of \$28,898,004 and \$24,160,950 in expenses, resulting in a net surplus of \$4,737,054. Total PA2 funds were reported as \$4,669,035.

For FY25, \$761K was moved from PA2 to SUD block grant funding.

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.

FY26 Liquor Tax Requests

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|-----|
| 1. | Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center | Advocacy and Educational Support | Multi County | \$78,334 | New |
|----|--|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|-----|

Meets PA2 Parameters? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Crawford	\$	9,329.37
Iosco	\$	16,879.68
Ogemaw	\$	14,074.90
Oscoda	\$	5,559.25
Otsego	\$	16,461.07
Roscommon	\$	16,029.72
Total	\$	78,334.00

Discussion:

In an email dated January 3, 2026, Ms. Sensor expressed concerns with the request. First, as the Roscommon County representative on the NMRE Substance Use Disorder Oversight Committee, she had no prior knowledge of the request which is in violation of current practices. Second, Roscommon County already provides various substance use services targeting youth. Ms. Sensor requested that this matter be tabled (at least for Roscommon County's participation) until the meeting on March 2, 2026, to allow her to gather additional information and speak with the Roscommon County Administrator and Board of Commissioners (Ms. Sensor is the Chair of the BOC).

Mr. Kurtz agreed that liquor tax requests are intended to be brought to the representatives on the SUD Oversight Committee for which liquor tax funds are being requested prior to being presented to the NMRE and the SUD Oversight Committee.

Mr. O'Farrell noted that counties provide funding to Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center (NMCAC) from their general funds. Granting this PA2 request would save counties' local dollars.

Taylor Ignaczak from NMCAC was in attendance. Ms. Ignaczak stressed that funds will be used for education, advocacy, and prevention efforts (not billable services) as well as salary and benefits for an Outreach Coordinator.

Mr. O'Farrell requested that Ms. Spencer get approval for Roscommon County prior to the NMRE Board meeting on January 28th, if possible, which she agreed to do.

MOTION BY CHUCK VARNER TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT CENTER FOR LIQUOR TAX DOLLARS FROM CRAWFORD, IOSCO, OGEMAW, OSCODA, OTSEGO, AND ROSCOMMON COUNTIES IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SEVENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$78,334.00) FOR ADVOCACY AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PENDING APPROVAL FROM ROSCOMMON COUNTY; SUPPORT BY TERRY

NEWTON. MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE NAY VOTE RECORDED FROM MS. SENSOR.

County Overviews

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

	Projected FY26 Available Balance	Amount Approved January 5, 2026	Projected Remaining Balance
Crawford	\$68,486.06	\$9,329.37	\$59,156.69
Iosco	\$150,966.79	\$16,879.68	\$134,087.11
Ogemaw	\$109,476.60	\$14,074.90	\$95,401.70
Oscoda	\$49,954.93	\$5,559.25	\$44,395.68
Otsego	\$25,698.76	\$16,461.07	\$9,237.69
<i>Roscommon</i>	<i>\$479,362.50</i>	<i>\$16,029.72</i>	<i>\$463,332.78</i>
Total	\$883,945.64	\$78,334.00	\$805,611.65

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

PRESENTATION

NMRE Health Home Update

Health Home programs provide coordinated, patient-centered care for Medicaid beneficiaries with serious mental illnesses (BHH) or specific substance use disorders (SUDHH), aiming to integrate physical and behavioral health, manage chronic conditions, and improve outcomes.

2014	2018	2020	2022	2025
Behavioral Health Home (BHH) begins in NMRE region	NMRE selected by MDHHS as pilot for Opioid Health Home (OHH)	BHH expanded to all five CMHSPs in the NMRE region	NMRE begins an Alcohol Health Home (AHH)	OHH expands to SUDHH to include alcohol and stimulant use disorders

Individuals (adults and children) with qualifying diagnoses, who are enrolled in Medicaid/HMP, and live within the NMRE region are eligible to participate in health home programs.

The NMRE's "Health Home Partners" include SUD Providers, CMHSPs, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), physicians' offices, Women's Health Clinics, and Health Care Systems.

Current enrollment shows 693 individuals enrolled in BHH and 1,010 enrolled in SUDHH.

RISE Otsego Substance Free Coalition and SAFE in Northern Michigan

Ellen Templeton, Project Coordinator for the RISE Otsego Substance Free Coalition, and Susan Pulaski, Project Director, and Nichole Flickema, Project Coordinator, of SAFE in Northern Michigan were in attendance to give updates on their coalitions.

- SAFE in Northern Michigan was organized in 2007 in Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet Counties as a community response after local students ranked youth substance use as a top priority for action.

- RISE Otsego Substance Free Coalition was established in 2018 in Otsego County as a substance-free coalition aimed at preventing youth substance use, increasing community awareness, and creating change through collaboration, education, and prevention initiatives.
- In 2025, SAFE in Northern Michigan's media campaigns delivered over 5 million prevention messages on alcohol, marijuana, vaping, and youth assets to support healthier, drug-free youth.
- In 2025 Rise media campaigns delivered over 2 million impressions on substance use prevention, seatbelt use, and distracted driving awareness.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Both Ms. Singer and Mr. Newton thanked the presenters for their reports and good work.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for March 2, 2026 at 10:00AM.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY PAM SINGER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR JANUARY 5, 2026; SUPPORT BY GARY TAYLOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Let the record show that Mr. O'Farrell adjourned the meeting at 11:22 AM.