

**NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00AM – MAY 5, 2025
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	☒ 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 ☒ Jodie Balhorn ☒ Carol Balousek ☒ Lisa Hartley ☒ Eric Kurtz ☐ Heidi McClenaghan ☒ Pamela Polom ☐ Brandon Rhue ☒ Denise Switzer ☐ Chris VanWagoner ☐ Deanna Yockey	Chief Clinical Officer Prevention Coordinator Executive Administrator 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	Samantha Borowiak, Lou Gamalski, Caitlin Koucky, Larry LaCross, Tom McHale		

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 Lucille Bray, David Comai, 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 March minutes were included in the materials for the meeting on this date.

MOTION BY CAROLYN BURMMUND TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2025 NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING; SUPPORT BY DAVE FREEDMAN. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

MOTION BY RON QUACKENBUSH TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE MAY 5, 2025 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE; SUPPORT BY TERRY NEWTON. 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

FY25 Admissions Report

The admissions report through March 31, 2025 was included in the materials for the meeting on this date. Admissions were down 15.6% 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.

The NMRE is looking at in-region utilization of detox and residential beds. Of the 400+ beds in the 21-county region, only 20% are used by residents of the region.

Mr. Freedman expressed concern about the Medicaid funding stream given potential cuts that the federal level. Mr. Kurtz responded that some discussion would take place under the "Financial Report."

Ms. Singer noticed CHS utilization has decreased. CHS President/Chief Executive Officer, Larry LaCross, responded that CHS is providing the same service it has in prior years. The reduction in admissions is likely attributable to Medicaid changes. He noted that the substance use in the region has not decreased.

Financial Report

All SUD funding through February 28, 2025, showed revenue of \$11,854,303 and \$9,175,155 in expenses, resulting in a net surplus of \$2,679,148. Total PA2 funds were reported as \$4,360,589.

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	\$497,251	\$4,360,589

Mr. Kurtz acknowledged that federal issues (potential Medicaid cuts) are difficult to predict. It is likely that matching programs will be looked at. Numerous grant initiatives for startups are on the chopping block. The NMRE at the mercy of the state if/when any federal matching programs are hit. With the reduction in Healthy Michigan beneficiaries due to redeterminations, the 90% funding percentage may be reduced.

Mr. Newton asked about the announcement from the Department on February 28th that it is moving to a competitive procurement process for the state's Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) contracts. Mr. Kurtz responded that the details are still being worked out. He noted that there is very little competition in the rural north (PIHP Regions 1 and 2). The state's procurement also failed to mention SUD services.

Ms. Hamlin inquired about the NMRE's lawsuit with the State. Mr. Kurtz explained that an injunction and complaint was filed against the State of Michigan, State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and Elizabeth Hertel by the law firm of Taft, Stettinius & Hollister, LLP on behalf of NorthCare network Mental Health Care Entity, Northern Michigan Regional Entity, Region 10 PIHP, and the CHM Partnership of Southeast Michigan. The suit stems from the fact that, although the plaintiffs signed modified versions of the FY25 Contract (striking out language related to the Waskul settlement, IFS capitation, and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics), the Department refused to counter-sign.

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. Charlevoix County Individual Counseling Charlevoix \$21,000 Continuation Jail

Meets PA2 Parameters? ☒ Yes ☐ No

MOTION BY TO ANNE MARIE CONWAY APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE CHARLEVOIX COUNTY JAIL FOR CHARLEVOIX COUNTY LIQUOR TAX DOLLARS IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$21,000.00) TO PROVIDE

**INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING WITHIN THE JAIL; SUPPORT BY PAM SINGER.
MOTION CARRIED.**

2. Community Recovery Alliance Community Center and Peer Services Emmet \$103,509 Continuation

Meets PA2 Parameters? ☒ Yes ☐ No

MOTION BY TERRY NEWTON TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM COMMUNITY RECOVERY ALLIANCE FOR EMMET COUNTY LIQUOR TAX DOLLARS IN AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINE DOLLARS (\$103,509.00) TO CONDUCT OUTREACH AND SUPPORT THE PETOSKEY COMMUNITY CENTER; SUPPORT BY JOHN WALLACE. MOTION CARRIED.

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 May 5, 2025	Projected Remaining Balance
Charlevoix	\$35,576.84	\$21,000.00	\$15,576.84
Emmet	\$241,165.42	\$103,509.00	\$137,656.42
Total		\$124,509.00	

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

PRESENTATION

The Importance of Multiple Pathways to Recovery

NMSAS Recovery Center's Peer Recovery Coach Coordinator, Tom McHale, was in attendance to discuss the importance of providing multiple pathways to recovery.

Mr. McHale reported that during his 36 years of uninterrupted sobriety and recovery advocacy, he has observed that there are two conditions present in people with sustained recovery: 1) they were able to create a meaningful life, and 2) they attach themselves to people, places, and things that reflect and reinforce their core beliefs.

Mr. McHale explained that 12-step programs are merely one path to recovery. The need to increase the number of groups under the "recovery umbrella" was stressed. Individuals should be encouraged to find pathways that align with their personal beliefs and values.

Tom thanked the NMRE SUD Oversight Committee for their support to the recovering community and asked that it consider advocating for multiple paths to recovery.

PUBLIC COMMENT

SUD Oversight Committee Members

Ms. Singer shared that she has been tracking the rising number of opioid deaths in Antrim County. She has spoken with Dr. Paul Wagner, the Medical Examiner for Antrim County and found that

opioid death data also includes suicides and deaths of Antrim County residents who died elsewhere. Reporting can also be very delayed due to the need to obtain a coroner's report.

Public

Caitlin Koucky, Executive Director for Community Recovery Alliance, thanked the NMRE and the SUD Oversight Committee Members for approving the liquor tax request for peer services. She noted that these services had previously been funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Covid grant which was terminated on April 1, 2025.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for July 7, 2025 at 10:00AM.

ADJOURN

MOTION BY TERRY NEWTON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR MAY 5, 2025; SUPPORT BY JOHN WALLACE. MOTION CARRIED.

Let the record show that Mr. O'Farrell adjourned the meeting at 11:02AM.