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| LCMHS Board Minutes | |
| Date | April 16, 2025 |
| Time | 5:03 pm |
| Meeting called to order by | Susan Kimmerly |
| Meeting Adjourned | 6:13 pm |

## In attendance

Board: Sharon Menard, Susan Kimmerly, Mike Feulner, Cindy Morin, Geoff Lindemer, Keith Rousseau

LCMHS Staff: Meg Bickerstaff, Robyn Daley, Derek Hoy, Jennifer Stratton,

Notes: Emily Roemer

## Introductions

* Keith Rousseau – From Stowe. Has 3 children, one with special needs.

## Motion to approve meeting minutes from march

FIRST: Mike Feulner

SECOND: Sharon Menard

DISCUSSION:

* Correction to Geoff’s last name in executive session

APPROVED: unanimously approved

## CEO Report

* HR: Hired an HR Admin Assistant who is supporting HR and the Front Desk.
* Operations: Jennifer provided testimony for HHS about the ASAP program, why it closed, what worked, what didn’t work. There was some clarifying about LCMHS not wanting the program, which was untrue, we didn’t want to close it. There is ongoing discussion using crisis beds to support a program like ASAP. There would be staff needed and support with the local hospitals/nursing staff. Counseling on Aging will be moving in toward the middle of May. Derek, Savi and Jennifer met with DMH regarding Success Beyond 6 match payment. DMH is no longer being flexible with match payments. We are currently up to date on the match payment.
* Derek and Dr McGee presented at the DMH conference last week.
* Redwood is planning for summer camp. We have 14 school contracts for next year. ABH is working hard to manage homelessness. There are less resources available than ever. Sherry Marcelino is working closely with Downstreet.
* ABH has been working on CRT re-assessments which are due at the end of April. CRT is also going through payment reform, with less focus on habilitative needs and more focus on rehabilitative needs. This could cause some of our clients to lose qualifications for our programming. There are not many options locally for these clients. The payment reform begins July 1.
* DS is working through payment reform. The 2 case management entities have been selected. Kudos to the team who got the record upload complete on time. This allowed us to receive a $65,000 grant.
* Legislative: the house voted the budget out, with a 2% increase (VCP asked for 6.5%). VCP is asking that everyone communicate with their senators, which Jennifer has been doing.
* Planning is ongoing for next quarter’s match payment. We are not the only agency struggling. The major difference with our agency and others is our fringe rate. Improvements in invoicing should allow for on time payment of the match payment, along with prioritizing outgoing funds.

## Finance Report

* Match payment is to balance the federal Medicaid funding with the state Medicaid funding.
* Finance committee meeting; growing impatience with the auditors. Our staff is doing a great job. We are still working on remedying the issues of the past.
* Working on getting into good habits with data and transparency. The audit is not formally closed. Fiscal year 24 is trending better than FY 23. And FY 25 is trending better than 24. Waiting to see final numbers for early 2025 to see how the benefits and other changes are affecting the budget.
* Programs are now able to look at program specific spending and invoicing. The information is not perfect but is good enough be confident in choices. Derek can pull data from the accounting system now. Income is 94% to budget. Expenditures are higher than budgeted, mostly due to payroll – including fringe and needing to utilize contracted staff. We are 101% to budget. We are around 50% for fringe rate, other agencies are around 30%. There are benefits to higher fringe rate.
* Transparency and data availability around the budget have improved greatly over the past year.
* There is optimism about being in the black over the next 18 months. Kudos to the finance team and everyone working on implementing changes. NCSS and Savi have been a great asset.
* DMH Commissioner noted that we have done a tremendous job working up to making the most recent match payment.
* There is an expectation that the next few months should have positive gains, but there are still a few past payments and upcoming match rates to contend with. The summer tends to be leaner due to school break.
* Payment reform and legislative (state and federal) changes could prove to be challenges upcoming.
* Derek spoke at the DMH conference about our partnership (LCMHS and NCSS) and there has been good reception among agencies and a lot of curiosity on how it is working.

## Standing committee reports

* DS Payment Reform – there are 3 areas of concern and Jennifer is meeting with DAIL via a committee on working though these concerns. Concerns are defining the 4 tiers and the exceptions process. We have 2 clients who would be exceptions, and other agencies have a similar exception rate. The shared living provider stipend is also a concern, particularly with exceptional clients. The final concern is the CIS-A assessment. We have worked on comparing our current needs assessment to CIS-A scores. Some CIS-A scores are 2 tiers below current assessments. This would be a huge change in funding. The new CIS-A will be completed by an outside entity. There is discussion around including an additional assessment that may close some gaps in capturing client needs.
* DAIL services about 3,000 people statewide, generally for a lifetime. DMH services are more fluid. The cost of current DAIL services is still less than the cost of running institutions, but it is still a lot of money
* We will lose 40% of revenue to case management entities in DS starting October 1.
* Very important to get the reform process right so all individuals continue to get the services they need.
* Agency Standing Committee – the combined meetings are going pretty well. Standing committee is meeting with the candidate for CCQO. They are discussing payment reforms around CRT and other changes in children’s funding and respite. Looking for solutions to maintain EPIC. The funding is ending later this year and are looking at billing options for the services provided during EPIC.
* The whole agency is working on the Local Community Services Plan, which is done every 2 years creating goals for best serving the needs of the community. We are working on matching the staff we have to the services needed in the community.
* CYFS staff are navigating changes in school funding.

## NEW Business/old business

* Board Attendance – The bylaws note that missing 3 meetings over the course of a year allows for review of a member’s continuing participation on the board. There has been allowance made for board members who are legislators and need to miss meeting based on legislative session schedules. Susan will reach out to members who have been absent from meetings recently.
* Plan for board member training.
* Scheduling board tour.

## Next meeting(s)

* April 16th, 2025
* May 21st, 2025
* June 18th, 2025
* July 16th, 2025
* August 20th, 2025
* September 17th, 2025
* October 15th – Annual Meeting