

Proposed Minutes  
**Lakeshore Behavioral Health Alliance**  
**Ottawa/Muskegon CMH Services**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Grand Haven Community Center  
421 Columbus Avenue  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
March 14, 2008

**CMH of Ottawa County**

Present: Edward Berghorst, Rita Bird, Mark Bombara, Mary Ann Cartwright, Donald Disselkoen, Rebecca Gretzner, Richard Kanten, Barbara VanderVeen, Keith Van Zoeren

Excused: Joyce Kortman, Rosa Nino

Staff Present: Dr. Michael Brashears, Patricia Genesky

**Muskegon CMH Services**

Present: Chuck Buzzell, Duane Gaultney, I. John Snider II, Janet Thomas, Bill Gill

Excused: Ralph Christiansen, Cheryl Natte, Josephine House, Ollie Dunbar, Bill Darcy, Vern Brusseau, Dr. Remington Sprague

Staff Present: John North, Joy Vander Ven

**CALL TO ORDER**

Janet Thomas, Muskegon CMH Services Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS - Janet Thomas**

Ms. Thomas welcomed the attendees and requested that each introduce themselves.

**PURPOSE OF MEETING - Janet Thomas**

Ms. Thomas explained that the purpose of the meeting is to establish a more effective working relationship as a mental health alliance.

**AFFILIATION BACKGROUND, HISTORY, CURRENT PROJECTS - John North/Dr. Michael Brashears**

John North, Executive Director of Muskegon CMH, gave a presentation which explained the background and history of the Affiliation, as well as current projects. The affiliation, created six years ago, was established as a defense against the State's move to privatize, preserve County prerogatives for self direction, preserve CMH control over services, and establish a legal framework for cooperative ventures.

Dr. Michael Brashears, Director of Ottawa CMH, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself as the newly appointed CMH Director of Ottawa County. Dr. Brashears elaborated on the definition of Evidence Based Practices, of which there are over 300, and the characteristics of EBPs. Pros and cons were outlined, and the current Lakeshore Affiliation EBP initiatives were explained.

Mr. North explained the administrative, training, customer service, and quality/compliance projects currently in process.

**FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR AFFILIATION COLLABORATION - Janet Thomas**

Mr. North asked for comments on the future direction of the Lakeshore Behavioral Health Alliance. Ms. Thomas stated that the first priority of the Board members and fiduciaries is to provide access to mental health services. Services need to be as accessible and visible as possible.

Ms. Thomas suggested a collaboration of the two counties to discuss jail diversion.

Mr. Duane Gaultney, Muskegon Board member, feels it would be beneficial to have more consumer input.

Ms. Rita Bird, Ottawa Board member, stated that Evidenced Based Practice is for the MI consumer, and asked if there is a Best Practice available for the DD consumer. It was stated that some are being used and DCH has a group collecting outcomes. Ms. Bird also asked how Muskegon CMH assesses need, and asked if this is better done together as an affiliation or separately by county.

Mr. Keith Van Zoeren, Ottawa Board Chair, reminded everyone that it is apparent the CMH's will not be receiving additional resources from the State and that our first responsibility is to the consumer. He challenged staff to keep this in mind, as the more dollars that we can free up via operating efficiencies the more we have for the consumers. He also mentioned that housing is a big issue for our individuals receiving services.

Dr. Brashears asked Board members to come to these meetings with one or two concepts that could be accomplished outside the CMH arena. Parallel dialogues might be an option. Both Boards need to see what can be individually accomplished for the CMH structure and the consumers we serve. It was suggested that an assignment be given to the Directors, and another assignment given to the joint Board. Suggestions for the joint Board were as follows:

- Jail Diversion, and MPRI
- Housing
- Options for the Affiliation to develop (training, customer services, etc.)
- Ideas for projects the two Boards can work on together

It was suggested that the Executive Directors give some thought on how to proceed with the joint ventures.

Jail diversion was discussed, as well as MPRI. It was mentioned that there has been talk at recent MACMHB conferences of combining Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services. Mental Health Courts were also discussed, as they appear to be a successful venture.

#### ISSUES OF INTEREST - John North/Dr. Michael Brashears

- a. Mt. Pleasant Regional Center - Dr. Brashears and Mr. North met with DCH staff this past week to discuss transitioning consumers from the Mt. Pleasant Regional Center. A plan was submitted in December which proposed the new development of a facility in our region that would manage the people currently at Mt. Pleasant and act as a crisis center. DCH has requested us to revise the proposal and resubmit. Currently the State does not have a plan to address intense psychiatric crisis/emergency management. Other CMH agencies proposed placement of their consumers currently at Mt. Pleasant with local providers, but these providers are not guaranteeing they will keep the consumers regardless of condition. Although there is not a deadline, we plan to revise our proposal over the next month and resubmit.
- b. Children's Services Standards – Mr. North noted that there are new requirements in the contract this year to expand the number of Developmentally Disabled/Emotionally Impaired children in our services. We have to increase the dollars spent on children's services, and expand the number of children with Department of Human Services and court involvement. Ottawa is going to be going through this at their next board meeting.
- c. Budget Projections for Next Year – Mr. North noted that Muskegon has a proposed budget which has been forwarded to their county board. There is currently a projected deficit of more than \$1 million. Dr. Brashears noted that CMHOC has begun their budget process. There is currently a projected deficit of approximately \$400 – 700 thousand.

- d. Lakeshore Coordinating Council – Mr. North had a recent discussion with Karen Youngs-Hartley about her vision for the future of Lakeshore Coordinating Council. Additional meetings are planned to discuss access and authorization, and how to assure the staff is adequately trained to deal with clients. Other options were discussed, including absorbing the functions of the LCC into either the Health Department or the CMH system. PA2 funds will most likely end after 2009.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

The Boards decided that the joint meetings of the Executive Committees of the Boards will continue to meet every other month. The full boards will meet semi-annually.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Margaret O'Toole, Executive Director of Arc/Muskegon, stressed the importance of community involvement pertaining to folks transitioning from the Mt. Pleasant facility. It is imperative to include family members and other organizations that would have things to bring to the table.

Gretchen Nale requested that the Boards look more closely at the housing situation. There is strong evidence that if housing is provided, you can cut many other costs. In a time when budgets are shrinking, this should be a very high priority. She also stated that when people with mental illness have substance abuse issues, there are problems with medications because psychotropic drugs are not allowed in the substance abuse programs.

Sandy Keirman, Disability Network Lakeshore stated that she is receiving a higher influx of phone calls due to the reduction and termination of CLS and respite services. She also commented on the Mt. Pleasant facility, stating that although the State may want inclusion into the community, many of the parents want choice. The State needs to remember that there needs to be a continuum of services. She suggested looking into the Greenhouse concept, which the State has accepted in lieu of nursing care homes. This can house ten to twelve people in a home environment. She also suggested that during discussions of jail diversion and MPRI, the problem of housing should be discussed. Individuals who have felonies are not available for CMH subsidized housing through MPRI.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 4:45 p.m.