

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

111 S. Michigan Ave., Room 200, Saginaw, MI 48602

Monday, March 3, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Tracey Slodowski – Chair, Gerald Little – Vice-Chair, Lisa Coney, Michael Webster, Jack Tany

Others: Mary Catherine Hannah, Koren Thurston, Dave Gilbert, Jaime Ceja, Darcie Totten, Sandra Lindsey, Christina Harrington, Jessica Sargent, Jody Becker, Suzy Koepplinger, Renee Sharkey, and Catherine Hicks

- I. Call to Order ---**Chair Slodowski at 4:00 p.m.**
- II. Welcome
- III. Correction/Approval of Minutes (**Jan. 13, 2025**) [Note: Feb. meeting cancelled]
 - **Moved by Coney, seconded by Tany, to approve. Motion carried.**
- IV. Public Comment ---**None**
- V. Agenda

1. Sandra Lindsey, CEO, Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority, re:

- **3-18-1** Presented the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority 2024 Update pursuant to agreement
- ***Discussion was held. SCCMH provides for the publicly funded mental health needs of eligible people in Saginaw County. It is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors, appointed by the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners. It serves people with serious mental illness, emotional disorders, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and co-occurring substance use disorders. Staff go where the people who need them are, so there isn't much need for telemedicine. Lack of sufficient space available in the Medical Diamond is preventing SCCMHA from moving Behavioral Health and a pharmacy there. Due to the risk involved with patients not taking their medicine, and the importance of having the pharmacy, it was decided not to move to the Medical Diamond. When asked about employee safety, Ms. Lindsey reported there haven't been any major safety incidents caused by consumers. Domestic disputes caused by people who know the consumers happen occasionally. Ms. Lindsey spoke about SCCMHA's status of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic and contracts with Mid-State Health Network (MSHN) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and being a certified Community Mental Health Services Program (SMHSP). The Mental Health Authority employs 280 full-time staff and 70 part-time staff and has done the required credentialing of 249 professional staff members. Ms. Lindsey discussed the Office of Recipient Rights (ORR) and their investigation of 239 allegations of rights violations in 2024. She also reported on SCCMHA continuing education and department trainings completed. She spoke of the 2024 program audits and external audits and accreditation. SCCMH has a 24/7 Mobile Response and Stabilization Service, and she discussed the many other services offered. Commissioners inquired about challenges anticipated in the near future. Underfunded public mental health systems, implementation of the Earned Sick Time Act and finding coverage for staff who are out sick was discussed and unfunded, mandated, demands of the State and uncertainty about Federal changes/cuts to several programs were disclosed as challenges. Ms. Lindsey finished by reporting on demographics and SCCMH financial statements.***
- **Moved by Webster, seconded by Little, to receive and file. Motion carried. (Receive and File)**

2. **Christina Harrington, Health Officer, Saginaw County Health Department, re:**

- **3-18-2** Presented a Summary of the BWell Saginaw Update/Year in Review
- **Health Officer Harrington reported that Saginaw County is ranked one of Michigan's least healthy counties and the present goal is to become one of the state's top 25 healthiest. The most urgent health priorities are obesity & chronic disease, maternal & child health and substance use. She advised the community is responding and reported that participation in "Strides Toward Wellness" nearly doubled in 2024. The next race is scheduled for September 26, 2025. "Start a Healthy Conversation with Your Doctor" campaign launches January 2025 and Step Up & BWell is Focusing on the health of students, staff and families in the county school districts. Saginaw County's Youth Commissioners have recommended "Chill Rooms" for schools to provide a space for students to decompress. Health Officer Harrington was happy to announce the RxKids program is coming to Saginaw. The program will offer no-strings-attached cash payments to expectant and new moms (up to child's 1st birthday). RxKids was created by Flint pediatrician Dr. Mona Hanna and the program has been very successful in Flint. State funding has been secured and to maintain the funding Saginaw needs to raise \$1.4 Million annually to help secure families in Saginaw County by helping to protect them from the income plunges and poverty spikes that happen right before a baby is born and through the child's first year. (No Action)**

3. **Jessica Sargent, Director, Commission on Aging, re:**

- **3-18-3** Requesting approval to amend Commission on Aging (COA) Board Bylaws
- ***Director Sargent advised that the amendments to the COA Board Bylaws have been made to coincide with the new 4-year commissioner terms and the amendments have been approved by the Commission on Aging Board and Legal Counsel.***
- ***Moved by Webster, seconded by Coney, to approve. Motion carried. (Board Report)***

4. Any other matters to come before the committee ---**None**

VI. Miscellaneous ---**None**

VII. Adjournment ---***Moved by Coney, seconded by Little, to adjourn. Motion carried; time being 5:34 p.m.***

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracey Slodowski, Committee Chair
Suzy Koeplinger, Committee Clerk