

MINUTES

BAY ARENAC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECIPIENT RIGHTS ADVISORY & APPEALS COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 5, 2026 at 5:00 pm

Room 225, Behavioral Health Center, 201 Mulholland Street, Bay City, MI 48708

Committee Members:	Present	Excused	Absent	Committee Members	Present	Excused	Absent	
Patrick McFarland, Ex Off, Ch	X	_____	_____	Carole O'Brien	X	_____	_____	Others Present: Paul Niemiec BABH: Chris Pinter and Sara McRae Legend: M-Motion; S-Support; MA- Motion Adopted; AB-Abstained
Sally Mrozinski, V Ch	X	_____	_____	Justin Peters	X	_____	_____	
Robert Bowers	X	_____	_____	Laurie Van Wert	X	_____	_____	
Richard Byrne	X	_____	_____	Robert Pawlak, Ex Off	X	_____	_____	
Kathy Niemiec	X	_____	_____					

	Agenda Item	Discussion	Motion/Action
1.	Call To Order & Roll Call	Committee Chair, P. McFarland, called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.	
2.	Public Input (Maximum of 3 Minutes)	There were not any members of the public that wished to address the Committee.	
3.	Unfinished Business 3.1) Policy Training: Complaint Investigation & Resolution, 03-05-01	3.1) Committee Chair, P. McFarland, reported the Recipient Rights Officer will break the policy into three sections to be presented at the February, March, and April meetings due to its length.	3.1) No action was necessary
4.	New Business 4.1) Executive Summary of Complaints through December of 2025	4.1) C. Pinter reviewed the report noting the number of complaints, the smaller number of complaints received for the months of November and December, the substantiation rate, substantiations by allegation category, average days to resolve complaints, source of complaints, remedial action, training, and completed site visits. There were general discussions related to the annual online Recipient Rights training and examples of Abuse I and II complaint violations. Leadership will email clarification of Abuse I, II, and III allegation categories.	4.1) No action was necessary

	<p>4.2) Policy Training: Appointment, Construction, Function, 03-07-01</p> <p>4.3) Recent Recipient Rights Site Reviews Summary</p> <p>4.4) Upcoming Site Reviews</p> <p>4.5) Virtual Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Advisory & Appeals Committee Training</p>	<p>4.2) C. Pinter reported the policy relates to the Advisory & Appeals Committees and reviewed the Committees' duties. These included but are not limited to reviewing the annual budget, reviewing the annual and semi-annual reports, receiving education and training on Recipient Rights policies, ensuring the Recipient Rights Officer does not have a clinical caseload, and maintaining meeting minutes.</p> <p>4.3) C. Pinter reviewed the summary of the completed site review visits. There were general discussions related to site locations for Encompass, the wellness check procedure, policies for dealing with excessive noise in residential homes, the efforts fitting an individual's needs to the correct home environment, and the importance of de-escalation techniques.</p> <p>4.4) Committee Chair, P. McFarland, reported members should coordinate with S. McRae if interested in any of the upcoming site reviews.</p> <p>4.5) C. Pinter reported the training is provided by MDHHS for both the Advisory Committee and the Appeals Committee.</p>	<p>4.2) No action was necessary</p> <p>4.3) No action was necessary</p> <p>4.4) No action was necessary</p> <p>4.5) No action was necessary</p>
5.	Adjournment	On motion of R. Pawlak and support of R. Byrne, the meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm. The motion passed unanimously.	



Pat McFarland, Committee Chair