

# MINUTES

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

Monday, February 9, 2026 at 5:00 pm

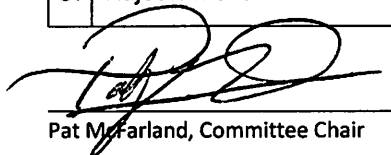
Room 225, Behavioral Health Center, 201 Mulholland Street, Bay City, MI 48708

Committee Members:	Present	Excused	Absent	Committee Members	Present	Excused	Absent	Others Present:
Patrick McFarland, Ex Off, Ch	X	_____	_____	Carole O'Brien	X	_____	_____	BABH: Jackie Kish, 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.	On motion by J. Peters and support by K. Niemiec, L. Van Wert was excused. The motion passed unanimously.
2.	Public Input (Maximum of 3 Minutes)	There were not any members of the public present.	
3.	<p>Unfinished Business</p> <p>3.1) Policy Training: Complaint Investigation &amp; Resolution, 03-05-01</p> <p>3.2) Community Mental Health (CMH) Recipient Rights (RR) Office Budget Comparisons</p>	<p>3.1) J. Kish reviewed the summary of the policy noting when to report, how complaints are processed, when a complaint warrants an intervention versus an investigation, requirements for report updates during the investigation process, remedial action for substantiated investigations, the appeal process, and protections from retaliation. There were general discussions regarding user friendliness of the policy summaries.</p> <p>3.2) C. Pinter reported the Committee reviews the Recipient Rights budget every December as required by the Mental Health Code (MHC) and reviewed the budget trends over the last 7 years. C. Pinter reported there was an overall increase of 20%, mostly due to staff increases. In 2019-2020 there was an increase due to overlapping staff coverage because of a retirement and in 2024 one</p>	<p>3.1) No action was necessary</p> <p>3.2) No action was necessary</p>

		<p>staff position was permanently added to the department. In addition, the facility costs in 2024 dropped because of the Wirt Building depreciation and location moves to the Mulholland Building. In 2022 and 2023 staff and conference travel were significantly reduced due to COVID. In 2025 and 2026 the miscellaneous expenses significantly increased. Leadership will report back on what these expenses include and the reasons for the increases. There were general discussions regarding the number of individuals served, the fiscal year 2026 budget year is in progress and can change, and that leadership is still checking to see if the other community mental health service partners are willing to share their department budgets.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>New Business</b>          4.1) Executive Summary of Complaints through January of 2026           4.2) Policy Training: Abuse and Neglect, 03-03-01           4.3) Upcoming Site Reviews           4.4) MI Office of Auditor General Report regarding MI Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Office of Recipient Rights dated September, 2025</p>	<p>4.1) J. Kish reviewed the report noting the new report format is in live time, the number of complaints, substantiation rate, average days to resolve, source of complaints, trend report by allegation, fiscal year comparison, remedial action, training, and completed site visits.           4.2) J. Kish reviewed the policy summary noting definitions and examples for abuse and neglect I, II, and III. There were general discussions regarding the safety of recipients during investigations, substantiations, remedial action is determined by the provider, Recipient Rights background checks as part of the hiring process, and the appeals process includes remedial action.           4.3) J. Kish reviewed the upcoming site reviews. Those interested should coordinate with S. McRae.           4.4) C. Pinter reported the State Office of Auditor General (OAG) is charged with auditing departments at the state level on behalf of the legislature. C. Pinter reviewed the OAG report released in September, 2025 and concluded that the MDHHS Office of Recipient Rights (ORR) is not sufficiently promoting and protecting the rights of recipients of public mental health services. C. Pinter also reviewed the report recommendations including improving the community</p>	<p>4.1) No action was necessary           4.2) No action was necessary           4.3) No action was necessary           4.4) No action was necessary</p>

	<p>4.5) Recent Recipient Rights Site Reviews Summary</p> <p>4.6) Annual Recipient Rights Training</p> <p>4.7) Virtual Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Advisory &amp; Appeals Committee Training Reminder</p>	<p>mental health service program (CMHSP) onsite triennial review process and the annual review oversight process. BABHA is anticipating the triennial onsite review scheduled in March will be more stringent than previous years in response to this report and this experience has been verified by other CMHSPs completing the review process.</p> <p>4.5) J. Kish reviewed the summary of completed site reviews noting there were not any concerns or problems.</p> <p>4.6) P. McFarland reminded the members to complete the mandatory Recipient Rights training.</p> <p>4.7) J. Kish reminded the Committee of the virtual training offered by MDHHS.</p>	<p>4.5) No action was necessary</p> <p>4.6) On motion by R. Bowers and support by R. Pawlak, the annual Recipient Rights training details were referred to the full board for information. The motion was adopted unanimously.</p> <p>4.7) No action was necessary</p>
5.	Adjournment	On motion by J. Peters and support by R. Bowers, the meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm. The motion passed unanimously.	



Pat McFarland, Committee Chair