



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 5:00 pm  
Room 225, Behavioral Health Center, 201 Mulholland Street, Bay City, MI 48708

MINUTES

<u>Board Members:</u>	Present	Excused	Absent
Robert Pawlak, Chair	X	_____	_____
Patrick McFarland, Vice Chair	X	_____	_____
Christopher Girard, Treasurer	X	_____	_____
Sally Mrozinski, Secretary	X	_____	_____
Tim Banaszak	X	_____	_____
Richard Byrne	X	_____	_____
Patrick Conley	X	_____	_____
Jerome Crete	_____	X	_____
Shelley King	X	_____	_____
Kathy Niemiec	X	_____	_____
Carole O'Brien	X	_____	_____
Pamela Schumacher	X	_____	_____

PUBLIC PRESENT

Paul Niemiec

OTHERS PRESENT FROM BAY ARENAC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (BABH)

Christopher Pinter, Melissa Prusi, Karen Amon, Joelin Hahn, Marci Rozek, and Sara McRae.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Board Chair, R. Pawlak, called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

M#001-26:

On motion of T. Banaszak and support by C. Girard, J. Crete was excused. The motion was adopted unanimously.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Without objection, Board Chair, R. Pawlak, added a moment of silence in memory of Joel Gougeon to the agenda. Joel Gougeon was a former Bay County Commissioner, member of the BABHA Board of Directors, and State Senator. The Board observed a moment of silence in memory and honor of Joel Gougeon.

COMMUNICATIONS

C. Pinter reported correspondence was received from the Community Mental Health Association (CMHA) announcing Alan Bolter will be the new Chief Executive Officer effective October of 2026 and the Governor ordered flags to be lowered to half-staff to honor and remember former state Senator Joel Gougeon.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING, December 18, 2025

Meeting Minutes:

M#002-26: On motion of R. Byrne and support by P. Schumacher, the Board approved the minutes of the regular Board meeting of December 18, 2025. The motion was adopted unanimously.

RECIPIENT RIGHTS ADVISORY & APPEALS COMMITTEE, January 5, 2026

Meeting Minutes:

M#003-26: On motion of P. McFarland and support by P. Conley, the Board approved the minutes of the Recipient Rights Advisory & Appeals Committee meeting of January 5, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, January 7, 2026

Investment Earnings Balances:

M#004-26: On motion of T. Banaszak and support by C. Girard, the Board approved the investment earnings balances for the period ending December 31, 2025. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Contract List:

R#2601001: On motion of T. Banaszak and support by R. Byrne, the Board approved the Finance Committee January 2026 contract list with item 4 removed. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Employment Contract Amendment:

R#2601002: On motion of T. Banaszak and support by P. Conley, the Board approved the amendment to the employment contract with Nurse Practitioner Ashley Badour with terms expiring December 16, 2027. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Madison Building Expansion Project:

R#2601003: On motion of T. Banaszak and support by C. Girard, the Board approved the Madison Building expansion project feasibility study by TSSF Architects, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$9,995. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Meeting Minutes:

M#005-26: On motion of T. Banaszak and support by S. Mrozinski, the Board approved the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of January 7, 2026 as revised. The motion was adopted unanimously.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE, January 8, 2026

Requests for Clinical Privileges:

R#2601004: On motion of C. Girard and support by P. Conley, the Board approved the request for clinical privileges for Usha Movva, MD, for a three-year renewal term expiring January 30, 2029. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Policy Beginning 30-day Review:

R#2601005: On motion of C. Girard and support by P. Schumacher, the Board approved the policy, Videoconferencing, recording, transcribing, and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), 09-05-10, to begin 30-day review. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy Ending 30-day Review:

R#2601006: On motion of C. Girard and support by C. O'Brien, the Board approved the policy, Home and Community Based Rules, 04-05-08, to end 30-day review. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes:

M#006-26: On motion of C. Girard and support by S. King, the Board approved the minutes of the Program Committee meeting of January 8, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

AUDIT COMMITTEE, January 12, 2026

Financial Statements:

R#2601007: On motion of P. McFarland and support by T. Banaszak, the Board approved the financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2025 as revised. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Electronic Fund Transfers:

R#2601008: On motion of P. McFarland and support by C. Girard, the Board approved the electronic fund transfers for the period ending December 31, 2025. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Disbursements & Health Care Claims:

R#2601009: On motion of P. McFarland and support by P. Conley, the Board approved the disbursement & health care claims payments from December 13, 2025 through January 9, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Meeting Minutes:

M#007-26: On motion of P. McFarland and support by R. Byrne, the Board approved the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of January 12, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Federal & State Health Policy Update:

C. Pinter reported that the Medicare telehealth extension expiring on January 31, 2026 has not been renewed yet. The nurse practitioner contract has been changed for additional in-person services to ensure compliance.

MidState Health Network (MSHN) Lawsuit in State Court of Claims:

C. Pinter provided an update on the lawsuit related to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) procurement process noting the community mental health (CMH) system prevailed. The judge's order does allow a procurement however, it notes the CMH agencies need to be adequately funded to do the functions assigned under the law. There were general discussions regarding the status of MSHN's funding, possibly that regional entities can merge; the importance of continued advocacy, the state-county partnership, speculation that this initiative may not be a priority under a new state administration, the timeline for MDHHS to comply with the order, the appeal process, and that the recent announcement of reductions to federal funding grants are not anticipated to impact BABHA.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was not any unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

BABHA 2026 Strategic Plan & Executive Summary:

There were discussions to remove the references to the Wirt Building and correct formatting changes.

M#008-26:

On motion of C. Girard and support by P. Conley, the Board approved the 2026 Strategic Plan with changes.

Holiday Schedule:

Board Chair, R. Pawlak, reported BABHA offices will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2026 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Monday, February 16, 2026 for President's Day.

Community Mental Health Association (CMHA) 2026 Winter Conference:

Board Chair, R. Pawlak, reported the CMHA Winter Conference is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, February 3 and 4, 2026 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Those interested in attending can coordinate with S. McRae.

February Audit Committee Meeting:

Board Chair, R. Pawlak, reported the regular scheduled February 16, 2026 Audit Committee meeting has been canceled due to a conflict with President's Day. There were discussions that the meeting was not rescheduled due to time constraints. All proper procedures and legal requirements were followed. Administration reviews the upcoming yearly calendar in December and alerts the Board and/or Committee Chairs if there are any conflicts with holidays or other important events that may impact the schedule.

Crime Insurance Renewal:

Without objection, Board Chair, R. Pawlak, added Crime Insurance Renewal to the agenda. C. Pinter reported the insurance provider, Travelers, is willing to renew the policy at the same premium as last year. Originally there was a significant increase in the insurance premium, so this item was removed from the Finance contract list.

M#009-26:

On motion of P. McFarland and support by C. Girard, the Board approved the renewal of \$4 million in excess crime insurance through Travelers for the period of January 19, 2026 to January 19, 2027 in the premium amount of \$9,714. The motion was adopted unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

M#010-26:

On motion of C. Girard and support by P. Conley, the Board meeting adjourned at 5:43 pm. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Submitted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sally Mrozinski, Board Secretary

Accepted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Pawlak, Board Chair