



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 16, 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	_____	_____
Shelley King	X	_____	_____
Kathy Niemiec	X	_____	_____
Carole O'Brien	X	_____	_____
Pamela Schumacher	X	_____	_____
Staci Tuggle	_____	5:07 pm	_____

OTHERS PRESENT FROM BAY ARENAC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (BABH)

Christopher Pinter, Jennifer Lasceski, Joelin Hahn, Marci Rozek, and Sara McRae.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

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

M#046-26:

On motion of P. Conley and support by C. Girard, S. Tuggle was excused. The motion was adopted unanimously.

S. Tuggle arrived at 5:07 pm.

PUBLIC INPUT

There were not any members of the public present.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board Chair, R. Pawlak, reported the following communications were received:

- 1) Notice from Bay County Board of Commissioners Office regarding the 2026 BABHA Appointments
- 2) Thank you letter from the Barb Smith Suicide Resource and Response Network
- 3) Thank you card from BABHA staff

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

##### Nomination Committee Report:

The Committee Chair, C. Girard, reported that the Nomination Committee met on April 8, 2026 and nominated Robert Pawlak for Chair, Patrick McFarland for Vice Chair, Sally Mrozinski for Treasurer, and Pamela Schumacher for Secretary. C. Girard also reported all candidates are willing to accept the positions if elected by the full Board.

##### Office of Chair:

The Board Chair, R. Pawlak, reported that the Nomination Committee nominated Robert Pawlak for Chair and asked for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing no other nominations, R. Pawlak closed nominations.

M#047-26: The Board voted to elect R. Pawlak as Board Chair for a term of one year. The motion was adopted unanimously.

##### Office of Vice Chair:

The Board Chair, R. Pawlak, reported that the Nomination Committee nominated Patrick McFarland for Vice Chair and asked for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing no other nominations, R. Pawlak closed nominations.

M#048-26: The Board voted to elect P. McFarland as Board Vice Chair for a term of one year. The motion was adopted unanimously.

##### Office of Treasurer:

The Board Chair, R. Pawlak, reported that the Nomination Committee nominated Sally Mrozinski for Treasurer and asked for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing no other nominations, R. Pawlak closed nominations.

M#049-26: The Board voted to elect S. Mrozinski as Board Treasurer for a term of one year. The motion was adopted unanimously.

##### Office of Secretary:

The Board Chair, R. Pawlak, reported that the Nomination Committee nominated Pamela Schumacher for Secretary and asked for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing no other nominations, R. Pawlak closed nominations.

M#050-26: The Board voted to elect P. Schumacher as Board Secretary for a term of one year. The motion was adopted **unanimously**.

#### ELECTION OF NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Board Chair, R. Pawlak, reported that the Nomination Committee is comprised of five members, and reviewed the current membership. The Board Chair, R. Pawlak asked for nominations from the floor. C. Girard nominated Kathy Niemiec. S. Mrozinski nominated Tim Banaszak. T. Banaszak nominated Sally Mrozinski. P. McFarland nominated Christopher Girard. K. Niemiec nominated Patrick Conley. Hearing no other nominations, R. Pawlak closed nominations.

M#051-26: The Board voted to elect K. Niemiec, T. Banaszak, S. Mrozinski, C. Girard, and P. Conley to the Nomination Committee for a term of one year. The motion was adopted unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Board Chair, R. Pawlak, requested all members complete a committee assignment selection survey and return by April 27, 2026. Committee assignments should be distributed prior to the start of the May meeting cycle.

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Board Chair, R. Pawlak, appointed R. Byrne as the Parliamentarian for a term of one year.

APPOINTMENT TO BAY COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board Chair, R. Pawlak, appointed P. McFarland as the BABHA representative to the Bay County Retirement Board of Trustees for a term of one year.

APPOINTMENT TO MIDSTATE HEALTH NETWORK (MSHN) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board Chair, R. Pawlak, appointed P. Schumacher as a BABHA representative to the MSHN Board of Directors for a term commencing May 1, 2026 and expiring April 30, 2029.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING, March 19, 2026

Meeting Minutes:

M#052-26: On motion of C. Girard and support by P. Conley, the Board approved the minutes of the regular Board meeting of March 19, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

PERSONNEL & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE, April 2, 2026

Meeting Minutes:

M#053-26: On motion of P. Conley and support by C. O'Brien, the Board approved the minutes of the Personnel and Compensation Committee meeting of April 2, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

RECIPIENT RIGHTS ADVISORY & APPEALS COMMITTEE, April 6, 2026

Meeting Minutes:

M#054-26: On motion by P. McFarland and support by C. O'Brien, the Board approved the minutes of the Recipient Rights Advisory & Appeals Committee meeting of April 6, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, April 8, 2026

Investment Earnings Balances:

M#055-26: On motion of T. Banaszak and support by P. Schumacher, the Board approved the investment earnings balances for the period ending March 31, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Contract List:

R#2604001: On motion of T. Banaszak and support by S. Mrozinski, the Board approved the Finance Committee April 2026 contract list. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Meeting Minutes:

M#056-26: On motion of T. Banaszak and support by C. Girard, the Board approved the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of April 8, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

SPECIAL NOMINATION COMMITTEE, April 8, 2026

M#057-26: On motion of C. Girard and support by S. Mrozinski, the Board approved the minutes of the special Nomination Committee meeting of April 8, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE, April 9, 2026

Policy Ending 30-day Review:

R#2604002: On motion of C. Girard and support by P. Schumacher, the Board approved the policy, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Generative AI, 09-05-11, to end 30-day review. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes:

M#058-26: On motion of C. Girard and support by P. Conley, the Board approved the minutes of the Program Committee meeting of April 9, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

AUDIT COMMITTEE, April 13, 2026

Financial Statements:

R#2604003: On motion of P. McFarland and support by R. Byrne, the Board approved the financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Electronic Fund Transfers:

R#2604004: On motion of P. McFarland and support by T. Banaszak, the Board approved the electronic fund transfers for the period ending March 31, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Disbursements & Health Care Claims:

R#2604005: On motion of P. McFarland and support by R. Byrne, the Board approved the disbursement & health care claims payments from March 14, 2026 through April 10, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Fiscal Year 2025 Compliance Exam:

R#2604006: On motion of P. McFarland and support by C. Girard, the Board approved the fiscal year 2025 Compliance Exam. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Meeting Minutes:

M#059-26: On motion of P. McFarland and support by P. Conley, the Board approved the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of April 13, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

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

C. Pinter reported that the judge determined the law does not prevent MDHHS from issuing a request for proposals (RFP), however, the RFP must allow the community mental health (CMH) agencies to perform their functions as specified in the law. The CMH agencies have the power to create regional entities in the Mental Health Code (MHC). In addition, the MHC establishes a state and county partnership to ensure the CMH functions are performed. C. Pinter also reported MDHHS is intending on releasing a new RFP. There is a continued need for advocacy to preserve the CMH system. C. Pinter also reported that the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHA) has requested a special assessment to prepare additional legal action against MDHHS. This may involve an appeal of an earlier decision or new litigation in response to the new RFP. There were general discussions regarding the CMHA annual dues cost, the amount of the last special assessment, timeframe when annual dues and the special assessment are due to CMHA, total funds that were raised from the 2025 CMHA special assessment, total cost of legal fees so far, and having a special assessment proposal for the May meeting cycle.

Bay & Arenac County Updates:

C. Pinter reviewed the update from the CMHAM regarding proposed appropriation boilerplate language blocking MDHHS from any further action in the RFP process. There were general discussions regarding Governor veto powers and the validity of Bridge Magazine.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER STACI TUGGLE

The Board Chair, R. Pawlak, welcomed S. Tuggle, who was recently appointed by the Bay County Board of Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was not any unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Holiday Schedule:

The Board Chair, R. Pawlak, reported that BABHA Offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2026 for Memorial Day.

Community Mental Health Association (CMHA) 2026 Summer Conference:

The Board Chair, R. Pawlak, reported the CMHA Summer Conference is scheduled for Monday through Wednesday, June 8 – 10, 2026 at Grand Traverse Resort. Those interested in attending should coordinate with S. McRae.

Closed Session:

M#060-26:

On motion by P. Schumacher and support by C. Girard, the Board entered into a closed session at 5:27 pm in accordance with the Open Meetings Act of 1976 as permissible under section 8(h) for the purpose of considering material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute. The motion passed with a roll call vote: 12 yes; 0 no; 0 excused.

R. Pawlak:	Yes
P. McFarland:	Yes
C. Girard:	Yes
S. Mrozinski:	Yes
T. Banaszak:	Yes
R. Byrne:	Yes
P. Conley:	Yes
S. King:	Yes
K. Niemiec:	Yes
C. O'Brien:	Yes
P. Schumacher:	Yes
S. Tuggle:	Yes

Return to Open Session:

The Board returned to the open session at 5:48 pm.

M#061-26:

On the motion by C. Girard and support by S. Mrozinski, the Board approved the litigation settlement in the matter of Claim No. 2404042 as proposed by legal counsel in correspondence dated March 17, 2026. The motion passed with a roll call vote: 11 yes; 1 no; 0 excused.

R. Pawlak: Yes  
P. McFarland: Yes  
C. Girard: Yes  
S. Mrozinski: Yes  
T. Banaszak: Yes  
R. Byrne: Yes  
P. Conley: Yes  
S. King: No  
K. Niemiec: Yes  
C. O'Brien: Yes  
P. Schumacher: Yes  
S. Tuggle: Yes

ADJOURNMENT

M#062-26: On motion of R. Byrne and support by P. McFarland, the Board meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Submitted by:

  
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Pamela Schumacher, Board Secretary

Accepted by:

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