

**NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL ENTITY
 PROVIDER NETWORK MANAGERS MEETING
 10:00AM – FEBRUARY 10, 2026
 VIA TEAMS**

Centra Wellness:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chip Johnston	Executive Director
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kacey Kidder-Snyder	Provider Network Specialist
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pat Kozlowski	Access and Emergency Service Director
North Country:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angie Balberde	Provider Network Manager
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katie Lorence	Contract Manager
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Rappleyea	Chief Operating Officer
Northeast Michigan:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Connie Cadarette	Chief Financial Officer
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vicky DeRoven	Quality Improvement
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jen Walburn	Compliance Officer
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Wiczorkowski	Contract Manager
Northern Lakes:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Crane	Contract and Procurement Manager
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trapper Merz	Business Intelligence Specialist
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hillary Rappuhn	Project Coordinator
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Silbor	Chief Operating Officer
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Williams	Performance Improvement Specialist
Wellvance:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Zettel	Chief Operating Officer
	<input type="checkbox"/> Julie Streeter	Contracts Specialist
NMRE:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Balousek	Executive Administrator
	<input type="checkbox"/> Eric Kurtz	Chief Executive Officer
	<input type="checkbox"/> Heidi McClenaghan	Quality Manager
	<input type="checkbox"/> Brandon Rhue	Chief Information Officer/Operations Director
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris VanWagoner	Contract and Provider Network Manager

INTRODUCTIONS

Chris welcomed committee members to the meeting and attendance was taken.

REVIEW AGENDA & ADDITIONS

No additions to the meeting agenda were requested.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The January 13th minutes were included in the meeting materials and approved by consensus.

PRIOR ACTION ITEMS

Implement Telehealth Services on Directories (All)

The five member CMHSPs have included the availability of telehealth services on their respective Provider Directories.

BOILERPLATES

DCW/Minimum Wage Increases

Effective January 1, 2026, the minimum wage in Michigan increased to \$13.73/hour. MDHHS also issued a DCW increase of \$3.40/hour, making the minimum wage for direct care workers \$17.13/hour.

Chip proposed that the contract exhibit that includes agreed upon rates with a providers contain language to clarify that "the rates contained herein are inclusive of all direct care and minimum wage increases imposed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services during the term of this contract."

A mid-year (possibly April) rate adjustment has been proposed to account for the DCW and minimum wage increases.

Chris suggested a future regional training to review best practices for developing rates.

CHILD CARING INSTITUTIONS

Chip clarified that CCIs are not home and community-based settings. When a CMHSP contracts with a CCI, it is only contracting for clinical services. Residential costs are intended to be paid with the child's social security benefits. When contracting with a CCI, the CMHSP is providing state plan services under Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT), for which Medicaid may be used. Local or general funds may be used to supplement (through the childcare fund of the county) a CCI placement.

H2016 may be billed for Community Living Support Services in specialized residential settings only or for children with SED in a foster care setting that is not a CCI or children with DD in either foster care or CCI.

PIHPs can reimburse for services in a CCI for children with SED when (a) the service is delivered through S5145 AND (b) the service is only funded by GF.

Pursuant to Medicaid Provider L Letter 25-15: [Numbered-Letter-L-25-16-IDD.pdf](#)

PIHPs may reimburse treatment or rehabilitative services that are specifically authorized for the child or youth if the services are accessed through the Medicaid State Plan. Examples of services for children with IDD that are accessible through the Medicaid State Plan include the following services.

- Assessments
- Behavioral Health Treatment Services/Applied Behavioral Analysis
- Child Therapy
- Family Therapy
- Group Therapy
- Individual Therapy
- Medication Administration
- Medication Review
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Psychological Testing
- Speech Therapy

This does not include services available exclusively through the 1915(i) or waiver services, which include but are not limited to Community Living Supports.

A meeting is scheduled with CFOs for February 11th at 1:00 to review billing processes.

ORR AMENDMENTS

Chris received a call from MyMichigan stating that they received contract amendment from MidState Health Network related to continuing education requirements for recipient rights staff, which was revised in the FY26 CMHSP GF Contract. Chip explained that contract amendments are not needed and exhibit language can be revised for FY27 contracts.

FY26 FMS REVIEWS

The FY26 review schedule for fiscal management services was determined as follows:

FMS Provider	FY26 Reviewer
GT Independence	Northeast MI
Stuart Wilson	Wellvance
HR Alliance	Centra Wellness
Karen's Accounting	Northeast MI
Amanda's Payroll	Northeast MI

Review tools are located in the Teams channel.

UNIVERSAL CREDENTIALING

Chris has been working with the CMHSPs to familiarize them with the use of the Universal Credentialing CRM. A PIHP Leads meeting is scheduled for February 18th. Katie asked why the CRM (service locations) isn't used to obtain information from providers necessary for inclusion on Provider Directories. Chris responded likely because Provider Directories are not a part of the MDHHS Credentialing and Recredentialing Process Policy; however, Chris agreed to raise the question during the February 18th meeting.

FY26 PIHP MONITORING

The NMRE's annual site reviews of the CMHSPs will occur in June. Chris will be monitoring organizational credentialing, practitioner credentialing, CRM usage, and provider network data validation processes. Review tools will be distributed to CMHSP quality staff in a couple months. Policies and procedures will be reviewed via desk audit.

PROVIDER DIRECTORIES (HSAG 2024)

This topic was discussed under Prior Action Items and will be removed from future agenda.

HOSPITALS

Outreach Initiative Status

- Corewell Health Spectrum (Helen Devos Children's)
Chris has been speaking with Debra Martinez about contracting with the region's CMHSPs. The hospital offers 12 pediatric beds in Grand Rapids. A proposed per diem rate of \$2,000 was proposed. Chris will continue to negotiate the rate and forward to the regional Operations Committee for approval when finalized.

- Straith Hospital
The Southfield hospital offers all-inclusive room and board (0100) with additional ABA therapy from an interdisciplinary team led by a psychiatrist. Chris is in the process of negotiating rates. Contact information for Brad Bescoe will be shared with the committee.
- Neuropsychiatric Kalamazoo
A representative from the hospital has informed Northern Lakes staff that they are unable to enter into a single case agreement because they cannot bill the 0100 code (All-inclusive room and board), instead billing 0124 (semiprivate room in inpatient psychiatric), which excludes physician's fees. It was determined that the hospital billing staff should be able to add the 0100 code to their system with whatever rate is negotiated.

Munson

- ECT
Current contracts with Munson include ECT (0901) while individuals are receiving inpatient care. Munson is developing a process to add the inclusion of ECT for individuals who are receiving outpatient care. Amendments to the contracts may be required to add this service.
- Billing Changes
Effective February 1st, Munson began using the NPI# of the Traverse City location but billing through Cadillac. Katie has requested documentation to credential Munson Hospital Cadillac but has received nothing to date. Chris responded that, because services are still provided at D6/Munson in Traverse City, there is no need to credential the Cadillac location just for billing. W9 forms should be collected and changes to PCE will be needed.

Katie explained that North Country's current contract is with Munson Medical Center and not Munson Healthcare Cadillac. North Country's Finance Department requested an addendum to the contract to update PCE. Chip advised that the contract holder is allowed to subcontract per the agreement. He advised that the billing arrangement simply be acknowledged in a letter or memorandum until the contracts with Munson are updated for FY27. Chris agreed to suggested verbiage to the committee following the meeting.

Chip referenced the following inpatient contract language:

XXX. ASSIGNMENT.

- A. Neither this Agreement nor any rights or obligations hereunder shall be assignable by either party without the prior written consent of the other party, nor shall any of the duties imposed herein be delegated by either party without the prior written consent of the other party. Any attempted assignment in violation of this section shall be void ab initio.

- C. If the Provider, with the Payor's prior consent, subcontracts any services required of the Provider under this Agreement, any such subcontract shall be in writing and include a full specification of the subcontracted services. The Provider shall make their best efforts to ensure that its sub-contractors are in substantial compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Any

such subcontract shall not terminate the legal responsibility of the Provider to assure that services required of the Provider hereunder are fulfilled.

Munson's and Harbor Oaks' Rates

Chris acknowledged that the rate sheet housed in Teams was not with Munson's and Harbor Oaks' FY26 rates until December, which may have affected billing.

FY2025 NETWORK ADEQUACY

The NMRE's Network Adequacy Plan is due to MDHHS annually on April 30th for the prior fiscal year. A final procedural document has not yet been received from MDHHS. Once it has been received, Chris will be reaching out to the CMHSPs for information.

REGIONAL/STATEWIDE EVENTS, CONFERENCES, TRAININGS, NEWS

- **NMRE Regional Credentialing Training** – February 12th at 2:00PM
- **Regional Quality Improvement Trainings in February and March**
- **CMHAP Improving Outcomes Conference** – May 13th – 15th in Traverse City
- **The NMRE's Day of Education** – May 15th at Treetops Resort, Gaylord

OPEN DISCUSSION

MDHHS RFP Update

On January 29, 2026, a notification was sent from the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget, Central Procurement Services canceling the Request for Proposal (250000002670) to procure Michigan's Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans. The Attorney General has asked the plaintiffs to drop the lawsuits, but the plaintiffs would like them to remain open. A new RFP may be in the works. Judge Yates gave authority to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the State of Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB) to competitively bid the state's PIHPs so long as they adhere to the mental health code and state law. Oral arguments will be heard on the original lawsuit filed by NorthCare Network, NMRE, Region 10 PIHP, and the Community Mental Health Partnership of Southeast Michigan related to FY25 contract language in late March. It is unlikely that the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) will bid on any future RFPs.

Follow-up from January 7th Contract Presentation

One of the things that was in Chip's Contract presentation was that CMHSPs cannot contract with providers that are on the unfair labor practice register. Essentially, pursuant to Michigan State Law MCL 423.324, the MDHHS may void agreements with grantees appearing on the Unfair Labor Practice Register under MCL 423.322 This shows up in your general fund contracts under section XXIV of the terms and conditions. CMHSPs cannot contract with providers that are in the Unfair Labor Practice Register.

Chris explained that anyone that works for an organization can file an unfair labor practice complaint with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC). Clarification was made that MERC does not have jurisdiction over state and federal employees.

A link to MERC decisions from was provided as: [LEO - MERC Decisions](#).

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for March 10th at 10:00AM.