



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

RECIPIENT RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES

September 12, 2019

1:00 – 2:35 p.m.

Lewis Cass Building

3rd Floor Large Conference Room

Please be mindful of the meeting time and be ready to start at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT

In-person: John Sanford, Jennifer Gorman, Basil Scott, Raymie Postema, Shaun Thompson, Tish Watkins. Guests: Larry Spataro, Margaret Tietze, and Angie O'Doud.

On phone: Norman DeLisle, Robert John Lagrou, Margaret Stooksberry, Liz O'Dell, Vendella Collins, and Andrew Silver.

ABSENT

Price Pullins (unexcused)

OPENING REMARKS

Gorman

- Call to Order
 - Meeting called to order at 1:09 PM
- Approval of Agenda
 - Motioned by Shaun and seconded by Basil. Opposed by none and moved as approved.
- Meeting Minutes (July 2019 – review and approve)
 - Motioned by Basil and seconded by Shaun. Opposed by none and moved as approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jennifer thought Cookie Gant award vote was supposed to be completed earlier, but the committee can vote today for the candidates.
 - One candidate is recently deceased, and the other is seriously ill and likely to pass away soon. Jennifer informed the committee they can give two awards if they choose to. Votes were for two awards. Voting verbally affirmed by Norm, Basil, Vendella, Liz, Dr. Lagrou, Jennifer, and Shaun. Opposed by none and moved as approved for an award for each candidate.
- Anyone interested in serving on committees?
 - Larry Spataro RRO and Margaret Tietze for Health West Muskegon, and Angie O'Doud.
 - Anyone interested in serving on the RRAC committee please fill out an application and have returned to Julie Markham at MarkhamJ@Michigan.gov as soon as possible.
 - Anyone interested in serving on the Appeals Committee please fill out an application and have returned to Kimberly Saterlee-Fink at SaterleeK@Michigan.gov as soon as possible.
- Jennifer and Basil met with Director Gordon and Farah Hanley to talk about ORR. Jennifer asked Farah for a representative to attend RRAC's November meeting to discuss budget issues and concerns. The meeting with Director Gordon was a receptive meet and greet to establish a relationship with the new director. They talked about budgetary concerns; the fact that it takes a really long time to appoint candidates as committee members; the Director's responsibility regarding the RRAC and him possibly coming to a meeting, with the suggestion of at least one meeting next year. (Jennifer will follow-up with Farah. The meeting is between the RRAC and John to set up); and

the lack of response to ORR's Annual Report recommendations. Director Gordon has agreed to another meeting with ORR regarding the annual report. The new direction for committee is to address issues directly with Director Gordon.

- Jennifer contacted her personal representative to request committee member contact information. She received this information and contacted them via email.
 - Jennifer to send follow-up email and cc committee.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

John Sanford

- Update on HOH. Deferred to Raymie for specific details. Last month Director Gordon was supposed to have a meeting with HOH Director, but meeting was canceled due to lack of documents received by HOH. The corporation had appointed an individual to supervise the director. Once the office received the information, ORR reviewed and scheduled a time to conduct a site visit. John will meet with Director Gordon to make a final determination. Andy will send copy of HOH report to committee members.
- Annual Report. John had meeting with Director Gordon to address recommendations of 2018 Annual Report. On the day of the meeting, the director had to reschedule. Director Gordon wanted John to meet with Elizabeth Hertel, chief deputy in charge of Administration, and Matthew Rick, the director of legal division. Director Gordon gave option of going through budgetary process with Finance regarding request for additional staff. Director Gordon would like a joint memorandum signed by John and Elizabeth with their decision. John set up meeting, which was canceled, but rescheduled for next week by phone.
- Budget. John stated that people have gotten the wrong impression in terms of how essential the budget question is to the operation of ORR. The legislature had proposed a \$200,000 decrease in the ORR budget. That process has gone from the House and to the Senate and the final word in terms of budget has not been decided yet. Budget is in conference and still being worked on. John met with MDHHS Finance about budget cuts. Legislature has seen over several years a lapsing of money from ORR budget line items. Based on that lapse, they felt they could take money from the line items. ORR has only been a line item for one year. In other words, it does not apply to ORR at all. Finance realizes that, and they understand what that is all about. The bottom-line issue of lapsing is purely in terms of a political issue, from the standpoint that we were not included in the issue of the lapse through the MDHHS Behavioral Health budget. The statement by the legislature was it was looked at by agency as a line item, but we were not a line item at that time. Political decision to look at this historically and now that we are a line item, we would have to take this cut. What is the process for funding the office? Why has it not been reviewed by the advisory committee? Why did ORR not have access to the information?
John fought to have ORR as a line item to get out from under Behavioral Health's budget. John had just met with the budget office and they knew what was going to happen. John was also told the Director of Finance knew about the pending cut. John was offended by this and did not readily submit a response regarding the \$200,000 decrease. John states the need for a meeting to develop policy on how to include the RRAC in the budget process. He asks, "are you prepared to show what the budgeting *should* be"? John doesn't have specific numbers but wants to develop a process for the RRAC to be able to take something so they don't have to start from scratch: go in with numbers that ORR already has and propose spending for the next year. John suggested looking back at minutes from when a budget person came to the committee a couple of years ago regarding budget the information.
- Private hospital oversight. John has no problem setting up a mechanism to assess private hospitals. There has been a fight for a hands-off approach to private business (CMHs and hospitals). ORR would need two full-time possessions within a hospital. Information should be presented to Farah Hanley regarding this.
- The battle for a year and a half for ORR to have a vehicle is over with. John now has a state vehicle that he can transport his scooter on.

STAFF REPORTS

ORR Staff
R. Postema

Hospitals

- HOH report. Going back in to Harbor Oaks for review was to strictly look at corrections to their system. Kudos given for changes and making steady improvements, although there are still areas of concern that were not completely addressed. Recently did another review and will create a report.
- Policies with hospitals. Policies should be going out for suitable services: planning, developing, and implementing individual plans of service. MDHHS policies to get standardized. Hospitals will have their own procedures on how to implement MDHHS policies. Hospital standard operating procedures will have to go through the Bureau of Behavior Health. New unit at Caro with special education services. Governor Whitmer to determine what will happen with Caro.

Training

Andrew Silver

- Referred to ETU report.
- Busy working on conference. The hotel is undergoing remodeling before the conference. Three floors are out of inventory which contributed to shortage of hotel rooms. Parking is free in a close lot. Liz mentioned she will not be attending the conference, and the room set up for her could be given to someone else.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee

None

2019 GOAL SETTING UPDATE

Committee

- What are your goals for this committee?
 - Jennifer needs everyone to email her a goal by tomorrow (24 hours). No free passes. Jennifer's goal is to try to advocate outside of this room. Met with congress person, regarding how laws are made and how RRAC can advocate for change. Providing goals to Jennifer will be assignment and homework for RRAC members.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Gorman

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Angie O'Doud

Fully supports figuring out the budget and getting someone on an annual basis to a RRAC meeting. From a CMH standpoint, it is startling that ORR didn't know what their budget was and wonders what cutting \$200,000 would look like. Agrees to committee pushing budget concerns.

- Larry Spataro

Echos Ms. O'Doud's thoughts. Anything done by new department leadership should have same commitment to follow state law as expected from CMH providers. States would get support back from CMH's and attitudes would be improved. We are all short staffed, short budgets, asked to do additional trainings, and no way to justify the shortage of time to get things done.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Farah was invited to November meeting and Director Gordon given schedule for 2020 meeting dates.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn given by Basil, Shaun and Norm seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

**FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND VIA CONFERENCE CALL, PLEASE DIAL
1-877-873-8018, ACCESS CODE 5062210**