



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON  
DIRECTOR

**RECIPIENT RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**NOTES**

**May 9, 2019**

1:00 – 2:13 p.m.

Lewis Cass Building

6th Floor Large Conference Room

**PRESENT:** *In-person:* Shaun Thompson, Basil Scott, James Klingenberg, Director Sanford, Julie Markham (recorder); *By Conference Phone:* Norman DeLisle, Margaret Stooksberry and Liz O'Dell

**ABSENT:** Vendella Collins, Darlene Logan, Jennifer Gorman and Andrew Silver

**OPENING REMARKS**

Thompson

- Chair Thompson verified a quorum was present, and the meeting was called to order at 1:20 PM
- Minutes of the last RRAC meeting from March 12, 2019 were approved; motion Thompson, second DeLisle
- Verification was made that everyone received the email from Jennifer from the last meeting.

**Director's Report**

Sanford

- Mediation legislation submitted last year during legislative session was ultimately dismissed, but the sponsor was to resubmit this year. ORR partnered with the MHA and a focus group was commenced; Raymie Postema is part of this focus group. ORR does not disagree with mediation but disagrees with how the proposal was put together. Suggestions for revised proposal include:
  1. Moving mediation from Chapter 7 to Chapter 2 in the Mental Health Code.
  2. Mediation services to be provided by CMH agencies.
  3. To be offered primarily in treatment concerns. Not to be in any way a hindrance to the rights process. Used as another dispute resolution process; offered not mandated.
  4. Allow only the recipient or their legal representative to consent to mediation.
  5. Trial period of one year, with statistics provided to the department

The next step is to take the above proposed changes to the department. Mark approached this legislator, who stated he will wait and see what ORR has to offer. There is a meeting to finalize this process within the next week or so.

Key point: the former director of the legislative bureau was active in pushing legislation and didn't hear what John had to say. When concerns were brought to Dr. Mellos, and Dr. Mellos talked with the legislator, the legislator seemed more responsive.

John will send an update after the meeting if any significant changes occur.

- Meeting with Director Gordon. John had a short meeting with the new director and was able to discuss ORR in terms of structure and functions, and other concerns. John asked if Director Gordon was aware that John directly reports to him, and Director Gordon stated he was aware. Discussion was held regarding the Harbor Oaks investigative report and was submitted 30 days before Director Lyon left with no decisions being made about corrective action. Director Gordon indicated he did not receive a copy of the report. John sent the report to Director Gordon, who assigned to special assistant, Sophia Hines. Sophia met with John and Raymie and discussed concerns in how they could move the recommendations involved forward thru Director Gordon. John expressed concerned about the gap between the time the investigation was conducted and now.
- ORR is asking for monitoring in connection with LARA of private hospital complaint investigations.
- John had a discussion with the Director of MDHHS Legal Department. Legal code gives director of the department responsibility to ask ORR to intervene in situations. The responsibility to correct the problem is not the director of the department. The ORR has the authority to direct correction of the problem. Basil suggested John ask for a declaratory ruling. John stated he could not but that the RRAC could. John told the committee members that they should get Director Gordon to talk with the committee. John suggested the committee pen a formal letter indicating who they were, what they do, their responsibilities to the office and ask him to set a time on a regular basis to meet with them to address rights issues. Members suggested an open invitation be sent to Director Gordon to attend the RRAC meetings. Shaun would like the new chair to wite this invitation to Director Gordon.
- Caro Center expansion is on hold. The last Administration selected current site and broke ground. The Governor has put the process on hold. A firm has been hired to provide an evaluation of the planned new construction. Their report is due at end of June. Telemedicine is set up and available now at the Caro Center. Joint Commission survey coming up soon.
- Formally announced the annual rights conference, to be held September 24-27, 2019 at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Battle Creek.

### **Staff Reports**

ORR Staff

Andrew Silver absent, but copies of ETU report (March 13, 2019- May 9, 2019) were provided.

### **Old Business**

Committee

Shaun was notified that Darlene had unexcused absences for the last two meetings. Our bylaws require after two or more absences for the chairman to reach out, in writing, to request the member's intention to stay on the committee. Shaun sent an email to Ms. Logan with no response. Her third unexcused absence is today. Shaun took the matter to a roll call vote to remove Ms. Logan from the committee. Committee members Shaun, Norm, Margaret, and Basil voted yes. Julie is to send a letter thanking Ms. Logan for her time on the committee and include a statement that she may reapply in the future. Discussion continued regarding Price Pullins applying to become a member (we are waiting for formal appointment from Director Gordon), and Margaret reminded the committee that Kathleen Tynes has also applied. There are currently four member spots available.

### **New Business**

- Continue to brainstorm regarding goal setting and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

- Anyone interested in serving on the RRAC committee please fill out an application and return to Julie Markham at [MarkhamJ@Michigan.gov](mailto:MarkhamJ@Michigan.gov) as soon as possible.
- Anyone interested in serving on the Appeals Committee please fill out an application and return to Kimberly Saterlee-Fink at [SaterleeK@Michigan.gov](mailto:SaterleeK@Michigan.gov) as soon as possible.

**Public Comment**

None

**Additional Items for Next Meeting**

Chair

- Set up subcommittee to find new chair and vice chair. Email nominations to Shaun. Take a vote at next meeting. This is Shaun's last meeting as Chair. September meeting will include the new chair and vice chair.
- Discuss Cookie Gant award. (New Chair to take care of). Typically, the RRAC sends out an email, in June, requesting nominations, and in August finalizes selections. Shaun stated the Cookie Gant fund is subsumed. There may be one grant available with department in Recovery Area; status of fund is questionable. Margaret requested the email notifications be sent out earlier than June this year.

**Adjournment**

With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 PM by Chair Thompson.

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