



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON  
DIRECTOR

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

**November 14, 2019**

1:00 – 2:35 p.m.

Lewis Cass Building

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Large Conference Room

**PRESENT**

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

Teleconference phone: Tish Watkins, Norman DeLisle, Margaret Stooksberry, Vendella Collins, Price Pullins (late), Shaun Bennett (interested citizen), Dan Piippo (President of RROAM).

**ABSENT**

Liz O'Dell (excused); Dr. Lagrou (excused)

**OPENING REMARKS**

**Jennifer Gorman**

- Call to Order
  - Meeting called to order at 1:06 PM
- Approval of Agenda
  - Motioned by Shaun and seconded by Basil. Opposed by none and moved as approved.
- Approval of Meeting Minutes (September 2019)
  - Motioned by Basil and seconded by Shaun. Opposed by none and moved as approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Succession Planning**

**John Sanford**

RRAC is responsible to recommend to Director Gordon a candidate for the position of a new Director of ORR, in consultation with the current Director of ORR. What does this look like?

- It can take place personally, by letter or whatever. When John started working at ORR, the process was having two interviews for the candidates, one from the RRAC and one from the Director. This RRAC committee needs to establish a very strong relationship with the Director Gordon. After the meeting, Jennifer will reach out to Director Gordon for RRAC to be included in the interviews of the top candidates, after the screening process is completed.

- **Presentation**

**Theresa Randleman**

Copies of proposed plan and outline of community empowerment unit within ORR distributed to those present. Theresa researched funding sources and sought ways to enlarge ORR for staffing and training and connecting more with the community. The first sheet states the mission statement is ... the vision statement is...A question to John was how were we empowering mental health recipients? ORR's reach to recipients was limited, so we decided to move forward to creating a community empowering unit. When established, the unit will engage in empowering recipients by training them in recipient rights. The second sheet is the proposal of a forum to help establish the unit - a seat at the table at a mental health recipient forum.

Jeff Patton, Director of Kalamazoo CMH, was asked to assist in launching a pilot to seek more information from recipients in that community, and he is on board with this. The proposed pilot launch is scheduled for May 2020, National Mental Health Month, in Kalamazoo. The panelists would consist of peer-support-specialists, rights advisors, and ORR staff. With information from the forum, ORR would develop peer-support training sessions. Theresa talked with Pam Warner from MDHHS about person-centered planning and talked with peer-support specialist Coleen Jasper and Bryant Wood of JIMHO. Bryant sent out a survey regarding ORR that will be utilized to help with the new community unit. Theresa also met with individuals in the budget office that work with block grants, Belinda Hawks and Jeff Wieferich. Theresa stated that ORR will need to provide services to the community to be eligible for block grants. The purpose of the new unit is to enlarge training to include more staff and peer-to-peer training of Know Your Rights. The pilot will help establish trainings and be carried out throughout the state. The proposed pilot has pending funding.

How can RRAC help?

- Because the committee members' experience and expertise can help develop the new unit, RRAC members could suggest dialogues to be presented at the first pilot. Jennifer would volunteer to be on a pilot committee. Is anyone else interested? Vendella; Tish. Dan from RROAM stated that RROAM could help out in some capacity.

- **RRAC Application**

Discussion of approving Elizabeth for the RRAC committee. Shaun—she's a good candidate, been around for a while, from a hospital. Shaun made motion to send approval letter to Director and Basil seconded. Roll-call vote: on phone--Tish YES, Norm YES, Margaret, YES, Vendella YES; in person Basil YES Jennifer, YES, Shaun YES. An approval letter will be created by ORR staff and sent to Director Gordon for signature.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**John Sanford**

- Retirement. John is retiring January 31, 2020. Director Gordon requested John meet with him regarding transitioning. Director Gordon claims he wants to hire prior to John leaving to shadow John. Director Gordon is interested in outside and inside candidates. John gave him what was needed in terms of the position. Later, John was contacted by HR who did not have a position description for him, which he provided. John is hoping that the job will be posted in the two weeks.
- Budget update. \$200,000 cut did not happen as proposed although the budget will see a small decrease. John asked Theresa to explore Medicaid funding for ORR positions. Four position descriptions were given to the Budget Office for review. A meeting scheduled with budget liaison tomorrow to discuss percentages of Medicaid reimbursement for ORR positions. John stated this is "real progress".
- 2018 Annual Report Recommendations
  - Recommendations need to be responded to by the department. Director Gordon asked John to meet with Elizabeth Hertel and Matthew Rick regarding this. They have a phone conference scheduled Monday of next week.
  - John met with Ms. Hertel and ORR's POC training position has been approved. John asked about doing assessments of private hospitals. He was told he needs to submit justification for the process. He will provide a written synopsis of what is being proposed and will meet with Ms. Hertel to follow-up.
  - ORR has obtained an individual from the AG's office that is responding to legal concerns regarding co-protective rights.
  - John is going to purpose the issue of funding of the office and the role RRAC plays in reviewing ORR's budget. John states the law is not being followed and asked what can be done to force the issue. Basil inquired whether John or the RRAC could request a declaratory ruling from Director Gordon. This idea will be further considered.

## STAFF REPORTS

ORR Staff  
**R. Postema**

### Hospitals

- Copies of Allegations Report by facilities and Remediation Report handed out to those present and emailed to those on the telephone. Raymie stated several results are pending; she is currently working with Bureau of Hospitals to pressure for response in a timely manner.
- Caro Center population is up again. They are creating a four-bed behavioral unit, hiring a BCBA and occupational therapist. Idea to spread to other state hospitals and put in request for BCBAs and OCAs at each facility. A new Caro Center has not moved forward at this time.
- Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital. They will open two more units at Kalamazoo. More beds will need more rights advisors on staff.
- External investigations – one was just finished, two are current, and one is in the pipeline.
- Meeting with MP&A. Continues to meet with Andrea Rizer monthly and this seems helpful. MP&A presented at RROAM and desires to move towards collaboration with ORR.
- Indiana hospitals contracting under chapter 9, Miscellaneous, which states they cannot place anyone in a contiguous state unless the AG has determined that the rights system is substantially the same as Michigan. The AG looked at Indiana's rights system and said no, it was not comparable. No other evaluation by AG has been done for other states. John stated that it is Jeff Duvendeck's responsibility, not ORR's responsibility, to get PHIPs to understand the recipient rights in the contracts. If two-step process is not followed, any contracts dating from 1996 forward would be in violation of the act. Section 1919(4).

### Policy

- Mediation bill has made it through House unanimously without changes and is on its way to Senate.
- Raymie is currently working on potential legislative language to address Mental Health Code and update brought about by Rep. Anthony regarding chemical restraint language.

**Andrew Silver**

### Training

- Mentioned ETU report provided in folder. Andy stated ORR is getting closer and closer for online training for physicians, hopefully to be done by December.
- CMHs are having problems with getting all training completed within 30 days. Training scoring is based on whether you have appeals or not. Issue was talked about at CMH's Director's meeting.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Committee**

None

## 2019 GOAL SETTING UPDATE

**Committee**

At the last meeting, Jennifer requested goals. After all email responses were received, she has goals from almost everybody. All goals are great goals. The interesting thing is there are many goals on the list that have outreach to the community. Interesting that goals tie into the new community unit. There was a goal stated for online trainings; Caro Center policy updates; to increase value and work for better relationship within group and with Director Gordon. Everyone on committee has best interest of stated goals, and all are on the same page to move forward. Shaun: RRAC is in good position having worked on righting its own ship. Hard part is making tangible changes.

## ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

**Jennifer Gorman**

If there is a need to interview candidates for Director of ORR prior to RRAC's January 9, 2020 meeting, RRAC will need to find a way to do that. Jennifer will reach out to Director Gordon right away and cc responses on emails to Basil. Committee may need to have a special meeting to interview Director candidates. Jennifer asks members to "please be flexible".

**PUBLIC COMMENT****Larry Spataro**

- Larry agrees with Raymie's assessment of out-of-state placement being a PIHP focus. Also, a lot of out-of-state placements are going through ER's without CMH's being notified. Although, how this is happening is not necessarily the focus of the CMH office.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Potential for special meeting to interview candidates for Director of ORR position.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn given by Shaun. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 by Jennifer.