

**Northern Community Mediation
Board of Directors' Meeting
Thursday, November 12, 2015
City Park Grill, Petoskey, MI**

Board members present: John Marshall, President; Kate Scollin, Vice-President; Paula Welmers, Secretary; Julie Kuchnicki, Kirk Raymond, Hon. Fred Mulhauser, David Leusink, Stuart Fenton, Pat Simmons,.

Board members absent: Bill Meengs, Treasurer; Hon. Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Ed Engstrom, Christian Smith.

Staff Present: Dr. Jane Millar

Call to Order:

John Marshall called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Minutes: Paula Welmers

The meeting minutes from September 24, 2015 as recorded by Julie Kuchnicki, were presented. They were amended to reflect K. Scollin's absence.

Scollin moved to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Mulhauser. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jane for Bill Meengs

Jane highlighted the projected increase in the 2015 projected budget under Agency funds, SPED Fees. It reflects Jane's efforts to speak for at least an hour to local K-12 superintendents and principals about school attendance and special education services available through NCM. These conversations are reimbursable at \$400/meeting.

Jane stated there is a potential for additional dollars from both county Foundations; there is also the potential for a \$6,000 shortfall due to salary expenditures.

Kuchnicki moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Scollin. Motion carried.

President's Report: John Marshall

John would like to convene a meeting, before year's end, of Board members who volunteered during last spring's retreat to investigate alternatives to our present location in Petoskey, in the event that our verbal contract is terminated. Issues include: accessibility, security, lease, administrative versus mediation space, combining with other related services, e.g. Friend of the Court parenting time/visitation center for children and parents.

Nominating Committee: Board

1. Going Off – John Marshall, Paula Welmers, Chief Judge Allie Maldonado
2. Acceptance – Bob Banner, Chelsea Platte, Mary Roberts, Mark Fralik
3. Officers nominated for 2016:
 - a. President: Kate Scollin
 - b. Vice-President: Julie Kuchnicki
 - c. Secretary: Stuart Fenton
 - d. Treasurer: Bill Meengs

A motion to accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee was made by Mulhauser, seconded by Simmons. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report: Jane Millar

1. Case Reports – Jane reported that NCM has handled an increase in cases this year compared with the same period last year.

2. Collection of Fees – Jane reported that the collection of fees follows the same trends as in the past.

3. Holiday Party - *Tuesday, December 8, 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm*

4. Staff Retreat – all day, Friday, November 13

5. Annual Meeting - *Thursday, January 21, 2016*

6. Funding Challenges -

Jane demonstrated the decrease in funding from SCAO CDRP, 27% since 2010. Funding from this source comprises about 25% of NCM's operating budget. Statewide, 2 centers may close due to lack of participation. This funding decrease may leave NCM scrambling for funds from other sources.

7. NCM Staff – Jane announced that long-time, valued employee Terri Sevener will be leaving NCM at the end of November. All noted their respect for the work Teri has provided over the years and the difficulty the organization will have to find a replacement.

New Business

1. Jane expanded on a topic from the Treasurer's report, the School Attendance mediation and Special Education service conversations she is having with all K-12 superintendents and principals in the Char-Em ISD district. She also has visited with 2 school districts in Antrim county and called upon Judge Mulhauser and Pat Simmons to pave the way for conversations with the judge/court administrator in Antrim County so that it can support NCM's efforts with the schools.
2. In a serendipitous move, Jane has secured the old phone system from Bank of Northern Michigan, via board member Julie Kucknicki.
3. It was agreed that the Board will vote on the proposed 2016 budget via email sometime around the first week in December.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 21, 2016, at 12:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Welmers, Secretary