

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
DISABILITY RIGHTS MICHIGAN  
Via Zoom  
Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2020**

**Call Meeting to Order**

President John McCulloch called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**Attendance**

Present: John McCulloch, Mark Stephenson, Mark Wiedelman, Jane Shank, Paul Palmer, Malkia Newman, Jill Busha, Brian Calley, Selena Schmidt, Hansen Clarke, Tom Landry, Melody Arabo

Guests: Amanda Absher, Kevin Fischer, Marie Jackson

Absent: Davin Hemmila

Staff: Michelle Roberts, Michele Brand, Mark McWilliams, Kyle Williams, Elham Jahshan, Kris Keranen, Theresa Diebolt, Sara Koroniotis

**Approval of Agenda**

President McCulloch stated the minutes from the June 16, 2020 meeting will be revised to reflect roll call votes and will be approved at the next regular meeting.

Mark Wiedelman MOVED to approve the revised Agenda and Jane Shank seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

AYES: McCulloch, Landry, Clarke, Palmer, Shank, Stephenson, Wiedelman, Newman

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

**Board Development/Nominating Committee**

Tom Landry, Chair, MOVED to elect Jill Busha and Brian Calley to the Board to serve a three (3) year term and Hansen Clarke seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

AYES: McCulloch, Landry, Clarke, Palmer, Shank, Stephenson, Wiedelman, Arabo, Newman

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

**President's Report**

President McCulloch welcomed Jill Busha and Brian Calley to the Board. He also thanked Michelle Roberts and staff for the work they do especially during these difficult times.

President McCulloch asked all members to please fill out the annual forms and return them to Theresa Diebolt as soon as possible.

**Executive Director and Staff Reports**

Executive Director, Michelle Roberts, welcomed Jill and Brian to the Board and recognized new PAIMI Council members and welcomed them to the meeting. She went on to share some updates within the agency during the pandemic. Ms. Roberts referred to her written report and highlighted some elements to keep the Board apprised.

Kyle Williams, Legal Director, discussed the status of litigation that has been keeping the attorneys busy, as well as how the outcomes will benefit and impact our clients. He explained the Interim Settlement Agreement with MDHHS, substantial changes that will affect how patients on NGRI status are treated, discussed the Medicaid lawsuit as well as some of the other litigation they are working on.

Kris Keranen, Director of Education Advocacy, began by discussing the issues so many parent and teachers are facing as the school year begins. The team has been providing input to the Department of Education with suggestions for guidance. She went on to highlight a few of the cases the team has been working on as well as the systemic impacts for our clients.

Elham Jahshan, Director of Employment Advocacy, briefly explained what kind of work the team does and went on to highlight some of their cases and how they have impacted of our clients.

Sara Koroniotis, Director of the Rep Payee Program, discussed how the team has been conducting reviews and interviews during the pandemic and how their cases have been handled according to the latest SSA requirements. She also conveyed some of the other activities they have been working on in the last quarter.

Mark McWilliams, Director of Public Policy and Media Relations, deferred his report to the Public Policy Committee report.

Michele Brand, Director of Finance/HR/IT, shared that while some of our work has slowed down due to COVID-19, her team has been extremely busy with policies, strategies, teleworking, tech support, etc.

Malkia Newman, MOVED to receive and file staff reports, and Mark Wiedelman seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: McCulloch, Landry, Clarke, Palmer, Shank, Stephenson, Wiedelman, Arabo, Schmidt, Newman, Busha

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

One member from the public shared some concerns to the Board.

### **PAIMI Advisory Council Report**

PAIMI Advisory Council report was given by Malkia Newman, Chair, who gave an update of the last meeting of the Council.

Malkia Newman MOVED to receive and file the report and Tom Landry seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: McCulloch, Landry, Clarke, Palmer, Shank, Stephenson, Arabo, Newman, Schmidt, Busha

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

### **Review proposed FY2021 agency priorities**

Tom Landry MOVED to approve the priorities and Mark Stephenson seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: McCulloch, Landry, Clarke, Palmer, Shank, Stephenson, Wiedelman, Arabo, Newman, Schmidt, Busha

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **A. Board Development/Nominating Committee – Tom Landry**

Tom Landry MOVED to re-elect members, Paul Palmer, Tom Landry, Mark Wiedelman, and Hansen Clarke to the class of 2023 (another 3-year term), and for letters of appreciation to be sent to Pam Bellamy who served 9 years and Alethea Brinkerhoff who served 6 years and Selena Schmidt seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: McCulloch, Landry, Clarke, Palmer, Shank, Stephenson, Wiedelman, Arabo, Newman, Schmidt, Busha

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Tom Landry MOVED to clarify the Bylaws to indicate that session/term is defined as two (2) years in office assuming the officers agree to that in continuation of their service and Paul Palmer seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: McCulloch, Landry, Clarke, Palmer, Shank, Stephenson, Wiedelman, Arabo, Newman, Schmidt, Busha

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Tom Landry MOVED to elect officers to the Board for a one (1) year term, President John McCulloch, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Hansen Clarke, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Jane Shank, Treasurer Mark Stephenson, Secretary Paul Palmer, Immediate Past President Tom Landry and Mark Wiedelman seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: McCulloch, Landry, Clarke, Palmer, Shank, Stephenson, Wiedelman, Arabo, Newman, Schmidt, Busha

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

B. Budget & Finance Committee – Mark Stephenson/Michele Brand

Treasurer Stephenson referred to the financial statements pointing out the agency is overall 4.4% under budget.

Mark Stephenson MOVED to receive and file the report and Tom Landry seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: McCulloch, Landry, Clarke, Palmer, Shank, Stephenson, Arabo, Newman, Schmidt, Busha

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Malkia Newman MOVED to approve the FY2021 budget and Paul Palmer seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: McCulloch, Landry, Palmer, Shank, Stephenson, Wiedelman, Arabo, Newman, Schmidt, Busha

Abstain: Clarke

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

C. Public Policy Committee – Hansen Clarke/Mark McWilliams

Hansen Clarke indicated the three main activities of this committee are legislative activities, the implementation of the Help America Vote Act, and media and publications activities.

Mr. McWilliams suggested that everyone be sure to check out our new website and new brochure of Who We Are. He also highlighted a few items including state budget advocacy, affordable housing, and voting.

Hansen Clarke MOVED to receive and file the committee report and Tom Landry seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: McCulloch, Landry, Clarke, Shank, Stephenson, Wiedelman, Arabo, Palmer, Newman, Schmidt, Busha

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

### **Old Business**

Old business – none

### **New Business**

President McCulloch stated new member orientation will be scheduled soon. Members should watch for an email for availability, and a date and time will be set for those who wish to participate.

It was asked that board members check the dates for future meetings to ensure availability.

### **Executive Session**

No Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

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Theresa Diebolt, Executive Assistant

Minutes approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Palmer, Secretary

**Future Meetings**  
**(Location to be determined)**

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021**  
**Tuesday, May 11, 2021**  
**Tuesday, September 7, 2021**  
**Tuesday, December 14, 2021**