

**BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting

Monday, May 11, 2026, 2026-5:00 P.M.

16 N. Third Street, L'Anse, MI 49946

**PROPOSED AGENDA**

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- 1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL**  
Commissioner Niemela, Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Kent, Commissioner Menge, and Commissioner DeLeon
- 2. APPROVE AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
Regular Meeting – April 14, 2026
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS- Agenda Items Only**
- 5. TREASURER'S REPORT- INFORMATION ONLY – NO MOTION REQUIRED**
- 6. APPROVAL OF BILLS**
  - a. BCMH Trustee Per Diem- \$1,120.00 (April 2026)
  - b. Approval of County Commissioner and Dept. Bills, \$48,641.52
  - c. Approval of Prepaid Accounts, \$1,796,282.91
  - d. Approval of Sheriff Dept. Commissary Checking Account, \$7,135.46
- 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - a. 911 Director/EM Manager Position
- 8. ACTION ITEMS**
  - a. FOIA Appeal
  - b. District Court, Marquette County Community Corrections proposal
  - c. L'Anse Sentinel, Summer in Baragaland advertisement
  - d. Equalization Department, Personnel needs
- 9. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**
- 10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
  - BCMH Board of Trustees, Minutes
- 11. RESOLUTIONS**
  - a. Copper County Mental Health Services, Resolution RE: FY2027 Boilerplate Language
  - b. Resolution Urging Prompt Action on the Drain Code of 1956
- 12. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**
- 13. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 14. ADJOURNMENT**

**BARAGA COUNTY**  
**BUDGET AMENDMENTS**  
For the Fiscal Year Ending 09/30/2026

BA # 03-2026  
5/11/2026

Account Name	Account Number	Revenue Increase - (Decrease)	Expense - Increase- (Decrease)
<b>GENERAL FUND - REVENUES</b>			
Swampland Tax	101-000-431.00	8,700.00	
Fund Balance Surplus	101-000-699.99	58,756.00	

**GENERAL FUND - EXPENDITURES**

Treasurer Health Insurance Expense	101-253-716.00		(15,200.00)
Payment in Lieu	101-253-716.01		5,000.00
Health Insurance Retiree	101-253-716.02		21,600.00
Operating and Office Supplies	101-253-727.00		(200.00)
Postage	101-253-729.00		200.00
Treatment Court Salary and Wages	101-288-703.00		16,300.00
Social Security and Medicare	101-288-715.00		1,200.00
Corrections Health Insurance Retiree	101-351-716.02		28,956.00
District Court Health Insurance Retiree	101-286-716.02		9,600.00

**GENERAL FUND – JOURNAL TOTALS**

**\$ 67,456.00 \$ 67,456.00**

**\$ 67,456.00 \$ 67,456.00**

**EXPLANATION: To record adjustments to the budget for FY 09/30/2026**  
**Per Board Approval**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Checks Written 4/1/2026 to 4/30/2026

Printed 5/6/2026 10:43:38 AM

Number	Date	ID	Comment	Amount
2861	4/1/2026		Pepsi Cola of Houghton	\$883.30
2862	4/1/2026		Stellar Services	\$1880.08
2863	4/1/2026		Pats Foods	\$40.88
2864	4/4/2026		97th District Court Baraga County	\$300.00
2865	4/8/2026		97th District Court Baraga County	\$300.00
2866	4/9/2026		Pats Foods	\$85.85
2867	4/9/2026		Stellar Services	\$353.45
2868	4/20/2026		97th District Court Baraga County	\$300.00
2869	4/22/2026		97th District Court Baraga County	\$500.00
2870	4/22/2026		97th District Court Baraga County	\$500.00
2871	4/24/2026		97th District Court Baraga County	\$500.00
2872	4/30/2026		Baraga County Treasurer	\$1491.90
				<hr/> <hr/>
				\$7135.46



Wendy Goodreau <goodreauw@baragacounty.org>

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## Michigan Freedom of Information Act Request: County Assessor's Tax Roll Request (Baraga County)

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207446-70945365@requests.muckrock.com <207446-70945365@requests.muckrock.com>

Wed, Apr 15, 2026 at 1:29 PM

To: goodreauw@baragacounty.org

Baraga County Clerk's office  
FOIA Office  
2 S. Main Street  
L'Anse, MI 49946

April 15, 2026

This is a follow up to a previous request:

Hi Wendy,

Thank you for sending the written FOIA response with the County's itemized fee schedule. I have it in hand.

A couple of questions before I decide how to proceed:

1. I noticed Baraga's fee schedule includes a Research fee at \$100/hr, billed in 1/10-hour increments. Rather than a \$300 flat export fee, could the request be fulfilled under the research-fee line item — billed for the time it takes to run the export? Alternatively, if it's easier for Baraga, would it be possible for your office to simply forward a copy of the most recent dataset the County has already sent to a commercial data aggregator such as Zillow, CoreLogic, ATTOM, or First American? My understanding is that file may already exist (maybe in an email sent box or a folder) and if it was already compiled, that would hopefully keep research time minimal.
2. Your letter references MCL 15.234(10), which says FOIA's fee provisions do not apply where "another statute authorizes the sale of the records, or if the amount of the fee for providing a copy of the public record is otherwise specifically provided for by an act or statute." Could you point me to the specific act or statute setting Baraga County's \$300 fee? My understanding of MCL 15.234(10) is that the authorizing source needs to be an act or a statute (identifiable by MCL number). I have been looking for the act or statute but so far I can't find it -- I do see the County's fee schedule but I believe that is an ordinance or a policy rather than an act or a statute.
3. Related to that — have you had a chance to look at the savings clause in EAPRA itself, MCL 15.443(4)? It provides that the Enhanced Access to Public Records Act "does not limit the right of a person to inspect or copy a public record" under FOIA. The Senate Fiscal Agency's 1996 enrolled analysis of the bill that became EAPRA makes the same point explicitly: "The bill would not limit access to a public record under the FOIA. A public record available by enhanced access would have to be made available for inspection or copying in accordance with that Act." (Source: MI Senate Fiscal Agency analysis of HB 5832, September 18, 1996.) On that reading, EAPRA wouldn't appear to displace FOIA's fee framework for requests submitted under FOIA.

I'm happy to walk through any of this over email or phone if it's helpful. 734-272-6612

Thank you again.

View request history, see one related attachment, upload responsive documents, and report problems here:  
<https://www.muckrock.com/respond/2265803/>

Attachments:

- 1995-SFA-5832-S\_enrolled\_analysis\_1996.pdf

Filed via MuckRock.com

E-mail (Preferred): 207446-70945365@requests.muckrock.com

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS

For mailed responses, please address (see note):

MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 207446  
263 Huntington Ave  
Boston, MA 02115

PLEASE NOTE: This request is not filed by a MuckRock staff member, but is being sent through MuckRock by the above in order to better track, share, and manage public records requests. Also note that improperly addressed (i.e., with the requester's name rather than "MuckRock News" and the department number) requests might be returned as undeliverable.

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On April 14, 2026:

Subject: Re: Michigan Freedom of Information Act Request: County Assessor's Tax Roll Request (Baraga County)  
Mr. Munro, please find Baraga County's response to your FOIA request dated April 2, 2026.

\*Wendy J. Goodreau\*  
\*Baraga County Clerk/Register of Deeds\*  
2 South Main Street  
L'Anse, MI 49946  
906.524.6100 extension 301  
keweenawbay.org

Baraga County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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**\*DISCLAIMER\*\*:** Every effort has been made to provide accurate information, however, the Baraga County Register of Deeds specifically disclaims any responsibility for incompleteness or inaccuracy and advises the requesting party to seek the assistance of legal counsel or a title company to assure completeness and accuracy.

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On April 3, 2026:

Subject: Re: Michigan Freedom of Information Act Request: County Assessor's Tax Roll Request (Baraga County)  
Please accept this email as Baraga County's official request for a 10 day extension of the FOIA request dated 4/2/2026 received via email requesting Baraga County's county-wide assessment roll.

\*Wendy J. Goodreau\*  
\*Baraga County Clerk/Register of Deeds\*  
2 South Main Street  
L'Anse, MI 49946  
906.524.6100 extension 301  
keweenawbay.org

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**\*DISCLAIMER\*\*:** Every effort has been made to provide accurate information, however, the Baraga County Register of Deeds specifically disclaims any responsibility for incompleteness or inaccuracy and advises the requesting

party to seek the assistance of legal counsel or a title company to assure completeness and accuracy.

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On March 25, 2026:

Subject: Michigan Freedom of Information Act Request: County Assessor's Tax Roll Request (Baraga County)

Dear Baraga County Clerk's office FOIA Coordinator,

Pursuant to Michigan's Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.231 et seq., I am requesting a copy of the Baraga County Clerk's office county-wide assessment roll in its existing electronic format (CSV, DBF, or equivalent tabular export). If a single county-wide file does not exist, individual municipal-level exports that together cover all parcels in the county will satisfy this request.

Requested fields include, to the extent they exist in the record: parcel number, property address, owner name and mailing address, assessed value, state equalized value, taxable value, property classification, homestead/PRE status, school district, and any recorded sale date and sale price. I understand that many counties routinely provide similar datasets to commercial data aggregators such as Zillow and other real estate platforms, and I am requesting the same or comparable data.

I ask that this request be interpreted liberally, consistent with MCL 15.231(2). To the extent additional non-exempt fields exist in the record beyond those listed above, please include them. If the records are available for multiple years or assessment cycles, please include as broad a duration as is readily available rather than limiting the response to the current year alone. Where any question arises about whether to include or exclude non-exempt information, I respectfully ask that you err on the side of inclusion.

I am not requesting GIS data, parcel geometry, or any record that must be created — only a copy of existing electronic records. Please note that MCL 15.443(4) provides that the Enhanced Access to Public Records Act does not limit inspection and copying of public records under FOIA.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you.  
Alexander Munro  
Ypsilanti, MI  
734-272-6612  
awmunro@gmail.com

View request history, see one related attachment, upload responsive documents, and report problems here:

<https://www.muckrock.com/respond/2265803/>

Attachments:

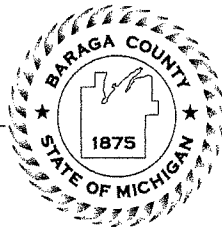
- 1995-SFA-5832-S\_enrolled\_analysis\_1996.pdf

[Quoted text hidden]

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 **1995-SFA-5832-S\_enrolled\_analysis\_1996.pdf**  
325K

**BARAGA COUNTY CLERK**  
*Register of Deeds*



2 South Main Street • L'Anse, MI 49946-1085  
906.524.6100 Ext. 301 • Fax: 906.524.6432

Wendy J. Goodreau  
CLERK/REGISTER

Carrie Forcia  
DEPUTY

Anna Gaffney  
DEPUTY

April 14, 2026

Alexander Munro  
Ypsilanti, MI  
734-272-6612  
[awmunro@gmail.com](mailto:awmunro@gmail.com)

RE: FOIA Request, 04/02/2026

Dear Mr. Munro:

Your request has been forwarded to the Baraga County Equalization Department and they are working on producing the requested information:

“Requested fields include, to the extent they exist in the record: parcel number, property address, owner name and mailing address, assessed value, state equalized value, taxable value, property classification, homestead/PRE status, school district, and any recorded sale date and sale price. I understand that many counties routinely provide similar datasets to commercial data aggregators such as Zillow and other real estate platforms, and I am requesting the same data.”

Please note that per the Enhanced Access to Public Records Act (Act 462 of 1996), there is a fee for the data sent to your organization and that the requested records will be shared upon receipt of the fee of \$300.00 and completion of the attached data sharing agreement.

FOIA fee provisions covered under MCL 15.234 do not apply where another statute authorizes the sale of the records, or if the amount of the fee for providing a copy of the public record is otherwise specifically provided for by an act or statute MCL 15.234(10).

Attached are the data sharing agreement for the Baraga County Equalization Department and Fee Schedule for 2025-2026. Please make the check payable to Baraga County and remit payment to the Baraga County Treasurer's office, 2 S. Main Street, L'Anse, MI 49946. You may also pay online at [keweenawbay.org/government/departments/county-treasurer/](http://keweenawbay.org/government/departments/county-treasurer/).

If you would like the data shared via an FTP site, please share login details. Otherwise, the data can be mailed on a thumb drive (for an additional fee) or sent via email. The data will be released within five business days, once payment has been received.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

James Niemela  
DISTRICT 1

Brad Dakota  
DISTRICT 2

Craig Kent  
DISTRICT 3

William Menge  
DISTRICT 4

Lee DeLeon  
DISTRICT 5



You may seek judicial review under MCL 15.240(1) (b). If the circuit court determines that Baraga has not complied with MCL 15.235, et seq. and orders disclosure of all or a portion of a public record, the court shall award reasonable attorney's fees, costs and disbursements.

Further, if the circuit court determines that Baraga County has arbitrarily and capriciously violated the FOIA by refusal or delay in disclosing or providing copies of a public record, the court shall award, in addition to any actual or compensatory damages, punitive damages in the amount of \$1,000.00, and be ordered to pay a civil fine of \$1,000.00, which shall be deposited into the general fund of the state treasury.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wendy J. Goodreau".

Wendy J. Goodreau  
FOIA Coordinator

# Baraga County Equalization Department

## Fee Schedule

Effective 10/1/2021

- Record cards old & electronic -----\$1.00 Per Page
- GIS Maps -----\$2.00 Per Page
- Assessment Roll-----\$300.00 Per Disk/Copy
- Map Shape files -----\$600.00 Per File
- Address points -----\$600.00 Per File
- Research fee-----\$100.00 Per Hour

Billed at 1/10-hour increments

**BARAGA COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
AGREEMENT AND LICENSE TO UTILIZE DIGITAL DATA**

LICENSEE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATA/PURPOSE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

LICENSEE, BY EXECUTION OF THIS LICENSE AGREEMENT, HEREBY AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF USE FOR THE SUBJECT DATA:

1. LICENSEE agrees to pay the fee set forth in the fee schedule maintained in the Baraga County Equalization Department for a non-exclusive right to utilize the data described above for the purpose described above. LICENSEE agrees to use said data at its own risk and Baraga County makes no warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy of the data. LICENSEE agrees to provide Baraga County with one free copy of the product generated pursuant to this license.
2. The data described above is the property of Baraga County, Michigan. Except for the purpose described above, LICENSEE is prohibited from re-marketing, re-selling, re-using or re-distributing said data, or any portion or derivative of said data, whether in digital, paper, another electronic format, or any other format whatsoever, without the express written consent of Baraga County, Michigan.
3. LICENSEE agrees to keep confidential all data subject to this LICENSE/AGREEMENT except as necessary for the purposes described above. If the subject data is to be published, in paper, digital, another electronic format or in any other format, LICENSEE shall include in said publication the following notice:

"The data utilized herein has been obtained and utilized under license from Baraga County, Michigan. Said data is copyright protected and further reproduction without the express, written consent of Baraga County is prohibited by federal and international law. No warranty is offered regarding the accuracy of this data.  
©Baraga County, Michigan. All rights reserved."
4. LICENSEE agrees that any breach of the terms and conditions of this LICENSE/AGREEMENT shall entitle Baraga County, to \$1,000.00 in liquidated damages for each breach, as well as actual damages and injunctive relief to prevent further breaches, plus reasonable attorney fees incurred establishing proof of said breach.

THE PARTIES HEREBY EXECUTE THIS LICENSE/AGREEMENT ON THE DAY AND DATE WRITTEN BELOW:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
For Baraga County

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
For LICENSEE

## Marquette Regional Community Corrections

Marquette County is the only Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) in the Upper Peninsula. Community Corrections is funded through the Michigan Public Act 511 (P.A. 511). This Act awards funding to approved local city/county governments to provide evidence-based programming and services to eligible pretrial defendants and sentenced felons. Each awarded Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) must have an approved Comprehensive Corrections Plan that demonstrates local impact on defendant/offender needs as well as the Statewide Overall Prison Commitment, Appearance, and Public Safety Rates. The Michigan Office of Community Corrections staff oversees compliance with P.A. 511 funding requirements, provides technical support, and serves as liaison to the Michigan Community Corrections Board.

Marquette County's Community Corrections has grown tremendously the last couple years. Our funding has tripled due to this growth and will continue to grow if we regionalize our CCAB to encompass the entire Upper Peninsula (eventually). The Office of Community Corrections wants Marquette County to be the cornerstone for the rest of the Upper Peninsula due to this recent success in programming/growth. These are the current programs that Marquette County offers:

- **Pretrial Risk Assessment (PRAXIS)**: is a research-based risk assessment that identifies a defendant's likelihood of appearing to court, public safety, and risk of violating bond conditions.
- **Pretrial Supervision w/ Electronic Monitoring**: mission is to uphold pretrial justice through legal and evidence based practices, with a focus on court appearance and public safety.
- **Pretrial Substance Abuse Testing**: is a supportive service/program for PTS. This program's targeted population is pretrial defendants with a current self-identified substance abuse issue or a documented recent history of substance abuse.
- **Moral Reconnection Therapy**: is a nationally recognized evidence based practice that has been proven to reduce recidivism. This cognitive behavioral approach positively addresses an offender's ego, social, moral and behavioral growth.
- **Opiate Methamphetamine Specific Program**: is a 150-day treatment facility (TRI-CAP) that includes 16 groups per week for 21 weeks. Each treatment plan is person-centered, tailored to each offender's learning level, motivation level and some are gender specific.

Due to the Upper Peninsula being so rural services/programs can be hard to find. Many counties are referred to as "program deserts" as there are no services available to clients. It's Marquette County's mission to spread these services throughout the entire Upper Peninsula. However, we're taking a "slow burn" approach. Marquette County will remain the fiduciary of the awarded funds. All operations of Community Corrections will be done from Marquette County. At the end of the day, this is all about helping our neighbors along with bringing as much funding to the Upper Peninsula as possible.

**Marquette County**

**Office of Community Corrections**

**Eligibility Criteria**

<b><u>OCC Program</u></b>	<b><u>Eligibility Criteria</u></b>
<b>Pretrial Supervision (PTS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Defendants that score 0-2 on the PRAXIS and are charged with a violent felony - OR- Defendants that score 3-5 on the PRAXIS and are charged with a serious misdemeanor or non-violent felony -OR- Defendants that score 6-9 on the PRAXIS and are charged with a misdemeanor.</li><li>• Electronic monitoring while on pretrial supervision is supported for the following: Defendants charged with an OUIL-3rd -OR- Victim cases -OR- Serious misdemeanor or non-violent felony scoring 6 or higher on the PRAXIS -OR- Violent felony scoring 3 or higher on the PRAXIS.</li></ul> <p>*Automatically eligible for PTS if eligible for electronic monitoring*</p>
<b>Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sentenced Felons who score moderate to high in at least 1 of the following COMPAS Criminogenic Needs Scales: Substance Abuse, Cognitive Behavioral, Criminal Personality, Residential Instability, Family Criminality, Criminal Opportunity, or Criminal Association.</li><li>• Sentenced Felons who are a Felony Probation Violator, regardless of COMPAS Score.</li><li>• Felons that are diverted/sentenced to Misdemeanant Probation.</li></ul>

Act No. 466  
Public Acts of 2014  
Approved by the Governor  
January 10, 2015  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
January 12, 2015  
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 12, 2015

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
97TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014**

Introduced by Rep. Haveman

# **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5929**

AN ACT to amend 1988 PA 511, entitled "An act to provide for the funding of community-based corrections programs through local governmental subdivisions or certain nonprofit agencies; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state officers and agencies; to provide for community corrections advisory boards and prescribe their powers and duties; to create an office of community alternatives and a state community corrections board within the department of corrections and prescribe their powers and duties; and to provide for the promulgation of rules," by amending sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 11 (MCL 791.402, 791.403, 791.404, 791.405, 791.407, 791.408, and 791.411).

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

- (a) "City advisory board" means a community corrections advisory board created by a city under sections 6 and 7.
- (b) "City-county advisory board" means a community corrections advisory board created by a county and the largest city by population within that county under sections 6 and 7.
- (c) "Community corrections program" means a program that is operated by or contracted for by a city, county, or group of counties, or is operated by a nonprofit service agency, and that offers programs, services, or both, instead of incarceration in prison, and which are locally operated and span a continuum of programming options from pretrial through post-adjudication.
- (d) "County advisory board" means a community corrections advisory board created by a county under sections 6 and 7.
- (e) "Department" means the department of corrections.
- (f) "Evidence-based practices" means a progressive, organizational use of direct, current scientific evidence to guide and inform efficient and effective correctional services.
- (g) "Key performance indicator" means a measure that captures the performance of a critical variable to expand and improve community-based corrections programs to promote offender success, ensure accountability, enhance public safety, and reduce recidivism.
- (h) "Moderate to high risk" means that the individual assessed has scored in the moderate to high range of risk using an actuarial, objective, validated risk and need assessment instrument.
- (i) "Nonprofit service agency" means a nonprofit organization that provides treatment, guidance, training, or other rehabilitative services to individuals, families, or groups in such areas as health, education, vocational training, special education, social services, psychological counseling, alcohol and drug treatment, community service work, victim restitution, and employment.
- (j) "Office" means the office of community corrections created in section 3.
- (k) "Plan" means a comprehensive corrections plan submitted by a county, city, or regional advisory board under section 8.

(l) "Regional advisory board" means a community corrections advisory board created by a group of 2 or more counties under sections 6 and 7.

(m) "State board" means the state community corrections advisory board created in section 3.

Sec. 3. (1) An office of community corrections is created within the department. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the office shall exercise its powers and duties including budgeting and management as an autonomous entity, independent of the director of the department. The office consists of an administrator and staff as the director of the department may appoint to carry out the duties of the office. The director of the department or his or her designee may appoint the administrator of the office or may administer the assigned functions in other ways to promote efficient administration.

(2) A state community corrections advisory board is created in the office of community corrections. The state community corrections advisory board may conduct activities it considers necessary to advise the director of the department in matters related to community corrections.

(3) The governor shall appoint, and the senate shall confirm, the 13 members of the state board as follows:

- (a) One member who is a county sheriff.
- (b) One member who is a chief of a city police department.
- (c) One member who is a judge of the circuit court.
- (d) One member who is a judge of the district court.
- (e) One member who is a county commissioner.
- (f) One member who is a member of city government.
- (g) One member who represents an existing community alternatives program.
- (h) One member who is the director of the department of corrections or his or her designee.
- (i) One member who is a county prosecutor.
- (j) One member who is a criminal defense attorney.
- (k) Three members who are representatives of the general public.

(4) The governor shall ensure fair geographic representation of the state board membership and that minority persons and women are fairly represented.

(5) Members of the state board shall serve for terms of 4 years each, except that of the members first appointed, 5 shall serve for terms of 4 years each, 4 shall serve for terms of 3 years each, and 4 shall serve for terms of 2 years each.

(6) A vacancy on the state board is filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(7) Members of the state board shall serve without compensation, but the department shall reimburse the members for actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings.

(8) The governor shall annually appoint a chairperson from among the members of the board. The chairperson shall not serve more than 2 consecutive terms.

Sec. 4. (1) The state board shall do all of the following:

(a) Adopt a variety of key performance indicators that promote offender success, ensure the effective monitoring of offenders, and evaluate community corrections programs. Performance indicators must be relevant to this act and must be reviewed on an annual basis. At least 1 of the key performance measures must be recidivism. There may be multiple recidivism measures to account for accessibility to state and national databases, local ability to collect data, and the resources needed to collect this data.

(b) Adopt minimum program standards, policies, and rules for community corrections programs. The program standards must include evidence-based practices. Program eligibility must include moderate to high risk offenders regardless of crime class or adjudication status.

(c) Adopt an application process and procedures for funding community corrections programs, including the format for comprehensive corrections plans.

(d) Review, at least once every 3 years, the actuarial, objective, validated risk and need assessment instruments to ensure that they continue to meet the needs and requirements of community corrections.

(e) Recommend funding for community corrections to the director of the department based on program performance, utilization, targeting of appropriate offenders, and adherence to evidence-based practices.

(f) Research, review, and make recommendations regarding the use of performance-based contracts within community corrections.

Sec. 5. The office shall do all of the following:

(a) Provide technical assistance and training to cities, counties, regions, or nonprofit service agencies in developing, implementing, evaluating, and operating community corrections programs.

(b) On behalf of the department, process agreements between the department and city, county, city-county, or regional advisory boards or nonprofit service agencies for the operation of community corrections programs by those boards or agencies, and monitor compliance with those agreements.

(c) Act as an information clearinghouse regarding community corrections programs for cities, counties, regions, or nonprofit service agencies that receive funding under this act.

(d) Provide community corrections advisory boards annually with information required to develop comprehensive plans and programming, including, but not limited to, all of the following for a city or county, as applicable:

(i) The total number of felony dispositions.

(ii) The total number of probation violators.

(iii) The sentencing results of all felony dispositions and probation violators.

(iv) For each sentenced felon and sentenced probation violator, demographic information, including, but not limited to, age, race, and sex.

(v) For each sentenced felon and probation violator, the result of the risk and needs assessment that details the felon's or probation violator's risk and needs levels.

(e) Review and approve local plans and proposals under sections 8 and 10.

(f) Audit programs to assure that they meet minimum program standards, including offender eligibility and compliance with evidence-based practices.

(g) In instances of substantial noncompliance, halt funding to cities, counties, regions, or agencies, except that before halting funding, the office shall do both of the following:

(i) Notify the city, county, region, or agency of the allegations and allow 30 days for a response.

(ii) If an agreement is reached concerning a remedy, allow 30 days following that agreement for the remedy to be implemented.

Sec. 7. (1) A county advisory board, regional advisory board, city-county advisory board, or city advisory board consists of the following:

(a) One member who is a county sheriff, or his or her designee.

(b) One member who is a chief of a city police department, or his or her designee.

(c) One member who is a judge of the circuit court or his or her designee.

(d) One member who is a judge of the district court or his or her designee.

(e) One member who is a judge of the probate court or his or her designee.

(f) One member who is a county commissioner or city councilperson. For a regional advisory board or a city-county advisory board, 1 county commissioner or councilperson from each participating city and county shall serve as a member.

(g) At least 1 and not more than 3 members selected from the following service areas: mental health, public health, substance abuse, employment and training, or community alternative programs.

(h) One member who is a county prosecuting attorney or his or her designee.

(i) One member who is a criminal defense attorney and who may be a local public defender.

(j) One member who is from the business community.

(k) One member who is from the communications media.

(l) One member who is either a circuit court probation agent or a district court probation officer.

(m) One member who is affiliated with the applicable workforce investment board.

(2) For a county or regional advisory board, the county board or boards of commissioners shall appoint the members. For a city advisory board, the city council shall appoint the members. For the city-county advisory board, the county board of commissioners and the city council shall appoint the members. In appointing the members of an advisory board, the county and city shall ensure that minority individuals and women are fairly represented.

(3) Before an appointment is made under this section, the appointing authority shall publish advance notice of the appointments and shall request that the names of individuals interested in being considered for appointment be submitted to the appointing authority.

Sec. 8. (1) A county, city, city-county, or regional advisory board, on behalf of the city, county, or counties it represents, may apply for funding and other assistance under this act by submitting to the office a comprehensive corrections plan that meets the requirements of this section, and the criteria, standards, rules, and policies developed by the state board under section 4.

(2) A county, city, city-county, or regional advisory board shall develop a plan that includes all of the following for the county, city, or counties represented by the advisory board:

(a) A system for the development, implementation, and operation of community corrections programs and an explanation of how the state prison commitment rate for the city, county, or counties will be reduced, and how the public safety will be enhanced, as a result of implementation of the comprehensive corrections plan. Continued funding in subsequent years is contingent upon substantial compliance with this subdivision.

(b) A data analysis of the local criminal justice system that indicates the specification of offender targeting and the services needed for the target population.

(c) Program descriptions that detail the use of an objective, standardized assessment tool or tools to determine applicable programming through the use of targeted interventions that address the risk and needs of the target population.

(d) The identity of any designated subgrant recipient.

(e) For a regional or city-county plan, provisions for the appointment of 1 fiscal agent to coordinate the financial activities pertaining to the grant award.

(3) The county board or boards of commissioners of the county or counties represented by a county, city-county, or regional advisory board, or the city council of the city represented by a city or city-county advisory board, shall approve the proposed comprehensive corrections plan prepared by their advisory board.

(4) A community corrections program must do all of the following:

(a) Provide appropriate sanctions and services as sentencing options for imposition at the discretion of the court, including community supervision and programming services for eligible offenders.

(b) Provide improved local services for individuals involved in the criminal justice system with the goal of reducing the occurrence of repeat criminal offenses that result in a term of incarceration or detention in jail or prison.

(c) Ensure the use of evidence-based practices to protect public safety and rehabilitate the offender.

(d) Promote local control and management of community corrections programs.

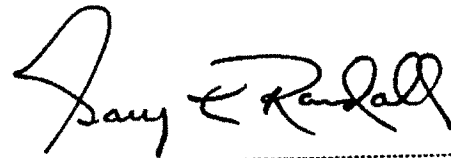
(e) Enhance, increase, and support the state and county partnership in the management of offenders.

Sec. 11. (1) The office shall authorize payments from money appropriated to the office for community corrections programs to cities, counties, regions, or agencies for the community corrections programs described in the plan submitted under section 8 if the plan or proposal is approved by the office.

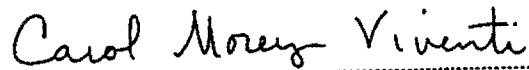
(2) Of the total funding recommended for the implementation of the comprehensive corrections plan, not more than 30% may be used by the city, county, or counties for administration.

(3) The money provided to a city, county, or counties under this section must not supplant current spending by the city, county, or counties for community corrections programs.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



.....  
Clerk of the House of Representatives



.....  
Secretary of the Senate

Approved .....

.....  
Governor

# BARAGA COUNTY

The people of Baraga County are very proud to live where such lovely scenery can be enjoyed throughout the year. They welcome you to an ideal place where you can enjoy nature's most beautiful blessings. Why not plan on visiting Baraga County on your next vacation?

2 S. Main Street L'Anse, MI 49946  
 Phone: 906.524.6100 Fax: 906.524.6432

**INTERNET LINKS TO BARAGA COUNTY INFORMATION:**

- [keweenawbay.org](http://keweenawbay.org)
- [midnr.com/Publications/pdfs/ForestsLandWater/Commercial\\_Forest/Baraga.htm](http://midnr.com/Publications/pdfs/ForestsLandWater/Commercial_Forest/Baraga.htm)

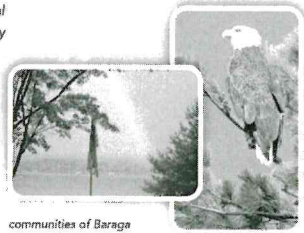


Photo by: Nancy Haas

Some remnants of wood that helped to build the Ford Motor Company by furnishing the bodies of the Model T, still wash ashore at First Sands in Pequaming, preserved by the icy waters of Lake Superior.

communities of Baraga County, the ancestors of this bustling era, the sons and daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters of the lighthouse keepers, lumberjacks, miners, fishermen and proprietors, now are all that are left to bear testimony to the heritage that they seek to preserve. This is one of the many Cultural /Heritage sites to visit and enjoy in Baraga County. Explore the history, experience our present, and help us to create our future!

Graveyards of Native American and migrating persons are found throughout all of Baraga County, and in the townships and villages, only a few town halls, churches and housing developments remain of a time when large hotels, rooming houses and theaters once graced the

**BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

- |                             |                           |                          |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| James Niemela<br>District 1 | Brad Dakota<br>District 2 | Craig Kent<br>District 3 | William Menge<br>District 4 | Lee Deleon<br>District 5 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|

**BARAGA COUNTY OFFICERS**

- |                                |                                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Joseph O'Leary .....           | Prosecuting Attorney                 |
| Joe Brogan .....               | Sheriff                              |
| Wendy Goodreau .....           | County Clerk & Register of Deeds     |
| Elizabeth Anderson .....       | Equalization Director                |
| James D. Rautiola .....        | Superintendent of Copper Country ISD |
| Jill C. Totterson .....        | Treasurer                            |
| Douglas J. Mills, P.E. ....    | Road Commission, Engineer/Manager    |
| Hon. Nicholas Daavettila ..... | District Judge                       |
| Hon. Timothy S. Brennan .....  | Probate Judge                        |

\$130.65

→ Ashley Kristo

# L'Anse Sentinel

On guard for over 140 years

## Summer in Baragaland 2026 Advertising Prices

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\*all pricing includes full color

**Full Page (9.5" x 10") ~ \$376**

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**Third Page (4.6" x 6.5") ~ \$130.65**

**Quarter Page (4.75" x 5") ~ \$100.50**

1/32 of a page  
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\$32.00

1/16 of a page  
2.25" x 2.5"  
\$42.50

1/8 of a page  
4.5" x 2.5"  
\$70.00

# EQUALIZATION DEPARTMENT STAFF

Liz Anderson

3160.24/pay period

Wages	\$	36,342.76
SS/Med		2780.22
W/C	\$	101.76
	\$	39,224.74

Kevin Kalinec

\$30.00/hour 42 hours/pay period

Wages	\$	14,490.00
SS/Med		1108.49
W/C	\$	40.58
	\$	15,639.07

Sophia Carr

\$13.73/hour 30 hours/pay period

Wages	\$	2,677.35
SS/Med		204.82
W/C	\$	7.50
	\$	2,889.67

NEW PART TIME

\$30.00/hour 28 hours/pay period

Wages	\$	9,660.00
SS/Med		738.99
W/C	\$	27.05
	\$	10,426.04

Wages/Benefits

\$ 39,224.74

\$ 15,639.07

\$ 10,426.04

\$ 2,889.67

\$ 68,179.52

\$ 63,368.06 Available Budget

11 Pay Periods left plus 3 days

Used 11.5 Pay Periods

4811.46

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR BARAGA COUNTY  
 PERIOD ENDING 04/30/2026

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2025-26 AMENDED BUDGET	YTD BALANCE 04/30/2026	ACTIVITY FOR MONTH 04/30/2026	AVAILABLE BALANCE	% BDGT USED
<b>Fund 101 - GENERAL FUND</b>						
<b>Expenditures</b>						
Dept 257 - EQUALIZATION						
101-257-703.00	SALARY AND WAGES	127,582.00	73,175.63	16,386.40	54,406.37	57.36
101-257-715.00	SOCIAL SECURITY / MEDICARE	9,761.00	5,806.07	1,253.57	3,954.93	59.48
101-257-716.00	HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
101-257-716.01	PAYMENT IN LIEU OF HEALTH INSURANCE	6,000.00	2,720.77	0.00	3,279.23	45.35
101-257-716.02	HEALTH INSURANCE - RETIREE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
101-257-716.05	HSA EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
101-257-717.00	LIFE INSURANCE	110.00	21.51	0.00	88.49	0.00
101-257-718.00	MERS PENSION	2,729.00	1,339.96	104.79	1,389.04	19.55
101-257-718.01	MERS - RETIREES	35,934.00	24,965.98	3,652.90	10,968.02	49.10
101-257-720.00	UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
101-257-721.00	WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
101-257-725.00	OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
101-257-727.00	OPERATING AND OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,500.00	213.48	0.00	1,286.52	14.23
101-257-729.00	POSTAGE	600.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00
101-257-746.00	MAP TECHNOLOGY	6,100.00	4,550.00	0.00	1,550.00	74.59
101-257-802.00	SUBSCRIPTIONS & DUES	1,700.00	715.00	0.00	985.00	42.06
101-257-810.00	BS&A SUPPORT	2,000.00	2,155.00	0.00	(155.00)	107.75
101-257-820.00	EDUCATION & TRAINING	3,000.00	40.00	0.00	2,960.00	1.33
101-257-850.00	TELEPHONE	1,200.00	35.08	0.00	1,164.92	2.92
101-257-860.00	TRAVEL EXPENSE	2,000.00	144.90	0.00	1,855.10	7.25
101-257-910.00	MAP TECHNOLOGY EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
101-257-955.00	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00
101-257-979.00	CONTRACTED SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Dept 257 - EQUALIZATION</b>		<b>200,666.00</b>	<b>115,883.38</b>	<b>21,405.44</b>	<b>84,782.62</b>	<b>57.75</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>200,666.00</b>	<b>115,883.38</b>	<b>21,405.44</b>	<b>84,782.62</b>	<b>57.75</b>
<b>Fund 101 - GENERAL FUND:</b>						
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>200,666.00</b>	<b>115,883.38</b>	<b>21,405.44</b>	<b>84,782.62</b>	<b>57.75</b>
<b>NET OF REVENUES &amp; EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>(200,666.00)</b>	<b>(115,883.38)</b>	<b>(21,405.44)</b>	<b>(84,782.62)</b>	<b>57.75</b>

Ralph - vacation/sick \$ 5179.13

# MINUTES:

## BARAGA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, March 17th, 2026, 5:00 PM - BCMH Main Conference Room (ABCD)

---

**Present:** Cathy Wadaga, Shirley Younggren, Carole LaPointe, Jim Loman, Burt Mason, Kate Beer

**Admin/Guests:** Gail Jestila, Todd Peltola, Tom VanEss, Emily Dault, Bill Menge, Kelly Engle, Sue Ingram, Todd Ingram

### 1. Call to Order – Beer

Ms. Beer called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

### 2. Approval of Consent Agenda \*\* - All

Motion: Wadaga, Second: Mason - All in favor, motion carried.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Board Briefing of February 12th , 2026\*
- b. Closed Session of February 12th, 2026\*
- c. Board of Trustees Meeting of February 17th, 2026\*

### 4. Medical Staff –Beer

- a. Medical-Dental Staff Meeting Minutes of February 11th, 2026\*\*

Motion: Wadaga, Second: Loman - All in favor, motion carried.

- b. Medical-Dental Staff Executive & Credentials Committee

- i. Medical Staff Appointments, Reappointments, and Deletions of March 2026\*\* - Belpedio

Motion: Younggren, Second: Wadaga - All in favor, motion carried.

### 5. Financial Update - Jestila

Cash on hand is \$8.8 million, a decrease of \$212,000 from the prior month. Revenue for the month was strong at \$4.9 million, up 7% compared to \$4.6 million last year. Year-to-date revenue is \$25.8 million compared to \$23 million last year.

Expenses were \$2.9 million, under the budgeted \$3.1 million. An additional Medicare receivable was recorded, slightly increasing reserves. The organization reported a \$6,000 gain for the month and a year-to-date loss of \$377,000.

A motion was made by Loman and seconded by Wadaga to approve the financials. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Jestila also presented the financial statements for Bayside Village for the past two months. February reflected a gain of \$122,000, with a year-to-date loss of \$94,000.

*Consent Agenda Item \**

*Action Item \*\**

*To be distributed at meeting \*\*\**

Occupancy was 56 for February and 54 year-to-date. The prior month reflected a loss due to one-time expenses. A payroll tax refund was received, which helped improve the overall bottom line.

A motion was made by Mason and seconded by Younggren to approve the January and February financials. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

**6. Bayside Update - Stowe/Dault**

Bayside Village reported only one open bed, with census at 58, the highest it has been in several years. Emily Hoover has identified a potential resident for the final bed, so full occupancy is expected soon. Ms. Beer inquired about staffing. Dault reported there are currently two travel LPNs and four travel RNs for night shift coverage.

**7. Wound Care Update - Van Ess**

Wound care is transitioning from Todd Peltola to Tom Van Ess, as Peltola takes on different responsibilities. A meeting is scheduled with Linda Kovacs and Kurt Monterosso from Healogics in the coming weeks.

The hyperbaric chamber has been busy. Marquette has recently seen an increase in carbon monoxide cases with the heavy snow, which may result in additional patient referrals.

**8. Strategic Acquisition Update - Jestila**

Last week a notice was sent via certified mail to the current occupant requesting access to inspect the property. Upon confirmation of receipt, a 72-hour notice will be provided to schedule the inspection.

**9. Physician Group Update - Van Ess**

The Physician Group has been busy with the onboarding of new providers. Dr. Daya started and spent his first week on-site, which went well. He worked closely with Dr. V and Shannon Dufek during this time. Plans are underway to implement the ability to read echocardiograms and stress tests. Gregg Fisher reported that he had a call with Dr. Daya and a third-party vendor, Studycast, which Dr. Daya has used previously. The discussion was very positive, the service is affordable, and a contract is expected by the end of the week. Implementation is anticipated within 3–4 weeks, and Dr. Daya will be able to read remotely.

Dr. Abbott is scheduled to begin on April 6 and will spend time getting acclimated to Bayside Village. Dr. Menge will begin on April 13. We have received quite a few calls from her previous patients, and have already scheduled several appointments.

A meeting was also held with KBIC and Dr. McBride. He will be seeing patients there, and we are excited to get this started.

**10. Oracle Update - VanEss**

The team completed Workflow and Integration Week last week. Staff participated approximately 6–8 hours per day. During this time, each department's current processes were reviewed, and recommendations were provided for future workflows. Overall, it was a productive week.

The Train-the-Trainer session is scheduled next. Staff are currently working on assignments, including Data Collection Workbooks (DCWs). Weekly meetings are held on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

#### **11. County Position - Peltola**

Work is underway on the job description for a combined 911 and Emergency Management Coordinator position. The goal is to present it to the County Commissioners and Gary Wadaga by the end of the week.

#### **12. Management Update (attached)**

- a. CEO Report\*: Marketing, Employee Recognition, Home Care and Hospice, Corporate Compliance, Senior Life Solutions, Human Resources, Pharmacy
- b. CFO Report\*: Finance, Revenue Cycle, Purchasing, Information Technology, DME
- c. DON Report\*: Acute, Emergency, Surgical Services, Ambulatory, Social Services, Utilization Review/Infection Prevention, Education
- d. Director of Provider Services Report\*: Physician Group, Telemedicine, Specialty Clinic
- e. Director of Ancillary Services Report\*: Imaging, Laboratory, Therapies
- f. Director of Quality Management Report\*: Maintenance, Housekeeping, Dietary/Dietician, HIPAA/Risk

#### **13. Other**

Jestila provided an update on Mindray. Since Thursday, a quote of \$450,000 has been received. The team is working to include the expense in the cost report through an interim filing while delaying payment to potentially access Rural Transformation funds, and still ensuring timely integration with Oracle. The GPO will not extend beyond 45-day terms; however, utilizing the GPO resulted in an additional savings of \$6,000. To meet the September implementation timeline and ensure Oracle integration, a purchase order must be issued this week.

An update was also provided on payroll. A conversation was held with a Paycom sales representative, and pricing was obtained for Learning Journeys, which would replace CareLearning.

Additionally, the facility was closed yesterday for non-essential personnel, including the clinic. All scheduled visits were rescheduled.

#### **14. Public Comment**

**15. Next Meeting: April 21st, 2026, 5:00pm – BCMH Main Conference Room**

#### **16. Adjournment –Beer**

Ms. Beer adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Younggren to adjourn. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

**ABOUT BARAGA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL:** BCMH is a 15 bed critical access hospital. Founded in 1952, BCMH is a thriving rural healthcare system focused on addressing the needs of community members of Baraga County. Employing over 200 people, BCMH houses a family medicine clinic, walk-in convenient care clinic, specialty clinics, surgical services, 24/7 emergency services, imaging, rehab, laboratory, and social services.

**MISSION:** BCMH partners with patients to educate, coordinate, treat, and manage the health of the community.

**VISION:** To improve the well-being of the community.

**CORE VALUES:** PRACT- Patients First, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, Compassion, Teamwork

**ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY:** BCMH educates the community, coordinates care, and treats and manages disease.

Consent Agenda Item \*

Action Item \*\*

To be distributed at meeting \*\*\*



# **COPPER COUNTRY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**SERVING BARAGA, HOUGHTON, KEWEENAW & ONTONAGON COUNTIES**

## **Resolution to Protect Rural Access to Behavioral Health Services by adopting Proposed FY 2027 Boilerplate Language**

Whereas it is critical to ensure that rural communities are treated consistently, thoughtfully, and proactively in state policy decisions that affect access to behavioral health services; and,

Whereas varying definitions of “rural” across MDHHS programs create instability for providers and counties and can impact funding eligibility, disrupt service planning, and ultimately affect access to care; and,

Whereas rural stakeholders are often engaged late in the policymaking process, limiting the ability to address practical challenges before implementation; and,

Whereas the attached boilerplate language addresses the above issues by establishing a single, consistent definition of rural, partially rural, and frontier areas across all department programs, and by creating a formal Rural Consultation Caucus to ensure rural perspectives are incorporated before major policy decisions are finalized.

Now, therefore be it Resolved that the Copper Country Community Mental Health Board urges the Michigan Legislature to include the attached boilerplate language in the FY 2027 state budget.

And be it further resolved to send a copy of this resolution to Senator Ed McBroom and Representative Greg Markkanen.

### **ON BEHALF OF THE COPPER COUNTRY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD BY ITS OFFICERS**

Jim Tervo, Chairperson; Pat Rozich, Vice Chairperson;  
Michael Koskinen, Secretary; Gale Eilola, Treasurer

---

<b>Baraga County</b>	<b>Houghton County</b>	<b>Keweenaw County</b>	<b>Ontonagon County</b>	<b>Training &amp; Prevention</b>
BARAGA CO. CENTER 15644 Skanee Road L'Anse, MI 49946 (906) 524-5885 Fax: (906) 524-5866	RICE MEMORIAL CENTER 901 West Memorial Drive Houghton, MI 49931 (906) 482-9400 Fax: (906)-482-9794	CALUMET (CLK) CENTER 56938 Calumet Avenue Calumet, MI 49913 (906) 337-5810 Fax: (906) 337-2108	ONTONAGON CO. CENTER 515 Quartz Street Ontonagon, MI 49953 (906) 884-4804 Fax: (906) 884-4856	THE INSTITUTE 900 West Sharon Avenue Houghton, MI 49931 (906) 482-4880 Fax: (906) 482-7657

## **Protecting Rural Access to Behavioral Health Services Proposed FY27 Budget Boilerplate**

The Rural and Frontier Caucus of the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHA) is proposing the attached boilerplate language for the FY27 budget. This proposal ensures that rural communities are defined consistently across all programs administered and/or funded (either directly or via a pass through/fiduciary arrangement) by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), recognizes the unique challenges faced by frontier areas, and establishes a structured process for rural consultation on policies that affect access to care.

### **The Challenge:**

- Rural communities are often defined inconsistently, which can affect eligibility for funding, grants, and program participation.
- Rural communities are often consulted late or not at all, limiting opportunities to address unintended impacts on rural service delivery.
- Rural and frontier communities face structural barriers such as workforce shortages, long travel distances, and limited provider networks that must be recognized in program design.

### **What the Proposed Boilerplate Language Does:**

#### **1. Protect Access to Behavioral Health Services in Rural and Frontier Communities**

- Rural and frontier counties face persistent barriers to behavioral health access, including limited workforce availability, long travel distances, and transportation challenges.
- CMHSPs and other rural providers must organize services around these realities. When definitions of “rural” change across programs, it disrupts planning and can affect access to funding and program eligibility.
- Stable policy definitions and predictable program rules are necessary to support workforce recruitment, service placement, and transportation solutions.

#### **2. Establish a Clear and Consistent Definition of Rural**

- MDHHS programs currently rely on multiple and sometimes conflicting definitions of “rural,” creating uncertainty for counties and providers trying to plan services and access funding opportunities.
- The proposed boilerplate establishes a single statewide framework for defining rural, partially rural, and frontier areas, based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Frontier and Remote Area (FAR) methodology.
- A consistent definition promotes fairness, transparency, and predictable policy implementation across department programs

#### **3. Ensure Rural Communities Have a Voice in State Policy Decisions**

- State policy changes related to Medicaid, behavioral health delivery, and program funding can have unintended consequences for rural communities.
- The proposed language establishes a Rural Consultation Caucus to ensure that rural counties, providers, and residents have a formal opportunity to provide input before major policy decisions are finalized.
- Early consultation improves policy outcomes and helps the department identify rural implementation challenges before policies are adopted.

### **Why It Matters:**

Consistent definitions and meaningful consultation help ensure that rural communities are treated fairly across state programs, and that policies affecting access to care reflect the realities of rural service delivery.

**Proposed FY 2027 MDHHS Budget Boilerplate**  
Standard Definition of Rural

Sec. XXXX. To assist in providing policy-relevant information about conditions in sparsely-settled, remote areas of the Michigan, the following has been established to use a single definition of rural, partial rural, and frontier that is applied consistently across all department programs for the purposes of administering and implementing department programs, services, grants, and policies.

- (1)** For purposes of this section, the department's standard definition of rural and frontier shall be based upon the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service Frontier and Remote Area Codes.
- (2)** The department may designate counties as rural, partially rural, or frontier counties for purposes of program eligibility, service delivery, funding flexibility, or policy implementation based on the following criteria in (3), (4), or (5).
- (3)** The department shall designate counties that meet the criteria described in this section as rural counties for department programming purposes if the county meets one or more of the following criteria:
  - (a)** Frontier and Remote Area (FAR) Level One - consists of rural areas up to 50,000 people that are 60 minutes or more driving time from an urban area of 50,000 or more people.
  - (b)** Frontier and Remote Area (FAR) Level Two - consists of rural areas up to 25,000 people that are 45 minutes or more driving time from an urban area of 25,000-49,999 people and 60 minutes or more from an urban area of 50,000 or more people.
- (4)** The department may designate counties as partially rural if those counties include census tracts meeting the following criteria:
  - (a)** Census tracts located within metropolitan counties that are designated with Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes 4 through 10.
  - (b)** Census tracts located within metropolitan counties that are at least 400 square miles in area, have a population density of 35 or fewer persons per square mile, and are designated with RUCA codes 2 or 3.
  - (c)** Census tracts located within metropolitan counties that are designated as Rural-Rural Strong (RRS) level 5, have RUCA codes 2 or 3, and are at least 20 square miles in area.
- (5)** The department shall designate counties that meet the criteria described in this section as frontier counties for department programming purposes if the county meets one or more of the following criteria:
  - (a)** Frontier and Remote Area (FAR) Level Three - consist of rural areas and urban areas up to 10,000 people that are: 30 minutes or more from an urban area of 10,000-24,999; 45 minutes or more from an urban area of 25,000-49,999 people; and 60 minutes or more from an urban area of 50,000 or more people.
  - (b)** Frontier and Remote Area (FAR) Level Four - consist of rural areas that are: 15 minutes or more from an urban area of 2,500-9,999 people; 30 minutes or more from an urban area of 10,000-24,999 people; 45 minutes or more from an urban area of 25,000-49,999 people; and 60 minutes or more from an urban area of 50,000 or more people.
- (6)** The department shall apply the standard definition established under this section consistently across department programs to the extent practicable, except where a different definition of rural is required by federal law or regulation.

**(7)** To ensure meaningful and ongoing consultation with rural communities regarding Medicaid and other department programs, the department shall establish a Rural Consultation Caucus.

**(8)** The Rural Consultation Caucus shall include:

- (a)** One representative appointed by each county is designated as rural.
- (b)** A proportional number of representatives from partially rural and frontier counties.
- (c)** Representatives of rural health providers, rural community mental health authorities, and other rural serving organizations identified by the department.
- (d)** Up to four at large members representing rural consumers, families, or caregivers.
- (e)** Legislators representing rural districts may participate in an advisory capacity.

**(9)** The department shall engage in consultation with the Rural Consultation Caucus before proposing, adopting, amending, or implementing any policy, state plan amendment, waiver, operational change, funding methodology, or administrative action that has a substantial effect on rural access, service availability, financing, or delivery.

**(10)** Consultation under this section shall include:

- (a)** Written notice of the proposed action provided at least 60 days before finalizing or submitting the proposal, including a summary of the proposed action and its expected impact on rural communities.
- (b)** A minimum of one scheduled consultation meeting, virtual or in person, at which department officials with decision-making authority are present.
- (c)** Opportunities for written and verbal comments from caucus members.
- (d)** A written departmental response summarizing rural input and explaining how such input was incorporated or the reasons for declining specific recommendations.

**(11)** When federal requirements or urgent circumstances do not permit a 60-day notice period, the department may initiate an expedited consultation process, with consultation occurring within 21 days of notice.

**(12)** The department shall maintain written records of all consultation activities conducted under this section, including notices, meeting summaries, written comments, and the department's responses.

**(13)** The department shall report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on health and human services no later than March 1, 2027, on the implementation of the standard rural definition, including a list of counties designated as rural, partially rural, or frontier.

MECOSTA COUNTY RESOLUTION  
#2026-09

**MECOSTA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS URGES  
PROMPT ACTION ON THE DRAIN CODE OF 1956**

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner W. ROUTLEY and supported by Commissioner G. LAMBRIX:

**WHEREAS**, The Michigan Drain Code of 1956 allows the Drain Commissioners across the state to unilaterally levy taxes, force easements, and use taxpayer funds to hire law firms that can be used against the citizenry, County Commissioners and township governments without reasonable checks and balances.

**WHEREAS**, The Michigan Drain Code of 1956 deprives affected Michigan residents of their constitutional right to due process and equal protection under the law.

**WHEREAS**, The Michigan Drain Code of 1956 paves the way for a handful of petition signatures to turn into a multi-million-dollar projects with very little say from County Commissioners, or the landowners whose land the project(s) may affect.

**WHEREAS**, The Michigan Drain Code of 1956 creates a moral hazard – and financial incentives – whereby the same engineering firms that advise Boards of Determination across the state can also profit from the work they prescribe.

**WHEREAS**, There are no requirements in the Drain Code of 1956 for the elected Drain Commissioner to get a second opinion on the engineering parts of a petitioned project.

**WHEREAS**, Michigan State Representative Tom Kunse, et al, have witnessed the itemized problems listed above in Mecosta County and have created a list of common-sense solutions to be considered in this session of the Michigan legislature.

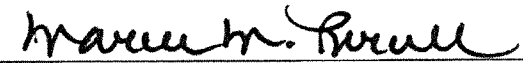
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners wholeheartedly endorses these common-sense modifications to the Drain Code of 1956 set forth by Mr. Kunse and his esteemed colleagues:

- 1) Modifies requirements for notices of drain projects to include a map & list of impacted addresses in the drain district.
- 2) Requires petition signature collectors to disclose to homeowners that they will be assessed and will be responsible to pay for the project.
- 3) Extend the timeline for communities to appeal the Board of Determination's ruling on a petitioned drain project from 10 to 21 days.

- 4) Extend the timeline for landowners and municipalities to appeal the apportionment and assessment costs of a drain project from 10 to 21 days and allow landowners and municipalities to appeal the necessity of a project after a "Day of Review" meeting.
- 5) Road Commission can cancel a drain project once they receive engineering costs and Road Commission can cancel a project once they receive construction project costs. This would be done at a public meeting.
- 6) Raise the petition threshold for drain projects from five landowners to signatures representing 51% of landowners.
- 7) Upon receipt of a petition, provide all landowners in the district with a preliminary cost estimate and allow landowners to withdraw their signatures.
- 8) Adopt Ohio's practice of involving the County Commissioners in the necessity/cost analysis of petitioned projects.

AYES: Commissioners: W. Routley, G. Lambrix, A. Hren, R. LaPreze,  
G. Adams, C. Zimmerman


NAYS: Commissioners: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.   
 Marcee M. Purcell  
 Mecosta County Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN     )  
                                   ) ss.  
 COUNTY OF MECOSTA    )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Mecosta, Michigan (the County) do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting on the 7th day of May, 2026, the original of which is on file in my office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time set for the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed my official signature on this 7th day of May, 2026, A.D.

  
 Marcee M. Purcell  
 Mecosta County Clerk