

CommUNITY Adult Mental Health Initiative
Advisory Committee
 August 3, 2023

Voting Members Present: 8
 Quorum Required: 10

Representative	“X” = Present	Stakeholder	Alternate	“X” = Present
Knowles, Nikki		Benton County	(Vacant)	
Arens, Rebecca		Benton County Community Advocate	Helgager, Molly	
Kelly, James		CBHH	Lange, Mary	X
Schultz, Rita	X	CSP – Stearns/Benton	Sheehan, Meg	
(Vacant)		CSP – Sherburne/Wright	(Vacant)	
Link, Shannon	X	MHC – Sherburne/Wright	Anderson, Ashley	
Wieberdink, Nikki	X	MHC – Stearns/Benton	Loos, Steven	X
Johannes, Victoria – Vice Chair		Sherburne County	Magaard, Derek	
Wrase, Ellen		Sherburne County Community Advocate	(Vacant)	
Dw\\Human02\deptfil	X	St. Cloud Hospital	Fischer, Melissa	X
Ali, Naimo	X	Stearns County	Salsness-Tvedten, Jennifer	
Long, Lori		Stearns County Community Advocate	Brown, Polly	
Hovland, Voni		VA Medical Center	Sorenson, Matt	
Eich, Krissy – Chair	X	Vocational Sherburne/Wright	Tornell, Jo	
Collins, Kayla	X	Vocational Stearns/Benton	Danda, Julie	
Thorpe, Lori		VRS – Sherburne/Wright	Krukenberg, Hillary	
Chirhart, Andrea		VRS – Stearns/Benton	Furth, Donna	
Erkens, Diane		Wright County	Pooler, Jill	
(Vacant)		Wright County Community Advocate	(Vacant)	

Ex- officio members		
Oberg, Bethany	X	Initiative Coordinator

Other attendees		
Yeadon, Monica		Wellness in the Woods

		Other attendees
Lindberg, Cheryl	X	Refractions
Flack, Leon		UCare
Keeville, Samantha		Solutions
Rocheleau Dorholt, Jennifer		SCSU
Hansen, Jacey		Solutions Behavioral Healthcare
Wiebe, Michelle	X	Central MN Council on Aging
Freyholtz-London, Jode		Wellness in the Woods
Loehlein, Stephanie		CMMHC
Novak, Jen		REM Minnesota
Obisakin, Victor		Wellness in the Woods
Wilka-Pauly, Jane		Medica
Bennet, Keith	X	Wright County Public Health
Higgins, Brandon	X	We Care
Summers, Steve		Solutions
Bills, Alyshia		Newport
Stokes, Jep		Newport
Sprynczynatyk, Gary	X	BCBS
Fischer, Melissa	X	St. Cloud Hospital
Bertozzi, Breanna	X	DHS
Ederer, Christian	X	DHS
Sanchez, Pam	X	DHS

Call to order:

Krissy called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. The mission statement was read, and introductions were made.

Current Agenda:

Nikki K. made a motion to approve the agenda; Meg seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes – June 2023:

Victoria made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 2023; Nikki W. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Highlighting Area Providers/Services:

- Crisis Residential Services: Shannon Link, CMMHC
 - Who: Adults ages 18+ in the four-county area with a variety of mental health diagnosis and presenting problems. Drug screening is done upon admission, they can treat individuals wanting to work on SUD as well as mental health.
 - What: Individual and group support, nine beds, voluntary program, people have access to their own clothing and belongings, follow up post discharge, bill insurance for services.
 - When: increase in mental health symptoms, suicidal ideation, or difficult circumstances
 - How: Call 320-253-5555, ask for a residential bed referral and a clinician will review

the referral. They take many things into consideration and will work with the patient to arrange an admit time, transportation, and begin the admission process once they arrived. If they are denied, they will be informed of the reason and offer suggestions for a different or more appropriate level of care.

- Questions: Reasons someone would be referred? Anything from having a bad day or just needing a safe place to stay. Examples include fleeing domestic violence, sex trafficking, or even started on medications but need more time for stabilization. Average length of stay is 5-7 days. Where is the closest MPATH unit? Two blocks away, the St. Cloud Hospital.
- Parents & Allies of Trans Youth (PATY): Leslie Mulder
 - Founded PATY with another parent of a trans youth. They meet monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7:00pm to 8:00 pm. They have speakers come in, therapists, psychologists, and pediatricians. Reach out to stcloudpaty@gmail.com if you are interested in attending meetings, they do ask you fill out an application. They also have a closed Facebook group.
 - They will have a booth at St. Cloud Pride in the Park
 - The parents have children anywhere from 8 to 25 years old. May break off into youth and adult groups if they get big enough.
 - There's a public Facebook page PATY Ally's – St. Cloud MN

Financial Report: *Ashley M.*

Bethany shared the financial report through the end of June 2023.

Rita S. made a motion to approve the financial report; Nikki W. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

DHS AMHI Team Introduction and Updates from DHS: *Pam Sanchez, Christian Ederer, and Breanna Bertozzi, DHS*

DHS received a lot of funding that was not available in the past.

Mobile Crisis: Additional funding as well as Tribal specific general fund.

Mental Health Intensive Services: Received several grants. Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) removes requirement for 120 minutes per week.

3rd Path: passed

Children's Mental Health Initiatives: quite a few passed

Online Behavioral Health Program Locator: \$959k/year for two years for an online provider locator.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC): expanding

Adult Mental Health Initiative: AMHI comprised of 18 counties and regions throughout MN and the White Earth Nation. White Earth Nation is the first Tribal AMHI partner. Funding formula reform efforts continue to create and implement a formula that is transparent, defensible, and equitable across the state. The enhanced funding amount to White Earth Nation will allow service development, innovation, and capacity building to members. The new Statewide AMHI Funding Formula will be implemented CY25-26. Mental Health Provider Supervision Grant Program Established in 2022 MN Statutes Section 245.2663. Our region did receive an increase in funding.

Community Advocate Open Board Position Nomination/Vote: *Victoria*

Sherburne County had two applicants and Victoria would like to nominate Susan Brainard for the advocate.

Victoria made a motion to make Susan Brainard the Sherburne County Community Advocate; Meg

seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Benton & Wright County Community Advocates – Reapply/Application Period: *Bethany O.*
Two-year term will end in December 2023, please submit a letter of interest if you would like to continue serving.

Flex Fund Policy and New Form Update: *Bethany O.*

The Board approved changes to the Flex Fund form. Previously there was a \$750 cap for an individual in any 12-month period. That language was updated to \$750 or up to one month rent deposit. Bethany will send out the new form shortly.

2024 Budget Update: *Bethany O.*

A tentative 2024 Budget was approved, most line items remain the same.

CommUNITY Mental Health Initiative Committee and Grant Updates:

- a. *Housing Coalition:* Meg shared updates
- b. *Vocational Grant:* Krissy shared updates for Quarter 2
- c. *Anti-Stigma Workgroup:* Bethany shared updates, they are attending a great number of events. Continuing to air ads on the radio, let Bethany know if you have any ideas for new ads to freshen them up.
- d. *Training Workgroup:* Bethany shared upcoming trainings; they can also be found on the website [Calendar :: Minnesota Mental Health \(mnmentalhealth.org\)](https://mnmentalhealth.org).

Community Based Mental Health Services:

- a. *IRTS:*
 - i. Northway – Shannon L. shared updates. Staffing levels have gotten better.
 - ii. Refractions – Cheryl L. shared updates. Currently have one male bed open. They are fully staffed and looking to adding more.
- b. *ACT:* Nikki W. shared updates.
- c. *Crisis Response Team:* Shannon L. shared updates. They have been very busy with call volume and Mobile Crisis Team. Increases are due to 988 and United Way 211. They have policies in place for Travis’s Law. They have very good relationships with local law enforcement and other agencies. Have four co-responder and looking to hire a fifth.
- d. *Crisis Bed Program:*
- e. *Inpatient:*
 - i. St. Cloud Hospital: Melissa F. shared updates for the adolescent and adult units. Length of stays have increased on both units. 50-70% of adults are on involuntary holds. Taking more patients of higher acuity. More patients are receiving electric convulsive therapy. Additional people are coming in with eating disorders. Biggest barrier for patients leaving are placement issues.
 - ii. Buffalo Hospital: no one in attendance
 - iii. Monticello Hospital: no one in attendance

- f. *V.A.*: no updates
- g. *CBHH*: no one in attendance
- h. *V.R.S.*: Donna shared that Lori Thorpe has been promoted and there is an open position in the Monticello office.
- i. *Website*: no new updates.

Open Forum:

Dr. Loos shared that CMMHC out-patient chemical health services group meeting has moved to 6:00 pm to accommodate people who work during the day. This was a direct result of community feedback.

Brandon H. shared they have hired a new Mental Health Program supervisor to run their ARMS program at the UCare office.

Michelle W. shared Central MN Council on Aging is partnering with other agencies to have a Senior Pride Breakfast and Bingo the week of St. Cloud Pride.

Krissy shared that Functional Industries had their 50th anniversary in February. They will be celebrating on August 24 in Buffalo, additional information to come.

Gary share that Blue Plus is celebrating our 90 Years! Blue Plus is trying to support counties with the Medical Assistance (MA) Renewals. Virtual Peer Support Network (VPSN) – available on Zoom from 10am-4pm daily. The program is facilitated by two certified peer or recovery peer specialists with lived experience with either mental health or substance use challenges.

Next Meeting:

- a. October 5, 2023, from 1:00 – 3:00 at Wright County Justice Center, Room 86 and 87, Buffalo, MN and online via Zoom
- b. December 7, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 at Wright County Government Center, Room 1103, Buffalo, MN and online via Zoom

Adjourn

Nikki K. made a motion to adjourn; Meg seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.