

CommUNITY Adult Mental Health Initiative
Advisory Committee
 February 4, 2021

Voting Members Present: 15
 Quorum Required: 10

Representative	“X” = Present	Stakeholder	Alternate	“X” = Present
Shoberg, Sandi	X	Benton County	Koscielniak, Peggy	X
(Vacant)		Benton County Community Advocate	(Vacant)	
Kelly, James	X	CBHH	Gribas, Steve	
Krupa, Jaime – Chair	X	CSP – Stearns/Benton	Sheehan, Meg	
(Vacant)		CSP – Sherburne/Wright	(Vacant)	
Hinz, Tracy		MHC – Sherburne/Wright	Bills, Alyshia	
Lee, Dr. Richard		MHC – Stearns/Benton	Rocheleau Dorholt, Jennifer	X
Johannes, Victoria	X	Sherburne County	(Vacant)	
Aaron, Denice	X	Sherburne County Community	(Vacant)	
Bershok, Joel	X	St. Cloud Hospital	(Vacant)	
Young, Leslie – Vice Chair	X	Stearns County	Salsness-Tvedten, Jennifer	X
Long, Lori	X	Stearns County Community Advocate	Brown, Polly	X
Pine, Mary Jo	X	VA Medical Center	Hovland, Voni	
Eich, Krissy	X	Vocational Sherburne/Wright	Tornell, Jo	
Danda, Julie	X	Vocational Stearns/Benton	Gaed, Maureen	
Thorpe, Lori	X	VRS – Sherburne/Wright	Krukenberg, Hillary	X
Chirhart, Andrea		VRS – Stearns/Benton	Outhwaite, Jessica	X
Erkens, Diane	X	Wright County	Pooler, Jill	
Wurm, Rodney		Wright County Community Advocate	(Vacant)	

Ex- officio members		
Oberg, Bethany	X	Initiative Coordinator
(Vacant)		DHS

Other attendees		
Byker, Ben	X	Central MN Council on Aging

		Other attendees
Conant, Amy	X	Wellness in the Woods
Freyholtz, Jode	X	Wellness in the Woods
Reichard, Rebecca	X	CMMHC- Elk River
Kinke, Jackie	X	Buffalo Hospital
Jiang, Jennifer	X	BCBS
Bershok, Lisa		CentraCare
Eigenheer, Sara	X	Options for Employment LLC
Pena, Molly		Refractions IRTS
Frye, Angela	X	Refractions IRTS
Magaard, Derek		Sherburne County HH
Flack, Leon	X	UCare
Speakman-Gomez, Sue	X	HousingLink/Beyond Backgrounds
Giddens, Jennifer	X	HousingLink/Beyond Backgrounds
Page, Jennifer	X	Independent Living Services of Central MN
Ahmed, Abdigani	X	Culture Bound LLC

Call to order:

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

Current Agenda:

Diane made a motion to approve the agenda; Lori seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes – December 2020:

Lori made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 2020 with the updated information regarding the Bertha program; Jim seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report: Peggy

Peggy summarized the financial report.

Lori made a motion to approve the financial report; Krissy seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Blue Plus Grant: Bethany

We were awarded the Blue Plus Grant that we applied for in July. The grant is for \$100,000 each year for a 2 year cycle.

The dollars will be given as follows:

- Beyond Backgrounds, a new housing provider, will receive \$10,000 each year
- Enhancement of our current flex funds specific for housing and housing stabilization
 - Does not require SPMI as our other dollars do.
 - Bethany will share the form and policy this week

Highlighting Area Providers/Services: Sue Speakman-Gomez & Jennifer Giddens

- a. HousingLink/Beyond Backgrounds: The program began in 2017 and helps renters with barriers such as poor credit, criminal convictions, recent eviction, lack of income, etc., to get housing. The Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund allows access for up to \$2,000 at the termination of a lease that covers damages or past due money. They also provide ongoing monthly

outreach to both the tenant and landlord.

The goals in central Minnesota for the next two years are to house 20 individuals per year and 10 new landlords per year. They have been seeing about 75% of households stay through the end of the lease and about 75% of landlords recommend to other property owners and expect similar results in central MN. Application link: <https://central-mn.paperform.co/>.

Since they started the program, they have housed over 300 renters and have only had 5 claims. They do have eligibility criteria but do not have priority levels.

- b. Independent Living Services of Central Minnesota: Jennifer Page, new in-home support provider in St. Cloud area. They focus on staff training and goal tracking for clients. They regularly review to see if what they're doing helpful and are the clients working towards independence. The ultimate goal is for clients to become independent and graduate from the program to live independently.

CAMHI County Consumer Advocates: *Bethany Oberg*

Reminder we have 2 open positions in Benton County, 1 in Sherburne County, and 1 in Wright County. Consumer Advocates receive a per diem and when meet in person, can receive mileage reimbursement.

Proposed AMHI Cuts: *Bethany*

Bethany summarized the Governor's proposed AMHI funding reductions, which will impact not only our AMHI but those across the state. She wants to make everyone aware of the cuts and to encourage everyone to reach out to their local representatives on the state level and say you do not support this. The budget is set to be finalized within the month so be sure to make your voice heard.

Link to find your representative: [LCC-GIS \(leg.mn\)](https://leg.mn.gov/LCC-GIS)

CommUNITY Mental Health Initiative Committee and Grant Updates:

- a. *Housing Coalition:* Jaime provided updates
- b. *Vocational Grant:* Julie from Goodwill Easter Seals provided year-end report for 2020 and year to date report. They focus on supported employment and helping people keep their jobs once they have one. They have seen a lot of individuals go back to their previous job that they had lost due to Covid. Average hours are around 22 per week and average pay \$13/hr.
- c. *Anti-Stigma Workgroup:* Bethany said they are meeting every other month until they can meet in person and attend resource fairs. The MN Department of Health put out a toolkit for positive mental health during the pandemic, they're going to start utilizing that information.
- d. *Training Workgroup:* Bethany indicated they started virtual training in December. They had 83 people attend the Commitment training. Have 2 different sessions on Public Guardianship & Alternatives to Guardianship in February. They are planning on conducting trainings online for now.
- e. *Peer Socialization – VPSN –* Amy said their numbers keep going up and they are adding in a lot more variety such as a Native American session, a nurse practitioner session every Wednesday, and Somali and Latino sessions in their native languages. They are doing more outreach in the CAMHI region, numbers went up in December. Please reach out to Amy or

Mary Jeanne if you would like for someone to discuss what VPSN is: amy@mnwitw.org or mbruns@mnwitw.org.

- f. *Jail Program*: Bethany said the pilot program had done very well but was significantly reduced due to the Covid pandemic. Sandi said Benton County does not have anyone going into the jail right now due to Covid. Diane with Wright County said they were able to continue their program despite Covid. Leslie with Stearns County said they have gotten creative with their funding and how they can still service people in jail by partnered with Corrections department.
- g. *HousingLink/Beyond Backgrounds*: Jennifer, just getting going with program and will share more next meeting.

Community Based Mental Health Services:

- a. *IRTS*:
 - i. Northway – Jennifer Rocheleau Dorholt, having internet issues but reach out if anyone is interested in updates
 - ii. Refractions – Angela Frye provided updates.
 - iii. ResCare –
- b. *ACT*:
- c. *Crisis Response Team*: Jennifer provided numbers. They have hired new staff and no one is currently out on Covid quarantine. The residential program looked strong in January. They are continuing to have design meetings for new Crisis Center. They posted for a co-responder position in Sherburne County. They will be starting to learn what Stearns County’s program looks like and determining how Sherburne’s will be different. They will be starting from scratch, unlike Stearns County where Kensie could just come in and continue what she was doing while working in Colorado. They have had 2 applicants so far and the ad was just posted last week. They also have a Child Response Initiative program, contact jdorholt@cmmhc.com for additional information or if you have resource suggestions for Sherburne County.
- d. *Crisis Bed Program*:
- e. *Inpatient*:
 - i. St. Cloud Hospital: ER is continuing to see increase time in stays while patients wait for Covid tests prior to placement. This increases stress on general psychiatry admissions due to areas closing to accommodate for Covid patients. For child/adolescent they have had to look to other states for placements since there aren’t any beds available in MN. In-patient has seen a decrease in Covid positive tests. In general, numbers have decreased because they have eliminated double occupancy rooms. They also had to repair a suite due to patient damages. The average stay is up to about tow weeks due to the difficulty finding places for people. Positive – mental health unit is able to open their visitor’s policy again to 1 healthy adult visitor per day. Visiting hours are 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, seven days a week.
 - ii. Buffalo Hospital: Jackie, do not have an in-patient program. They are seeing a lot more folks coming in needing mental health services. They have seen a dramatic

increase in SUD services being needed. Covid numbers are down but they are seeing longer extended stays due to people needing to quarantine prior to going to a facility.

iii. Monticello Hospital:

- f. V.A.: Mary Jo indicated the Mental Health Acute Unit increased capacity to 15 beds. Residential Rehab has about 60 bed capacity (prev. 120). Out-patient mental health is changing from triage to same day access. The Veteran Justice Outreach position has been filled as well as the Homeless Coordinator position.

St. Cloud Standdown is open Monday to Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and is open for all Vets to obtain items they need. They also offer computer labs, haircuts, and personal items. A parking structure is currently being built on the VA campus. The Caregivers Support Program has expanded dramatically since October. They have had 149 new applicants already in 2021 alone.

- g. *CBHH*: Jim said no new updates
- h. *V.R.S.*: Hilary currently do not have a waiting list and they are taking applicants for the program. Lori Thorpe said some people who previously were not eligible may be now.
- i. *Website*: Bethany, working on getting more information from #stayconnected campaign.

Open Forum:

Abdigani Ahmed (Abdi), CSW gave a presentation on Culture Bound LLC. They are working to start an ARMHS program. They are a private mental health agency and provide services for marginalized immigrant and those who have experienced traumas. They are looking to expand into SUD and want to create partnerships with local government, mental health orgs, nonprofits, and social justice groups. Contact information: abdigani.ahmed@gmail.com or 763-703-0976. Primarily focusing on adults for now.

Polly is involved with Standdown and said it is very awesome and encourages people who work with Veterans to direct them there.

Jennifer J. wanted to let people know that Blue Plus has piloted with Rice County to expand to the CAMHI area for Dental Resources. She will provide contact information to Bethany.

Next Meeting:

April 1, 2021 from 1:00 to 3:00 via Zoom.

Adjourn

Sandi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lori seconded due to absence of others. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.