

CommUNITY Adult Mental Health Initiative
Advisory Committee
 August 4, 2022

Voting Members Present: 11
 Quorum Required: 10

Representative	“X” = Present	Stakeholder	Alternate	“X” = Present
Knowles, Nikki	X	Benton County	Koscielniak, Peggy	
(Vacant)		Benton County Community Advocate	(Vacant)	
Kelly, James		CBHH	Lange, Mary	X
(Vacant)		CSP – Stearns/Benton	Sheehan, Meg	X
		CSP – Sherburne/Wright	(Vacant)	
Link, Shannon	X	MHC – Sherburne/Wright	Wieberdink, Nikki	
Bills, Alyshia	X	MHC – Stearns/Benton	Loos, Steven	X
Johannes, Victoria	X	Sherburne County	Magaard, Derek	
Popfer, Stephany		Sherburne County Community Advocate	(Vacant)	
Bershok, Joel		St. Cloud Hospital	(Vacant)	
Young, Leslie – Chair	X	Stearns County	Salsness-Tvedten, Jennifer	
Long, Lori		Stearns County Community Advocate	Brown, Polly	X
Pine, Mary Jo	X	VA Medical Center	Hovland, Voni	
Eich, Krissy – Vice Chair	X	Vocational Sherburne/Wright	Tornell, Jo	
Danda, Julie	X	Vocational Stearns/Benton	Gaedy, Maureen	
Thorpe, Lori		VRS – Sherburne/Wright	Krukenberg, Hillary	
Chirhart, Andrea		VRS – Stearns/Benton	Outhwaite, Jessica	
Erkens, Diane		Wright County	Pooler, Jill	
Joanne Lawrence		Wright County Community Advocate	(Vacant)	

		Ex- officio members
Oberg, Bethany	X	Initiative Coordinator

		Other attendees
Monica	X	Wellness in the Woods

		Other attendees
Jiang, Jennifer	X	BCBS
Flack, Leon	X	UCare
Keeville, Samantha		Solutions
Reichard, Rebecca	X	CMMHC ACT Team
Rocheleau Dorholt, Jennifer		SCSU
Hansen, Jacey	X	Solutions Behavioral Healthcare
Giddens, Jennifer	X	Housing Link/Beyond Background
Bennett, Keith	X	Wright County
Shoberg, Sandi		Benton County
Jackie	X	Buffalo Hospital
Higgins, Brandon	X	WeCare MN
Fruth, Donna	X	Vocational Rehab Counselor
Stadtherr, Eva		Sunflower Communities
Callahan, Sara	X	Options for Employment
Wiebe, Michelle	X	Central MN Council on Aging
Freyholtz-London, Jode	X	Wellness in the Woods
Loehlein, Stephanie	X	CMMHC
Novak, Jen	X	
Masters, Tony	X	Sherburne County

Call to order:

Leslie Young called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. The mission statement was read, and introductions were made.

Current Agenda:

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

Minutes – June 2022:

Krissy made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 2022; Meg seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Highlighting Area Providers/Services

- a. Central MN Mental Health Center Open Access & Other Updates: Steven Loos, Psy. D., LP, Director of Outpatient Mental Health Services CMMHC

Open Access is a model being utilized throughout the country that helps people get access to mental health services with the shortage of mental health professionals. They initially piloted the program in Elk River. When someone calls, instead of scheduling an appointment, we let them know when the open access day and times are, and they can come in at their convenience. They have two providers available plus backups at other locations who are available virtually. They very rarely have had to turn someone away. Clients, counties, probation officers, etc. all really like it due to not having to schedule appointments. Their therapists enjoy it because of the predictability to their schedules.

Launched the program in St. Cloud on July 26th and had four people show up who received treatment right away. Open Access hours mirror each other so that if one location is busy, then the other can serve as backup. They currently serve people ages 14+. Comprehensive evaluation meets Rule 29 and Rule 27 requirements. If an individual come in and is near crisis, they will give a psychotherapy session. They provide Comprehensive Evaluations and will give recommendations for services. Their policy turnaround time for a written evaluation is 10 days but will take into consideration if someone needs it sooner due to court order or county need.

Changes at CMMHC: Jessica Brandon is the new executive director. They made the difficult decision to shrink Targeted Case Management (TCM) and are no longer accepting referrals. They are a non-profit agency and TCM was on pace to lose a high amount of dollars. In making this change, they did not have to lay off any staff and were able to expand ARMS and Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS) skills. Still providing TCM services but are not accepting new referrals.

Financial Report: *Peggy*

Bethany summarized the financial report.

At Large Joint Powers Board Position - Nominations and Voting

Tracy Hinz is no longer the At Large representative on the Joint Powers board. Looking for nominations for who to finish out the term for 2022.

Krissy nominated Stephanie Loehlein, however she declined.

Polly nominated Krissy Eich, however she declined.

Polly nominated Alyshia Bills and she accepted the nomination.

Polly made a motion to accept Alyshia Bills for the At Large position; Victoria seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Joint Powers – Advisory Committee In-Service: *Bethany*

There will not be an Advisory Committee meeting in October, instead there will be a combined meeting between the Joint Powers Board and the Advisory Committee. The in-service is scheduled for October 6 from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Wright County Government building. Please RSVP once Bethany sends out the invitation so the caterer has an accurate count.

2023 Approved Budget and 2023 Contracts: *Bethany*

There are not a lot of changes to dollars amounts, Bethany is working on contracts.

Stearns and Sherburne County Community Advocates: *Bethany*

If interested in continuing as a Community Advocate, please resubmit a letter of interest. If you know of someone you think would be interested in serving, please forward their information to Bethany. Each county is eligible to have two advocates.

CommUNITY Mental Health Initiative Committee and Grant Updates:

a. *Housing Coalition:*

a. *Voucher Programs* – Meg Sheehan shared updates

b. *Beyond Backgrounds* – Jennifer Giddens shared updates. It has been difficult getting housing for people right now due to lack of housing and lack of landlords wanting to

rent even with Beyond Backgrounds. They are starting a large outreach program to landlords.

- b. *Vocational Grant*: Krissy shared the combined report for Goodwill Easter Seals and Functional Industries (shared grant). New positions are Recycler, Kennel Assistant, Claims Specialists, Teacher Assistant, and Machine Operator.
- c. *Anti-Stigma Workgroup*: Bethany shared that they partnered with the MN Suicide Prevention Coalition and are attending two Summertime by Lake George. There are additional events in the fall that they attend including the Senior Expo and Project Connect.
- d. *Training Workgroup*: Bethany shared upcoming trainings; they can also be found on the website [Calendar :: Minnesota Mental Health \(mnmentalhealth.org\)](https://mnmentalhealth.org). Will have two Housing 101 trainings, flyers will be sent out soon.
- e. *Community Outreach Program*: This started as the Jail Program but has expanded to include the community in shelters, temporary housing, and in the community. Bethany will send out data of the breakdown of people the program has helped.
- f. *Peer Socialization – VPSN*: Monica shared they had technical difficulties through July, have a new Zoom link that Bethany will share after the meeting. They are starting a new series on mental illness in August.

Community Based Mental Health Services:

- a. *IRTS*:
 - i. Northway – Alyshia shared updates.
 - ii. Refractions – no one available for updates.
- b. *ACT*: Rebecca shared updates, they are adding staff and currently have a wait list.
- c. *Crisis Response Team*: Shannon shared updates, hoping to be in the new building before fall.
- d. *Crisis Bed Program*: Shannon shared updates
- e. *Inpatient*:
 - i. St. Cloud Hospital: no one available for updates
 - ii. Buffalo Hospital: Jackie announced they have a full-time social worker approved and hired; they will start in about a month.
 - iii. Monticello Hospital: no one available for updates
- f. *V.A.*: Voni Hovland will replace Mary Jo when she retires in the next year. Adult day healthcare opened up in the last couple months, it had been closed due to the pandemic. They have a wait list but are building a new building on the VA grounds to serve more people. The caregiver support program has been approved nationwide to help with neurocognitive disorders, a social worker will be hired for that position. Asking people to refer people to see their county veterans service officer about new services that are available due to the passing of the PACT Act.
- g. *CBHH*: Mary shared updates. They had another round of Covid positive patients and staff in

July. They had an inspection and did very well and have very few corrections to make. Working on filling vacant staff positions.

- h. *V.R.S.*: Donna shared they are able to have in-person visits now.
- i. *Website*: Bethany shared there will be an updated Guidebook PDF uploaded soon.

Open Forum:

Bethany shared that for the meetings for January, February, and March 2023 will be online only in anticipation of MN winter weather issues.

Polly shared that she is no longer volunteering with VREC.

Jennifer from Blue Cross shared the 2022 vouchers are ready. They are in a new format with paid postage, the website has been updated to reflect the new vouchers.

<https://www.bluecrossmn.com/members/shop-plans/minnesota-health-care-programs/reward-program-blue-plus> Offer behavioral health appointment scheduling help.

Next Meeting:

October 6, 2022: No meeting, Joint Powers Board – Advisory Committee In-Service

December 1, 2022, from 1:00 – 3:00 at Sherburne County Government Center Board Room, Elk River and online.

Adjourn

Krissy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Nikki seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.