

CommUNITY Adult Mental Health Initiative
Advisory Committee
 June 4, 2020

Voting Members Present: 14
 Quorum Required: 10

Representative	“X” = Present	Stakeholder	Alternate	“X” = Present
Shoberg, Sandi	X	Benton County	Koscielniak, Peggy	
(Vacant)		Benton County Community Advocate	(Vacant)	
Kelly, James	X	CBHH	Gribas, Steve	
Krupa, Jaime- Vice 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
Wilkus, Maureen	X	Sherburne County	(Vacant)	
Aaron, Denice	X	Sherburne County Community	(Vacant)	
Bershok, Joel	X	St. Cloud Hospital	Lund, Jennifer	
Ellis, Julie	X	Stearns County	(Vacant)	
Long, Lori	X	Stearns County Community Advocate	Brown, Polly	
Pine, Mary Jo – Chair	X	VA Medical Center	Hovland, Voni	
Eich, Krissy	X	Vocational Sherburne/Wright	Tornell, Jo	
Danda, Julie	X	Vocational Stearns/Benton	Gaedy, Maureen	
Thorpe, Lori		VRS – Sherburne/Wright	Krukenberg, Hillary	X
(Vacant)		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
Conant, Amy	X	Imagine Network

		Other attendees
Reichard, Rebecca		CMMHC- Elk River
Baer, Mika		UCare
Sprynczynatk, Gary		BCBS
Jiang, Jennifer	X	BCBS
Bershok, Lisa		CentraCare
Dawsen, Christine		Monticello Hospital
Eigenheer, Sara	X	Options for Employment LLC
Pena, Molly	X	Refractions IRTS
Frye, Angela	X	Refractions IRTS
Meyer, Chelsey		Recover Health
LaCroix, Kate		Recover Health
Nygaard, Derek		Sherburne County HH
Burton, Lynda	X	Options for Employment LLC
Janson-Wolle, Kenzie	X	CMMHC / SCPD
Young, Leslie	X	Stearns County AMH/SUD
Holden, Kelly	X	SCPD
Flack, Leon	X	UCare

Call to order:

Mary Jo called the meeting to order at 1:06 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 – February 6, 2020:

Diane made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 6; Krissy seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report: Peggy

Bethany summarized the financial report for Peggy. Maureen made a motion to approve the financial report; Krissy seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Co-Responders Program: Officer Kelly Holden and Kenzie Janson-Wolle

The co-responder team is housed under the Community Crime Impact Team, which is under the Community Engagement Division. The mission is to deescalate clients with mental health conditions in field. They started responding to calls on April 8th and everything has gone very smoothly. They primarily respond to any 911 calls that come in with behavior health or mental health component to it. They have seen close to 50 clients so far and are able to do safety assessments, offer resources, and do warm hand offs with the ultimate goal of keeping the client in place rather than going to hospital. In May they had approximately a 33% - 40% success rate of individuals not going to hospital who otherwise might have. However, if they do need to go to the hospital, Kenzie is able to do the hand offs independently.

There have been some challenges with the COVID pandemic but also finding success. They are finding where there are holes in services or where connections are being missed with individuals in the community and getting linked with the services they need.

Kenzie previously worked for the Denver, CO co-responder unit. She is currently employed by the Central Minnesota Mental Health Center rather than the St. Cloud Police Department. This was a deliberate decision and will enable the CMMHC to use their resources and team should the program expand.

Kelly has been an Officer with the city of St. Cloud for 15 years working in a variety of units and jobs within the department. She is a crisis trained officer and has always navigate to calls that requires being an advocate for victims, including working with SCSU with a big part of that investigating sexual assaults and working with victims. Kelly and Kenzie make a great team and are learning new things every day. The more they can get to know their partners and resources in the community are, the more success they will have.

Dr. Lee applied for a grant to expand and add 2 additional co-responders. The program currently has daytime hours, should they get grant, they would be able to staff at the peak times of noon-8:00 pm, 7 days a week.

Joint Powers Board Update: Bethany

Issued RFP's Vocational Services and Peer Support and received 2 for each.

Reader group scored them and awarded to:

Vocational – continue with Goodwill and Functional

Peer support – continue with Wellness in the Woods' program Imagine Network.

Mini-grants: Reader group approved grants to a number of providers. Bethany has a list with totals if anyone is interested. There was up to \$50,000 available; \$48,454 was awarded.

The Board approved a per diem dollar increase for Consumer Advocates for the Initiative. They will now receive \$50 and will also receive reimburse for mileage.

DHS sent grant application for mobile crisis services. The Board approved submitting for the grant and asking for an increase.

In process of applying for AMH funding for the 2021-2022 grant cycle. We are not expecting any change in funding from DHS. The application will be submitted in July with funding being determined later in year.

Flex Form: Bethany

New flex fund form will sent out this week in a fillable PDF form.

CommUNITY Mental Health Initiative Committee and Grant Updates:

- a. Housing Coalition: Jaime updated totals (Bethany had emailed the document). BCBS has housing program manager, Ben Waltz, who will be managing a housing flex fund. He will support the community with homelessness prevention and housing instability. As a housing manager he is attending DHS meetings and housing support services. He will also be assessing needs within the community.

- b. Vocational Grant: Julie Danda gave an update of totals and Bethany shared the document. Krissy said there has been referrals from people who normally would not use their service.
- c. Anti-Stigma Workgroup: Bethany says they are sharing information via the website since there have not been community events due to COVID-19.
- d. Training Workgroup: Bethany will reschedule trainings once it is safe to gather again.
- e. Peer Socialization – Imagine Network: they are excited funding has been continued for the next grant cycle. Had to suspend in person events due to Covid-19 but they are able to continue meeting daily virtually from 10-4. It is run by peer support specialists on Zoom. They have wellness education and health professionals to do QA. Participant numbers are low but those that attend go regularly. Recently sent out mailers with the newspaper advertising the program. They have also had radio coverage and advertising about the program. Feel free to send suggestions for connecting during the pandemic to Amy Conant. Their information is also on the CAMHI website under the News section.
- f. Jail Update – Diane reported that quarter one had 71 contacts with 31 clients – 5 in Stearns, 1 in Sherburne, and 25 in Wright. Sandi indicated that Benton County has suspended jail work at the moment but they are hoping to be up and running in August. Maureen said Sherburne County is in same boat. Stearns is still “in” the jail and using Homewave for a virtual platform. Homewave is a private vendor, the jail receives \$2 worth of service per inmate per week. Both the county and the jail are very happy with the results as it saves time.

There have been more requests from inmates at the jail because people are worried about how they are going to get housing after they are discharged. They have also been giving information to inmates who were incarcerated prior to the Covid-19 outbreak on how to remain safe by wearing masks and other precautions.

New inmates are housed in a separate section of the jail for 2 weeks to isolate them in case they are Covid-19 positive.

Community Based Mental Health Services:

- a. IRTS:
 - i. Northway – no one in attendance, however numbers were sent out
 - ii. Refractions – Jennifer sent out numbers, if any questions can send them to her and she will make sure Alicia gets them
- b. ACT – Tracy is out ill, send questions to Jennifer and she will get them to Tracy
- c. Crisis Response Team – smaller numbers than typical for March, April, May, which is the pattern throughout state due to the pandemic. They have had approximately 930 call a month. They are hoping to continue with telehealth after Covid-19 (mobile crisis team).
- d. Crisis Bed Program – Jennifer indicated 80% of mobile has been done virtually. They will keep a No Visitors in residential for a while due to Covid. Telehealth has been helpful as a temporary band aid during the pandemic. Will be sending out a survey monkey to determine how things are going virtually.
- e. Inpatient –
 - i. St. Cloud Hospital: Joel – no formal report, however they have been busy. In the mental health unit, both adolescent and adult are moving away from shared rooms due to Covid restriction, therefore overall capacity numbers are down. Geriatric Behavioral Health Unit in Monticello has been closed due to Covid restrictions. The emergency room has been extremely busy. It has been taking longer to get people referred to in-patient as they need to be tested and it takes 24-48 hours for results. They are seeing an increase in people who use substances. Some of the precautions they are taking in the hospital are:

- anyone who can work remotely is, at least until August.
 - Some consult services that work in the hospital are not going into patient rooms are conducting them via iPad.
 - Geriatric behavioral health has opened up however they will not take anyone with Covid.
 - If someone is determined to need more intensive in-patient hospitalization, then they are tested for Covid.
 - They must wait in the emergency room to find out if they test positive, if they do;
 - They go up to one of the Covid rooms with heightened precautions (due to mental illness).
- ii. Buffalo Hospital: no one in attendance
- iii. Monticello Hospital: no one in attendance
- f. V.A. – the Acute Mental Health Unit remains full, over half are long term clients because they are awaiting commitment. All patients are in private rooms and everyone at the VA must wear a mask. The Residential Rehab Treatment Program used to have 160 beds but are now down to max capacity of 28 beds. 8 to 12 people can come in a week but they have to be quarantined for 2 weeks. They do attend virtual groups for those 2 weeks. They currently have 150 people on the waiting list, they are called weekly by residential staff. They are allowed to participate in virtual classes as well. Operating under MN DHS and CDC guidelines. The out-patient providers are doing the majority of their visits via telehealth work either by phone or video. Patients are encouraged to call prior to coming in. There is expected to be a virtual Caregiver Summit and Caregiver Fair on August 18th.
- g. CBHH – Jim Kelly has been mostly dealing with Covid paid leave. Some CBHH are having to restrict admissions right now because of the availability of staff. Any clients who are admitted are asked to wear a mask, however most do not cooperate with that. Employees have their temperature tested and must wear masks. The new CABS building is opening June 9th (Willmar).
- h. V.R.S. – Jess O. said they are providing services as they have been except they are virtual (Zoom, GoogleMeet, and phone). Skip Whitrock has put in his retirement and last day is on July 21st. Hillary – agency numbers for people applying for services are down across the state due to Covid. The Career Force Centers are not open, although Careerforcemn.com does have virtual services you can access.
- i. Website – The anti-stigma is posting a lot of articles in the News section.

Open Forum:

Polly Brown was emailed Bethany asking to share that she was recently able to attend training to be a Peer Specialist. She passed and is now officially able to be a peer specialist.

Jennifer from Blue Plus – telehealth reimbursement has no significant issues but please let her know if there are concerns or problems. Housing stabilization has been postponed to probably mid-July. If you know of providers wanting to join their network, please send them her way. Blue Ride administration for non-emergency transportation has been brought back in house. Expect this will bring improvement in the running of the operations and will be more efficient and effective. Members should have a better experience when scheduling rides. They are reviewing claims to see if there is anything to suggest a positive Covid test. If there is, they are immediately connected to our Case Managers and they are reaching out to see if they need to follow up and receive support.

Next Meeting:

August 6, 2020 from 1:00 to 3:00 at Sherburne County Government Center Maple Room A & B

(tentatively to be held online via Zoom – an announcement will be made closer to the date of the meeting).

Adjourn

Diane made a motion to adjourn, Lori moved, meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.