

CommUNITY Adult Mental Health Initiative
Advisory Committee
 February 06, 2025

Voting Members Present: 14
 Quorum Required: 10

Representative	“X” = Present	Stakeholder	Alternate	“X” = Present
Knowles, Nikki – Vice Chair	X	Benton County	Moscho, Ashely	X
(Vacant)		Benton County Community Advocate	(Vacant)	
Julia Draxten	X	CBHH	Lange, Mary	X
Schultz, Rita		CSP – Stearns/Benton	Sheehan, Meg	X
(Vacant)		CSP – Sherburne/Wright	(Vacant)	
Wilson, Heather		MHC – Sherburne/Wright	Anderson, Ashley	
Loos, Steven	X	MHC – Stearns/Benton	(Vacant)	
Johannes, Victoria	X	Sherburne County	Magaard, Derek	
Vachel, Melody	X	Sherburne County Community Advocate	Brainard, Susan	
Dwyer, Tyler		St. Cloud Hospital	Fischer, Melissa	X
Behm, Casie	X	Stearns County	Salsness-Tvedten, Jennifer	
Robins, Courtney		Stearns County Community Advocate	(Vacant)	
Jurek, Dr. Kristin		VA Medical Center	Sorenson, Matt	
Elstad, Brienne	X	Vocational Sherburne/Wright	(Vacant)	
Collins, Kayla		Vocational Stearns/Benton	Danda, Julie	
Gilb, Jordan	X	VRS – Sherburne/Wright	Main, Erin	
Fruth, Donna	X	VRS – Stearns/Benton	Stang, John	
Erkens, Diane	X	Wright County	Pooler, Jill	
Anderson, Susan	X	Wright County Community Advocate	LaCroix-Kinniry, Deb	X

		Ex- officio members
Oberg, Bethany	X	Initiative Coordinator

		Other attendees
Flack, Leon	X	UCare
Hansen, Jacey		Solutions Behavioral Health
Rocheleau Dorholt, Jennifer		SCSU
Wiebe, Michelle	X	Central MN Council on Aging
Bennet, Keith	X	Wright County Public Health
Higgins, Brandon	X	Unified Social Services
Richburg, Katie		Newport
Sprynczynatyk, Gary – Chair	X	BCBS
Looper, Abby	X	Canvas Health
Luehring, Michelle		UCare
Potter-Vig, Jennifer		Rainbow Wellness Collective
Lindboe, Shannon		Vocational Rehab
Delaney, Sheila		Avivo
Yussuf, Noor	X	Bestwood IRTS
Freyholtz-London, Jode		Wellness in the Woods
Loehlein, Stephanie	X	SCSU
Fuchs-Hoeschen, Susan		CMMHC
Yeadon, Monica	X	Wellness in the Woods
Robins, Cortney		CMMHC
Pourray, Kristen	X	Home Health Care
Lindberg, Cheryl	X	Refractions
Adan, Shirwa	X	Credent Care
Johnson, Lance	X	Credent Care
Youngberg, MaKenna	X	Benton County
Sanders, Rahima	X	
Rice, Suzie	X	Catholic Charities

Call to order:

Gary S. called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. The mission statement was read. Everyone introduced themselves and the area they represent.

Current Agenda:

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

Minutes – December 2024:

Diane E. made a motion to approve the December 2024 meeting minutes; Steven L. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report: *Ashley M.*

Ashley shared the financial report. For ACT Teams non-MA we received a refund from CMMHC. There were some expenditures from 2024 that were paid out in 2025. The negative amount of interest on the investments is caused by the type of grant. For approximately 75% of the year, CAMHI is waiting on reimbursement from DHS.

Peer and CSP/non-MA ARMHS RFP: *Bethany*

The Board approved:

- CSP to be provided by Functional Industries
- Non-MA ARMHS services to be provided by Solutions Behavioral Health Services and Credent Care

Highlighting Area Providers/Services:

- a. Home Health Care, Inc. and Legacy Home Care – Kristen Pourray, Community Liaison

Home Health Care, Inc. is for insurance covered skills services. They are Medicare certified, accept most major insurances, and are VA contracted. They offer skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, home health aide visits, and they do have social services. Someone who is potentially eligible for their insurance to cover services are if they are home bound and are only able leave for appointments. They often have had a recent fall, recent diagnosis, or a recent decline in their health. They do not have to be permanently home-bound, usually for the 4-6 weeks of recovery. Visits are up to two times per week, per discipline.

Legacy Home Care is for private services. For people who are not home bound but need assistance in order to stay in their own home. They offer 3 to 24 hours per day, with live-in and overnight care options. Short- or long-term services are available. Home health aides, help with bathing, grooming, dressing, toileting, transfers, light housekeeping, meal preparation, transportation to and from appointments, and other services. All providers are Certified Nursing Assistants.

- b. Credent Care – Shirwa Adan, CEO and Lance Johnson, Mental Health Program Director

Founded to meet the specific needs of East Africans but also provide services to anyone. Four Intensive in-home Services (ICS) locations, Integrated Community Supports (ICS), Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), Housing Stabilization Services (HSS), Housing Support (formerly GRH), Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program, Targeted Case Management (TCM), Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS), currently have over 200 clients with ARMHS services. Children's Therapeutic Services & Supports (CTSS). Bridging Gaps and Empowering Communities. Adult Day Services. Working on CRS and destigmatizing mental health.

Flex Funds Update: *Bethany O.*

The Flex Fund form was updated January 2025.

Benton County RFP: *Nikki K.*

Housing Support Program Provider RFP. Benton County currently has 37 beds available. The RFP goes through the end of March and they are hoping to either have a new provider come in or to expand current provider.

Advisory Discussion: *Gaps and Barriers for Clients*

Melissa F. appreciates the Benton County RFP, especially this time of year. CentraCare is seeing an

increase in the emergency department and in-patient mental health units for both adults and adolescents who are ready to discharge but there are not enough services in place to secure for them. Kudos to District 741 for going above and beyond to provide some one-to-one schooling for students.

Susan expressed that many consumers have concerns about federal funds getting revoked, it is a very stressful time for a lot of people. Victoria J. agreed it is an unnerving time for both staff and folks receiving services.

Brandon H. shared there is a lot of concern around New Way in the sober home community with federal funds being revoked.

CommUNITY Mental Health Initiative Committee and Grant Updates:

- a. *Housing Coordination:* Meg S. shared updates
- b. *Vocational Grant:* Brienne shared Goodwill and Functional Industries were able to spend their grant in 2024 and grant dollars have doubled in 2025. They will be able to serve many more people.
- c. *Anti-Stigma Workgroup:* Bethany O. focusing on outreach events. Currently accepting additional people to be in the workgroup. Looking to expand into business expos to reach additional populations.
- d. *Training Workgroup:* Bethany O. received an F-Map grant which includes trainings so they plan on having another all day training in May.

Community Based Mental Health Services:

- a. *IRTS*
 - i. Refractions: Cheryl L. shared updates and that they are accepting referrals for all three locations
 - ii. Bestwood Agency: Noor Y. shared updates on openings and approved insurance providers
- b. *ACT:* Steven L. shared ACT updates
- c. *Crisis Response Team:* Steven L. shared updates
- d. *Crisis Bed Program:* Steven L. shared updates
- e. *Inpatient:*
 - i. St. Cloud Hospital: Melissa F. shared in-patient units are serving high acute, very ill patients in both the adult and adolescent units. They remain full as soon as a discharge happens, they have another admitted. Patients are continuing to wait for services. Boarding patients in ER and adult and adolescent units just waiting for services or funding. Also having readmissions due to lack of services.
 - ii. Buffalo Hospital: no one in attendance
 - iii. Monticello Hospital: no one in attendance
- f. *V.A:* no one in attendance

- g. *CBHH*: Bethany shared Mary's updates. Maintaining full capacity, locked units have a long wait list.
- h. *V.R.S.*: Jordan G. shared updates
- i. *Website*: Bethany O. shared that the updates went well. Please let Bethany know if anything seems off or is missing.

Advisory Discussion: Recent Wins

Melody V. shared she was able to speak to Central MN Care on Aging about stress reduction. She has written a care giver book called *Still I Rise: A Guide to Navigating the Caregiver Journey*.

Brienne E. shared they hired a Peer Support Specialist and should be able to start providing services in March.

Victoria J. shared that Sherburne County started a new unit on January 1st called Therapeutic Services Unit. Created out of a shortage of CTSS providers and a need for services to get individuals DA's.

Benton County has soft approval for their first co-responder in the county.

Open Forum:

Gary S. (Blue Cross) The Association of Minnesota Counties has an initiative to create a behavioral health transformational workgroup. They are seeking 8-10 county leaders (Commissioners, Health and Human Services Directors, senior level behavioral health management, representing a cross section of counties to look at gaps and find solutions.

Michelle W. (Central MN Council on Aging) shared they have two grants that people can apply for, one for dementia and a live-at-home grant.

Next Meeting:

- a. April 3, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Benton County Board Room, Foley, MN and via Zoom

Adjourn:

Victoria J. motioned and Casie B. seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.