

## CommUNITY Adult Mental Health Initiative

[www.mnmentalhealth.org](http://www.mnmentalhealth.org)

Joint Powers Board

March 06, 2025

Benton County Eastgate Conference Room, St. Cloud and via Zoom

Chair: Julie Ellis

Vice Chair: Tony Masters

Present	Name	Membership
X	Tony Masters, Chair	Sherburne County – representative
X	Gary Gray	Sherburne County – alternate
	Steve Heinen	Benton County – alternate
X	Sandi Shoberg	Benton County – representative
X	Julie Ellis, Chair	Stearns County – representative
	Steve Notch	Stearns County – alternate
X	Jill Pooler	Wright County – alternate
X	Jami Goodrum, Vice Chair	Wright County – representative
X	Deb LaCroix Kinniry	Consumer – representative
X	Julie Danda	Agency – representative
X	Susan Brainard	At-Large – representative

Other attendees:

X	Bethany Oberg	Initiative Coordinator
	Victoria Johannes	Sherburne County – ex officio
X	Nikki Knowles	Benton County – ex officio
X	Diane Erkens	Wright County – ex officio
X	Casie Behm	Stearns County – ex officio
	Ashley Moscho	Benton County Fiscal Supervisor
	Meg Sheehan	CAMHI Housing Coordinator
X	Jennifer Salsness-Tvedten	Stearns County
X	Gary Sprynczynatyk	Blue Plus MN

**Call to order:** Tony M. called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Introductions:** All

**Amend or Accept Agenda:**

Julie E. made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of “Language related to Non-MA ARMS Contract” made by Bethany O.; Jami G. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Minutes from January:**

Sandi S. made a motion to accept January 2025 minutes; Jami G. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Ashley

Bethany shared the PATH Grant and CAMHI financial report.

Julie D. made a motion to accept the Financial Reports; Julie E. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Clerical Contract Revisit:** Jennifer/Casie

The Ex-Officios reviewed the clerical contract rate with Stearns County Finance & Technology Division. Julie E. suggested extending the clerical contract at a 5% increase for 6 months. Simultaneously piloting having AI take minutes and comparing them to the clerical minutes. If the AI minutes are as good or better, eliminating the clerical contract and reallocating that money. If the AI minutes do not meet our need, extending the clerical contract another 6 months.

General discussion over AI and experience with it.

Jami G. made a motion to pilot AI taking minutes while simultaneously extending the Stearns County Clerical Contract for 6 months at a 5% increase with the option to extend for 6 months; Sandi S. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Provider Contract Changes Request Policy/Guideline:** Diane

The Ex-Officios created a policy for providers when they request contract language or rate changes. Asking if we want to send the policy out to all providers or just have on hand when a provider requests changes. Ex-Officios will add signature to the list of changes and bring to the next meeting.

Discussion on preference to send out to all providers to notify them of the process to follow if they have changes.

**PATH Grant Update:** Nikki

Slow start but up and running; they are working with DHS to receive signed contract that will run through July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Julie E. made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the PATH Grant when DHS sends the final contract; Sandi S. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Language related to Non-MA ARMS Contract:** Casie

Requesting to updated language from “shall have” a referral from a mental health professional to “may have.” Requiring a referral has created barriers for individuals needing services.

Jami G. made a motion to change the contract language from “shall have” to “may have;” Susan seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- i. May 1 at 3:00 pm – Wright County Government Center, Room 1103 and via Zoom
- ii. July 10 at 3:00 pm – Wright County Government Center, Room 1103 and via Zoom

**Adjournment:** Jami G. made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Julie E. seconded. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.