

CommUNITY Adult Mental Health Initiative

Advisory Committee

April 03, 2025

Voting Members Present: 11

Quorum Required: 10

<b>Representative</b>	<b>“X” = Present</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Alternate</b>	<b>“X” = Present</b>
Knowles, Nikki – <b>Vice Chair</b>	X	Benton County	Moscho, Ashely	X
(Vacant)		Benton County Community Advocate	(Vacant)	
Julia Draxten		CBHH	Lange, Mary	
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		Sherburne County Community Advocate	Brainard, Susan	
Dwyer, Tyler	X	St. Cloud Hospital	Fischer, Melissa	X
Behm, Casie	X	Stearns County	Salsness-Tvedten, Jennifer	
Robins, Courtney	X	Stearns County Community Advocate	(Vacant)	
Jurek, Dr. Kristin		VA Medical Center	Sorenson, Matt	
Elstad, Brienne		Vocational Sherburne/Wright	(Vacant)	
Collins, Kayla	X	Vocational Stearns/Benton	Danda, Julie	
Gilb, Jordan	X	VRS – Sherburne/Wright	Main, Erin	
Fruth, Donna	X	VRS – Stearns/Benton		
Erkens, Diane		Wright County	Pooler, Jill	
(Vacant)		Wright County Community Advocate	LaCroix-Kinniry, Deb	X

		<b>Ex- officio members</b>
Oberg, Bethany	X	Initiative Coordinator

		<b>Other attendees</b>
Flack, Leon	X	UCare
Gibbons, Jacey	X	Solutions Behavioral Health
Nordlie, Ashley	X	Functional Industries
Rocheleau Dorholt, Jennifer	X	SCSU
Wiebe, Michelle	X	Central MN Council on Aging
Burch, Jessica	X	MNSU Student
Engebretson, Jaden	X	Benton Co. AMH Case Manager
Bennet, Keith		Wright County Public Health
Higgins, Brandon		Unified Social Services
Richburg, Katie	X	Newport
Sprynczynatyk, Gary – <b>Chair</b>		BCBS
Looper, Abby	X	Canvas Health
Kalland, Shelagh	X	BCBS
Lindboe, Shannon	X	Vocational Rehab
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		Home Health Care
Lindberg, Cheryl	X	Refractions
Adan, Shirwa	X	Credent Care
Jimmy	X	Credent Care
Johnson, Lance	X	Credent Care
Youngberg, MaKenna		Benton County
Rice, Suzie	X	Catholic Charities

**Call to order:**

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

**Utilization of AI notes:** Bethany

The board decided to research using AI to take meeting minutes. While this is being researched, Marcie S. will continue to take meeting minutes for a few months to compare them with the AI minutes.

**Current Agenda:**

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

### **Minutes – February 2025:**

Victoria J. made a motion to approve the February 2025 meeting minutes; Courtney R. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Financial Report:** *Ashley M.*

Ashley M. shared the financial report through March 2025.

### **Highlighting Area Providers/Services:**

- a. **Functional Industries – Ashley Nordie, Vice President of Programs and Services**  
Ashley shared they have a new staff member, John, in peer support services. He anticipates providing support 25-30 hours a week. They are looking for non-MA referrals. Functional Industries would like to add a female peer support specialist as well. They also have a supported employment program for individuals without a SPMI diagnosis.
- b. **Refractions – Cheryl Lindberg**  
Refractions was established in 2019 in rural St. Augusta with a capacity of six individuals. A second location was opened in 2022 in Little Falls, also with a capacity of six. A third, semi-locked location was opened in November 2024 in St. Cloud. As a semi-locked facility, their entrance doors are kept locked. The clients have access to an outdoor fenced-in area, going on outings in the community, and see community providers. A client may leave the facility, however they will have consequences with their outside team. They can accommodate up to ten individuals. Most clients are on a commitment and have co-occurring disorders. Refractions website is <https://refractions.us.com>

### **All-Day Training Day:** *Bethany O.*

CAMHI is sponsoring another Mental Health Awareness Training Day on Tuesday, May 6 from 8:30 – 4:30 at the Park Event Center at Waite Park. The registration fee is \$20 and includes lunch and 6 hours of CEU. Thank you to HealthPartners and BlueCross BlueShield for helping to make the day possible.

### **Community Advocates:** *Bethany O.*

Reminder that we have two Community Advocate positions from each county for someone with lived experience. There are currently two openings in Benton, one in Stearns, and one in Wright. A stipend and mileage reimbursement is offered.

### **Advisory Discussion:** *Gaps and Barriers for Clients*

Monica Y. from Wellness in the Woods said their warmline was significantly affected by the cuts in Federal funding. They are still open but working through the budget cuts. None of their other program funding has been effected by the cuts. If people try calling the warmline, they may experience longer wait times, may get a busy signal, or not get through at all. As a reminder, they do offer peer support services over text.

### **CommUNITY Mental Health Initiative Committee and Grant Updates:**

- a. *Housing Coordination:* Meg S. shared updates. There will be some changes to coordinated entry going forward that they are trying to navigate.
- b. *Vocational Grant:* Kayla C. shared updates for Quarter 1 and two success stories.
- c. *ARMHS Non-MA:* Jacey G. with Solutions shared monthly report through March. Lance with Credent Care shared updates.
- d. *Peer Support Service Non-MA:* Ashley will share more updates the next time we meet.

- e. *Anti-Stigma Workgroup*: Bethany O. Getting back into attending outreach events.
- f. *Training Workgroup*: Bethany O. shared updates.

### **Community Based Mental Health Services:**

- a. *IRTS*
  - i. Refractions: Cheryl L. shared they are accepting referrals for all three locations.
  - ii. Bestwood Agency: Noor Y. shared they have two open beds (1M and 1F). They have an updated referral form on their website.
- b. *ACT*: Steven L. shared updates. They are accepting new clients at the Monticello location, but not accepting referrals for St. Cloud at this time.
- c. *Crisis Response Team*: Steven L. shared updates
- d. *Crisis Bed Program*: Steven L. shared updates
- e. *Inpatient*:
  - i. St. Cloud Hospital: Tyler D. shared updates, they are seeing 25-30 clients a day. 70% of patients are in-patient are involuntary. Doing well with staffing.  
  
Melissa F. shared the boarding care is closing, making it hard to transition into the community. Seeing more acute patients.
  - ii. Buffalo Hospital: no one in attendance
  - iii. Monticello Hospital: no one in attendance
- f. *V.A*: no one in attendance
- g. *CBHH*: no one in attendance
- h. *V.R.S.*: Jordan G. shared they are in a budget deficit and 41 staff have been laid off across the state. Twenty employees took early retirement.
- i. *Website*: Bethany O. shared updates

### **Advisory Discussion:** Recent Wins

CAMHI contract with Credence and Refractions are in full swing and ready for referrals!

Excited for the all-day training, fun searching for the speakers.

Katie R. from Newport shared her contact info and upcoming events: one for clinical staff and second event is for parents. Registration for Innovations in Mental Health conference can be found at the following link: [Innovations in Mental Health Conference](#). Feel free to share this [Parent Workshop](#) event with families.

**Katie Richburg, MA, LCPC**

*My pronouns are she/her(s). Please tell me yours.*

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Deb L-K shared LISTEN

**Open Forum:**

Sherburn has 2<sup>nd</sup> annual meet and greet on May 8 in Elk River from 11:30 – 1:30. They have twice as many vendors as last year and will be doing anti-stigma work. You Are Not Alone will be there with their therapy dogs.

**Next Meeting:**

- a. June 5, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Benton County Board Room, Foley, MN and via Zoom

**Adjourn:**

Victoria motioned to adjourn; Courtney seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.