

**CommUNITY Adult Mental Health Initiative**

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

Joint Powers Board

July 10, 2025

Wright County Government Center and via Zoom

Chair: Tony Masters

Vice Chair: Jami Goodrum

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

Other attendees:

X	Bethany Oberg	Initiative Coordinator
X	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
X	Ashley Moscho	Benton County Fiscal Supervisor
X	Erin Oppelt	Benton County Fiscal
	Jennifer Salsness-Tvedten	Stearns County
X	Gary Sprynczynatyk	Blue Plus MN (current CAMHI Advisory Chair)

**Call to order:** Tony M. called the meeting to order

**Introductions:** All

**Amend or Accept Agenda:**

Julie E. made a motion to approve the agenda; Julie D. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Minutes from March:**

Julie D. made a motion to accept May 2025 minutes; Melody V. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Erin

Erin shared the CAMHI financial report.

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

**Clerical contract/AI notes:** Nikki

The Board discussed the extension of the clerical contract for Joint Powers and Advisory meetings, which expired in June. Nikki, on behalf of the Ex-Officios, recommended continuing the contract through 2025, with the 5% increase (from 2024) for Board meetings only as Advisory meetings have minimal motions and require less documentation. The utilization of AI notes and documentation support from the Ex-Officios would be sufficient for notes for Advisory.

Julie D. made the motion, Melody V. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Advisory Committee Stakeholders:** Victoria

The Advisory Committee stakeholders' list may be updated to better reflect key providers in the 4-county area, with changes to be proposed to the Board and implemented by January 1, 2026.

Victoria suggested creating an application process for new stakeholders and proposed a new structure where representatives would find their own alternatives to attend meetings in their absence. The meeting focused on discussing changes to the Advisory Board's voting membership structure. Victoria explained that the group would shift to give voting rights primarily to funded organizations or key stakeholders who consistently attend meetings. It was noted that these changes would be made to the bylaws, not the joint powers agreement.

The Board approved a motion to modify the voting membership to better reflect constituent interests, with Julie E. making the motion and Julie D. providing a second.

**PATH Grant Review and Contract Update:** Bethany

Bethany provided an update on the PATH grant review and contract status. She reported that a recent DHS visit was successful, with clarification on services and positive feedback from outreach workers. The first contract for the current fiscal year ended on June 30th, but a renewal in the grant funding, with a new contract signed for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, is currently in place for PATH funding. Bethany also explained the PATH grant's purpose, which funds salaries, benefits, direct assistance, and administrative costs, with funds distributed to counties for outreach services to homeless individuals.

**2025 Unspent Dollars:** Diane

The board approved moving \$250,000 from the current budget, identified as unspent dollars for this year, to four priority areas: training, outreach and targeted case management, flex funds, and increasing service capacity. The board approved the motion to reallocate funds, with Julie E. making the motion and Julie D. seconding the motion.

**2026 Draft Budget:** Bethany

Bethany presented the 2026 draft budget, which will be similar to the current budget but with increased flex funds for housing and additional dollars for the outreach jail program. Plan to present Board with official budget for 2026 at next meeting in September. Board was in agreement with the direction of the draft budget, no motion or vote was done as they will vote on the official budget for 2026 during the next meeting.

Tony raised concerns about the underspending in non-MA ACT and non-MA arms services, which Bethany explained was due to a 6-month limitation on pre-approval forms and DHS's initial stance on long-term funding for non-MA services. Bethany noted that DHS has since retracted its statement, allowing AMHIs more flexibility in utilizing funds, and mentioned potential increased utilization in the future. It was also mentioned a shift in the number of ACT teams from three to two, smaller capacity served, and the success of expediting medical assistance applications, leading to cost savings. Julie shared that DHS Commissioner Gandhi clarified a previous misunderstanding regarding directives on grants, retracting the incorrect guidance given to AMHIs.

**Non-MA ARMHS Update:** Casie

The meeting focused on updates and discussions regarding medical assistance coverage, non-MA arms services, and billing processes. Julie E. expressed concerns about people falling off medical assistance and the need for retroactive coverage, while Bethany and Casie discussed the creation of an extension form for non-MA arms and peer support services to allow for longer service periods beyond the current 6-month limit. The group approved a motion to allow for 6-month extensions of non-MA arms and peer support services, and Bethany confirmed that billing issues with a provider had been resolved. The conversation ended with a plan to adjourn until the next scheduled meeting on September 4th.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- i. September 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm – Wright County Government Center, Room 1103 and via Zoom
- ii. November 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm – Wright County Government Center, Room 1103 and via Zoom

**Adjournment:** Sandi S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Julie D. seconded. All in favor, meeting adjourned.