

Minutes

Mental Health Advisory Council

Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, Justice Center Rm. 86 and 87

Attendees:

Members:	☒ Carl Harju*	☒ Sandra Greninger*
☐ Cathy Elfstrand*	☒ Breanna Heintzelman*	☒ Tammi Dahlman*
☒ Caroline Malone*	☐ Bradley Gangnon*	☐ Kaylee Knight* (Excused)
☒ Shauntel Fett*	☐ Kelly Hildre*	☒ Commissioner Jeanne Holland*
☒ Mark Daleiden*	*=MHAC Member (12 Members) (Need minimum of 7 for quorum)	

HHS Staff Attendees: Tarynn Anderson, Kelsey Brandt, Mariah Lenz Sharping, Jill Pooler, Diane Erkens, Chad Miller

Other Attendees: Leon Flack (UCare), Bethany Oberg (CAMHI), Gary Sprynczynatyk (BCBS), Alisa Ledoux (Salvation Army), Tom Feddema (Probation), Stacy Doyle (WCSO), Jane Wilka-Pauly (Optum), Sara Blanchette (CMMHC)

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Committee has 12 voting members as of 11.07.2023
2. Approval of the Agenda (any additions no additions) – Mark motioned to the agenda, Breanna second. Approved.
3. Approval of MHAC Minutes from September 2023 – No corrections, Commissioner Holland motioned to the minutes, Breanna second. Approved.
4. Sub-committee reports
 - a. MAPP – Public Health Representative – Potential removal due to no updates in some time. Commissioner Holland motioned to remove, Tammi second. Approved.
 - b. Suicide Prevention Grant Update – Keith B. – The county did not receive the grant ongoing from the state of feds, could be removed from updates. Commissioner Holland motioned to remove the grant portion, Breanna second. Approved. Trainings will continue in the community, even without ongoing funding.
 - Gretchen B. forwarded an email from Keith B. with public health updates on 11.08.2023.
 - Keith is unable to attend today, 11.14.2023, due to prior commitments.
 - c. Homelessness Task Force Committee – Tarynn Anderson, Diane Erkens and Commissioner Jeanne Holland - Group got together to figure out where to start. At last meeting they took a poll on what is needed. Will continue to gather information on what needs should be focused on. Commissioner Holland advised that a Planner has taken on the role of running the meeting. Wanting to pinpoint with information gathering on what the term “homeless” means as some are couch hopping or going from home to home. Breanna advised that more support is needed, not just a county level. Leon Flack talked about emergency assistance and whether it was just for families or if it was for individuals. Jill P. confirmed that it is for both. Jill P. added that it could also be considered unmet needs.
5. Unmet Needs and Possible Solutions Discussion – Carl went over the list with the group. Carl asked if there were any more.

- a. Cell phone/internet availability for clients to use telehealth services, possible solutions include grant funding, local library for general internet use, some PMAP's provide cell phones or minutes to clients, emergency phone program.
 - b. A volunteer is needed to present the MHAC Unmet Needs List from 2023 to the Board in February 2024 – Gary BCBS asked why Feb was chosen and if May (mental health month) would be better. Sandy G advised that if no one is willing to do so, she will do it if she is given all the information. Presentation to the board annually is statutorily required. The presentation can be moved to May. Supervisors cannot present this information as it is a community group. Sandy G volunteered to present.
 - c. Commissioner Holland made a motion to present the unmet needs list in May, Tammi second. Jill P asked if this should be added to the agenda going forward to ensure Sandy G has all the information that is needed. Unmet needs list will be updated from past minutes/agendas to include needs/gaps and possible solutions discussions from past meetings.
 - d. Commissioner Holland asked about the grant for laundry. There have been 2 laundry events so far (Buffalo and Monticello, possibly Albertville). Alisa talked about what is offered at the Evangelical Free Church (washer, dryer, shower). Carl asked if asking if donations for laundry gift cards would be a good idea and consensus was yes, many homeless clients need laundry assistance.
 - e. Breanna advised that they just hired a new teenage provider, mentioned that they are out of space. Mentioned that for the solution list could be looking at getting people back into school or those just graduating high school to go to college for this line of work. Breanna advised on the affordable therapy with 5 free therapy sessions for both children and adults with Bridging Hope.
 - f. Sandy G advised that she connected with Northwest Counselling to get 6 sessions free for children through the United Way grant. (Monticello, Buffalo, Albertville, Knights' Academy). Billing and invoicing are done through the schools. All slots are filled.
6. Action Items - none
 7. Information sharing
 - a) Co-responder – Diane
 - i. Pilot went great this summer. Board approved for co-responder to be full time, received grant funding. Social Worker Kaylyn Sayen and Deputy Gretchen Gottsacker are primary staff. Chad Miller is the new adult outreach worker; he has been trained on Co-responder as well and will fill in for Kaylyn when needed. 2 other Deputies are trained in as well to back up Gretchen when needed. Dispatchers are aware of co-responders and deputies can make referrals as well. Co-responders are equipped with resources. Chad introduced himself. Leon asked if there are fixed schedules. Diane confirmed its 8am-4pm, with flexibility to begin later if needed.
 - b. Bethany – Upcoming trainings at www.MNmentalhealth.org free all day trainings regarding community-based services. Benton, Stearns, Sherburne, and Wright County. Next training is Wed. 2.21.24 in Park Event Center, in Waite Park. Save the date will be sent out. To sign up for ongoing emails, click “get connected” on the website.
 - c. Sara B from Crisis – available 24/7. Training new staff and will be expanding for more beds once staff are up and running, max is 9 beds. Staff were transferred from the IRTS facility that is currently on a “pause” until mid-February.

Jan 9th is next meeting.

Commissioner Holland motioned to adjourn. Breanna and Sandy G second.