

Minutes

Mental Health Advisory Council

Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, GC 1105

Attendees:

Members:	☒ Cathy Elfstrand*	☒ Sandra Greninger*
☒ Bradley Gangnon*	☒ Commissioner Jeanne Holland *	☐ Shauntel Fett*(A)
☒ Breanna Heintzelman*	☐ Kirk Wulf* (E)	☒ Shirwa Adan*
☒ Carl Harju*	☒ Mark Daleiden*	☒ Tammi Dahlman*
☐ Caroline Malone*(A)	(E) = Excused	(Need minimum of 7 for quorum)
	(A) = Absent	*=MHAC Member (12 Members)

HHS Staff Attendees: Michelle Miller, Diane Erkens, Gretchen Backer, Kelsey Altepeter, Joel Torkelson

Other Attendees: Michele Luehring, Sten Wall, Faith Rohde, Alisa Ledoux, Krissy Eich, Sara Blanchette, Gary Sprynczynatyk, Hannah-Ruth Patterson, Keith Bennett, Bethany Oberg

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of the Agenda (any additions)
 - a) Motion to approve by Mark D., Second by Cathy E., Motion carries.
3. Approval of MHAC Minutes from November 2023 and January 2024
 - a) Motion to approve November 2023 and January 2024 minutes by Tammy D., Second Mark D., Motion carries.
 - b) No quorum was in attendance for January meeting, November 2023 minutes need to be approved in this meeting (March 2024)
4. Sub-committee reports
 - a) Homelessness Task Force Committee now known as Homelessness Workgroup – Tarynn Anderson, Diane Erkens, Commissioner Jeanne Holland and Joel Torkelson
 - The Homelessness Workgroup meets the first Tuesday of the month from 3:00 to 4:00pm at the Government Center, along with a virtual option. The group is working to address three specific goals in 2024: PIT Count, exploring a Housing Coordinator position within HHS and hosting a resource/informational day in the fall related to housing needs. MHAC members are welcome to join our meetings if interested.
5. Unmet Needs and Possible Solutions Discussion
 - a) Unmet Needs List to be presented to the Board on 05.07.2024 at 9:00 am. Sandra G., volunteered to make presentation of the list.
 - b) Review the 2023 Unmet Needs List
 - Update as needed prior to the May 7th Board meeting
6. Information sharing
 - a) Bethany Oberg – CAMHI
 - Upcoming trainings:
 - i. Housing 101 on April 17th in Elk River, 10-12, no registration required
 - ii. April 18th, training at St. Cloud library 2-3:30, intro on trauma

- iii. Speaker on personal journey on mental health Thursday 23, May – at Monticello Community Center – no link yet for registration
 - iv. Go to MNmentalhealth.org and you can register to receive emails from Adult Mental Health Resource guide which is now in 4 languages – available online and PDF versions, no printed copies yet. (English, Spanish, Somali and Russian)
7. Sandra G. – FYCC
- a) Received a Wright County United Way grant for mental health
 - Used to provide services to students in Knights academy, 1:1, 1-hour long sessions through the school year to work on long term therapy sessions.
8. Keith Bennett – Wright County Public Health
- a) Wright County Public Health has been Awarded the Minnesota Community Suicide Prevention Grant. In response to a call for proposals by the Minnesota Department of Health in 2023, aimed at addressing community-based suicide prevention within the state, Wright County Public Health submitted a proposal for a Comprehensive Suicide Prevention initiative. This project aims to develop and assess a comprehensive suicide prevention model within a specific community facing high needs and risks. The grant will prioritize approaches encompassing trauma-informed care, preventing access to lethal means, and providing education on suicide prevention. Valued at \$400,000 over four years, the grant is scheduled to commence in mid-2024, extending through 2027. Wright County Public Health is eager to leverage this grant to enhance its suicide prevention initiatives, fostering enduring well-being in the community. Further details will be shared as the project unfolds later this year.
9. Michelle Miller – Wright County
- a) Community Child Safety Committee, Wright for Families, family resource model that will be started here in wright county, grant received last November, looking to open family resource centers in Wright county. Community based hubs that could be bringing services in (parenting classes, mental health services, housing resources, financial, -- whatever community identified as needs) – partnering with WCCA, WCCA is the lead agency for this project. Finished a community survey and family survey. Flyers are being printed out with a QR code on it. Scan QR code and answer survey to help get ball rolling on community identified needs. Sauer Family Foundation provides funds for the start up fees to help get the resource centers up and running.
10. Gary – BCBS Blue Plus
- a) Safe Link Wireless: A free smartphone, 3GB and 350 monthly minutes. Unlimited text messages and free calls to Blue Plus Member Services that will not count toward the 350 minutes.
 - b) Healthy Rewards Program, client and family members can earn rewards for completing certain healthy activities.
 - c) BlueRide – transportation assistance for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation is available to some members.
 - d) BCBSMN Operations Internal – includes claims processing. Taking things SLOW & DELIBERATE with initial runs and ramping up to larger claims processing.
 - e) Blue Plus continues to support and advocate for RENEWALS for Medical Assistance/Medicaid. Counties were notified that with coverage ending for numbers of Blue Plus members, Explanations of Benefit notices were sent informing people that they were personally now responsible for some medical claims as they no longer had benefits. In many cases, these individuals will call their county worker. Hopefully, on the positive side, people will re-enroll and coverage will be reinstated and claims will again be covered.

- f) Doctor on Demand: “no waiting room” for both virtual medical and with appointment, mental health supports. 24 hours a day/7 days a week; 365 days a year.
- 11. Cathy E. asks about help for seniors with HC renewals – referred to WCCA to their resource navigator.
- 12. River of Hope – Hannah-Ruth Patterson
 - a) Serving record number of youth experiencing domestic violence. Rivers of Hope can go in to the school to offer services without parental consent.
 - b) River of Hope Gala is on April 26th, tickets will be posted on social media, watch for those to be available.
- 13. Shirwa – Credent Care
 - a) Credent Care provides Housing Stabilization Services, Adult Rehabilitation and Mental Health Services, Integrated Community Support, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver, and Adult Day Services. Initially, our services were intended to meet the growing needs of communities of color and immigrant and refugee populations in the St Cloud area. However, our staff and clients now both reflect the diversity of Central MN communities. Our main office is in St Cloud MN with Facilities in both Stearns and Benton counties.

Motion to adjourn made by Bradley G., second by Mark D., motion carries. Meeting ends 3:21 pm

****Next MHAC meeting: Tuesday, May 14, 2024****