

Attendees:

Members (marked box indicates *Present*):

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|---|---|
| ☒ Antl, Linda (Chair) | ☒ Harju, Carl |
| ☒ Dahlman, Tammi | ☒ Holland, Jeanne |
| ☒ Eskridge, Lashale | ☒ Nibbe, Vickie |
| ☒ Goodrum, Jami | ☒ Ray-Mader, Jennifer |
| | ☒ Tyler, Jeremy |

HHS Staff Attendees: Joel Torkelson, Dara, Jami, Michelle Miller, Greg Wise, Tarynn Anderson, Kim Johnson

Goodrum called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

1. Goodrum called for election of officers for 2025-2026:

a. Chair

- i. **ACTION:** Tyler nominated himself for Chair. Nomination closed. Motion carries

b. Vice-Chair

- i. **ACTION:** Dahlman called for and closed nomination for Nibbe as vice chair. Motion carries

2. Approve 2024-07-30 and 2024-09-30 Minutes

ACTION: Dahlman moved, Tyler second, to approve the July and September minutes. Motion carries

3. Antl presided the meeting at 2:35 p.m. calling for approval of the agenda

ACTION: Tyler moved, Dahlman second, to approve the agenda. Motion carries

4. Mental Health Advisory Council Update (Carl Harju, ~~Diane Erkens~~, Tarynn Anderson)

a. Rescheduled November 11 meeting to November 18 due to holiday

b. Introduction of new members; acknowledgment of resigning members

c. Two-year Community Support Grant for Community Adult Mental Health Initiative (CAMHI) – 2025-2026

i. HHSAC Q&A

1. How much and how is it used? Jami will forward the previous CAMHI minutes to the HHSAC group

a. \$189,321 each year – *source: 2024-11-12 MHAC minutes*

b. Covered areas include adult outreach, transportation, basic living and social skills, adult general case management

c. Allocations for billboards, housing, mental health crisis line, outreach staffing

2. How much of the funding goes toward housing support?

a. No specific information currently

b. Wright County HHS received funding from Reaching Rural Grant for a Housing Coordinator Social Worker position for 2025 – this position

handles case management for homeless clients, working with landlords, community partners for better infrastructure

3. There is lack of funding for single adults facing homelessness; lack of participation from private landlords toward publicly funded housing, which poses a challenge to HHS

- a. Landlords have options to take high-risks clients; changes would have to come from the state level

- ii. Updates and information sharing:

1. [Community Connect](#) event statistics
 2. Point in Time count coming up in January
 3. CAMHI Safetalk Training on December 4, Wright County Government Center
 4. UCare hosting a virtual event on Housing Stabilization Services
 5. New St. Michael Albertville pantry opening December 9
 6. Northwest Family Counseling opened a new office in Buffalo

5. Public Health Task Force Update (Dr. Jennifer Ray-Mader, Sarah Grosshuesch)

- a. Dental program funding decommissioned as the new grant offered by BCBS would only cover a portion of the year's allocation
 - i. Benton County, having a new clinic and dental program, accepted the grant from BCBS and will be partnering with Wright County staff as part of regional dental coverage
 - b. Drug Fee Community Grant update
 - c. Water Testing Accreditation update
 - d. Acknowledgement and Recognition of Service: Dr. Ray-Mader is Resigning at End of Term in January
 - i. Dr. Mader joined Public Health Task Force and the HHS Advisory Committee in 1996
 - ii. Dr. Mader has been instrumental in spearheading and conceptualizing the Wellness on Wheels (WOW) Van program as well as the current Wright County Dental Clinic
 - iii. PHTF and HHSAC invite Dr. Mader to the January or February County Board
 - iv. Dr. Mader commended the Public Health and HHS staff and the Agency's commitment to community service

6. Open Forum:

- a. Housing Workgroup Update (Joel Torkelson)
 - i. Housing Workgroup Disbanded
 1. The Housing Workgroup ceased meeting as of November – handing off the reins to people that work with community housing for better use of time – the Housing Stability Group will start meeting soon
 - a. Three goals in 2024 accomplished
 - i. Recommend hiring a Housing Coordinator position – the board approved for 2025 hire
 1. Commissioner Holland working on legislation proposals for homeowner association management group
 - a. There are systemic foreclosures due association rules

- ii. Encourage school district participation in the annual Point in Time count for homelessness
 - iii. Co-host a [Community Connect Event](#) in the fall of 2024
- 2. Pods in St. Cloud – any updates?
 - a. No date on opening date; Avivo group coming back to counties – Stearns, Benton, Sherburne - for additional support; depends on Board decision for funding
- 3. Reminder on the upcoming Point in Time (PIT) count in January
- b. Presentation: [Community Conversations Focus Group](#) (Joel Torkelson, Greg Wise)
 - i. In partnership with Wright County Community Action (WCCA)/Headstart, 19 people participated in this survey targeting populations who are largely missed during community health survey – mostly younger adults with children and Spanish population
 - ii. Participants are from Buffalo and Monticello areas
- c. Update: WCCA – Family Resource Center (Michelle Miller, WCCA)
 - i. Wright County received another grant for the next two years from the Sauer Family Foundation in the amount of \$222,241
 - ii. WCCA spearheads the program in collaboration with Wright County HHS and other community leaders to explore, assess and implement Family Resource Centers in Wright County. Family Resource Centers are centralized support services focused on incentivizing and strengthening families through access to much needed services
 - 1. In the process of hiring a Coordinator in Family Resource Centers
 - iii. First activities in Howard Lake next week
 - iv. Plan to apply for the next round of Sauer Family Foundation Grant funding to secure space
 - v. Goal for the next two years: hire Cultural Navigators serving the Spanish and African immigrant population
- d. Update: 2024-09-25 MACSSA (Kim Johnson)
 - i. Legislative positions – three positions passed
 - 1. Child Care program improvement to eliminate waitlist
 - 2. Administrative simplification
 - 3. Emergency Assistance funding
 - ii. Wright County Medical Assistance (MA) unwinding statistics
 - 1. Enrollees
 - a. Due – 20,477
 - b. Auto-renewed – 11,718
 - c. Manually processed – 5,301
 - d. In Progress – 10
 - e. Not yet processed – 1,228
 - f. Retained in MHCP – 3,482
 - 2. Cases
 - a. Due – 11,171
 - b. Auto-reviewed – 6,018

- c. Manually processed – 3,330
- d. In Progress – 4
- e. Not yet processed – 770
- f. Retained in MHCP – 8,505
- g. Disenrolled from MHCP – 2,389

7. Items for Next Meeting

- a. Opioid Settlement Update
- b. Cannabis Update
- c. Legislative Updates

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

2025 Meeting Dates:

(2:30 – 4:00 p.m., 2nd Monday, Odd Month)

1/13
3/10
5/12
7/14
9/8
11/10