



Minutes

Mental Health Advisory Council

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, GC 1105

Attendees:

Members:	☒ Jacquelyn Bergo (R)	☒ Shirwa Adan* (R)
☒ Angela Lamarche*	☐ Kelli Douglas* (U)	☐ Tammi Dahlman* (E)
☒ Breanna Heintzelman*	☐ Kirk Wulf* (E)	☐ Whitney McElhone* (U)
☒ Carl Harju*	☒ Mikki Northuis*	(E)=Excused
☒ Cathy Elfstrand*	☐ Natalie McClory* (E)	(U)=Unexcused
☐ Commissioner Kirby Moynagh*	☐ Sandra Greninger* (U)	(R)=Attended Remotely
		*=MHAC Member (14 Members)
		(Need minimum of 8 for quorum)

HHS Staff Attendees: Michelle Miller, Gretchen Backer, Keith Bennett, Diane Erkens

Others in Attendance: Bethany Oberg, Brienne Elstad (R), Teri Savoie (R), Madison Rapacz, Gary S., Nikki Knowles, Stacy Doyle, Faith Rhode, Lindsay Nelson (R), Caroline Bachun

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. New Members:
 - i. Angela Lamarche introduction
 1. New to group and looking to learn from MHAC
 - ii. Jacquelyn Bergo introduction
 1. Part of Public Health Task Force
 2. Works at Buffalo Hospital ER
2. Approval of the Agenda (any additions)
 - a. No quorum, cannot approve agenda
3. Approval of MHAC Minutes from November 2024
 - a. No quorum, cannot approve minutes
4. Election for Chair and Vice Chairperson
 - a. Per MHAC Bylaws:
 - i. Offices and Terms: The officers of the Council shall be a chairperson and a vice chairperson who must be a Council members elected by the Council. The officers shall serve a term of two (2) years or until their respective successors are elected. New officers will assume office in March of odd numbered years, unless a special election is required to fill a vacancy.
 - ii. Election of Officers: Elections will be held in January of odd numbered years. Special Elections may be called by the Council as needed.
 - b. No Quorum – unable to vote and/or approve new Chair or Vice Chair
5. Sub-committee reports
 - a. Youth Subcommittee – Committee Representative to discuss

- i. Mikki N. – The group has met 3 times as this point.
 - 1. Discussions have been vast
 - a. Main focus now is student education
 - b. 2 Be Continued program
 - i. Looking to get this program into Wright County schools
 - ii. “Dancing Like the Stars” gala is upcoming to raise funds for this program
 - 1. Location is out of Glencoe
 - iii. Keith Bennett offered help to get program more distributed into Wright Co. schools
6. Unmet Needs and Possible Solutions Discussion
 - a. Unmet Needs list for 2024-25 will be presented to the board on Tuesday May 6th 2025. Generally, the meetings begin at 9:00 with a presentation around 9:15. Carl H. volunteered to present the Unmet Needs List to the Board.
 - b. Angela L. spoke of personal experience with time of crisis and wishing there were more options for places to turn or resources to contact during a crisis.
 - i. Cathy E. discussed the Co-Responder Program and emphasized how great the Wright County Co-Responder Program is
 - ii. Diane explained process of how the Co-Responders are called to a situation if it is outside of the county’s jurisdiction
 - 1. Exp.: If the call is in Buffalo, Buffalo PD would have to request for the dispatch to go to the Co Responder team – many factors are reviewed prior to sending the Co Responder team
 - iii. Bethany O. discussed CAMHI scholarships in the past that have been used to fund law enforcement offers to attend crisis trainings, many scholarships have been used to send Wright County deputies to these events.
 - 1. Cathy E. requested info on the Minnesota CIT from Bethany
7. Action Items
 - a. N/A
8. Information Sharing
 - a. Children’s Mental Health Resource Guide updated – Michelle Miller
 - i. Handed out paper copies to those who wished to take one
 - ii. Both the adult and children’s resources guides have recently been updated and maintained out on the county webpage
 - iii. Keith Bennett said they will be shared to school districts
 - b. Keith Bennett – Wright County Suicide Prevention Grant is partnering with Resource Training and Solutions (A Minnesota Service Cooperative)
 - i. Trauma-Informed, Resilient Schools Trainings
 - 1. Available at no cost for FY25-28 for all Wright County Schools, due to partnership funding
 - c. PIT (Point in Time) recap – Diane Erkens
 - i. Preliminary numbers received from central continuum of care
 - 1. In Wright Co. preliminary numbers show an approximate number of 76 total counted in the point in time count. These numbers are not exact as it takes about 6 months to get final numbers back from HUD.
 - 2. Agencies across the county participated in this count

3. 53 school districts were reported this year across the entire CoC, with only 13 reporting last year. Wright County school districts did an amazing job with a huge increase in participation over last year.
 - d. DHS Mental Health Advisory Council – Carl Harju
 - i. Email that went out on 02.26.2025 regarding the DHS Mental Health Advisory Council, meet the first Wednesday of each month with virtual options. Also offer a local children’s advisory council.
 - ii. Bethany discussed how other counties have advertised their MHAC and talked about a meet and greet over a lunch hour with snacks and refreshments, etc.
 - iii. Carl H. will plan to attend an upcoming DHS MHAC to learn more on their meetings and council process
 - iv. Gary S. mentioned other county committees where he attends and thought that Wright Co. is doing a good job with our MHAC as we have commissioners who are regularly attending our meetings
 - e. CAMHI – Bethany O.
 - i. May 6th training, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, charging \$20 fee to attend which includes lunch and CEUs, hoping to have registration up soon
 1. Speakers:
 - a. Jerrid Sebesta
 - b. Drew Moldenhauer & Richard Webb
 - c. Chris Hawkey and more
 - ii. Reminder to go sign up for notifications on the CAMHI webpage – gets you auto enrolled to receive notifications about trainings being offered
 1. Carl H. encouraged all to attend CAMHI trainings
 - iii. Thursday June 26th, at Monti Community Center, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm on guardianship and conservatorship and decision making, 2 CEUs being offered.
 - f. Carl H. – Adult Foster Care Division
 - i. AHL Healthcare is opening a mental health clinic in Duluth. The hope is if that location does well, the discussion of opening another location in the west metro will happen. It is possible that the northeastern part of Wright County could be that location. More to come.
9. Next MHAC meeting will be May 13, 2025, at 2:30 pm

No Quorum for meeting, unable to adjourn.