

Minutes

Mental Health Advisory Council

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, GC 1105

Attendees:

Members:	☒ Elizabeth (Skye) Handt*	☐ Shirwa Adan* - (E)
☐ Angela Lamarche* - (E)	☒ Jacquelyn Bergo* (R)	☒ Tammi Dahlman*
☒ Breanna Heintzelman*	☐ Kelli Douglas*(U)	☐ Whitney McElhone*(U)
☒ Brienne Elstad*	☒ Kirk Wulf*	(E)=Excused
☒ Carl Harju*	☒ Mikki Northuis*(R)	(U)=Unexcused
☒ Cathy Elfstrand*	☒ Natalie McClory*	(R)=Attended Remotely
☒ Commissioner Kirby Moynagh*	☐ Sandra Greninger*(U)	*=MHAC Member (16 Members)
		(Need minimum of 9 for quorum)

HHS Staff Attendees: Kelsey Altepeter, Diane Erkens, Tarynn Anderson, Keith Bennett, Jill Pooler, Lindsay Nelson (Health Partners), Gary (BCBS), Leon flack (UCare),

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. New Members:
 - i. Commissioner Kirby Moynagh introduction
 - ii. Whitney McElhone introduction – Not in attendance
 - iii. Kelli Douglas introduction
 - iv. Elizabeth Handt introduction
 - v. Brienne Elstad introduction
2. Approval of the Agenda (any additions) – Tammi Moved, Cathy Seconded – Approved.
3. Approval of MHAC Minutes from November 2024 *and* March 2025 – Tammi Moved, Breanna seconded – Approved.
4. Election for Chair and Vice Chairperson - Tammi moved to keep as is, Cathy seconded – Approved for Carl to stay Chair. Kirby motioned to have Tammi as vice chair, Carl Seconded – Approved Tammi as Vice Chair.
 - 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.
5. Sub-committee reports
 - a. Youth Subcommittee – Committee Representative – Keith Bennett, Public Health – Grantee implementation plan – 988, Training Coordination and Network,

Comprehensive Suicide prevention, and Regional Suicide prevention. Next meeting is June 4th, 2025. Public Health is creating a flyer to pass out, so far, they may have 1 youth as a member. Age range for members is 13-18. Once a month there are meetings. College students can be members as well. So far stipends or payment is being discussed for joining. There are Grant resources available for this as well.

6. Unmet Needs and Possible Solutions Discussion

a. Discuss how the presentation of the 2024 Unmet Needs List to the Board went on 05.06.2025

- i. Carl H. went through the Unmet needs list.
- ii. Diane asked if there were any new Unmet needs that should be added. Carl H. advised that they do have until next year to compile a new list.
 1. More clinicians
 2. Inpatient & outpatient beds/services
 3. Need for more harm reduction programs
 4. Group reimbursement rate/member

7. Action Items

- a. Quorum/attendance discussion for voting members. – Recruit Youth members as there isn't an age requirement.
 - i. Please remember the importance of your attendance as a voting member. Without a quorum, the meeting agenda and prior meeting minutes cannot be approved. Any item that needs voting cannot take place without a meeting quorum. We were unable to vote for chair/vice chairperson in March due to not having a quorum in attendance. If you are unable to make the meeting (as a voting member), please send Gretchen Backer an email to let her know of your absence.
 - ii. From the MHAC By-laws: Article III: "Any member with three consecutive unexcused absences or otherwise not fulfilling his/her duties may be excused by a majority vote of members present" (See below snip from by-laws)

5. Vacancies. A vacancy in the Council shall occur upon the inability to serve or resignation of a Council member. Vacancies may also occur if a Council member moves out of, ceases services in the county, or upon the completion of term. Any member with three consecutive unexcused absences or otherwise not fulfilling his/her duties may be excused by a majority vote of members present.

iii. Voting Members are:

Members:

☐ Angela Lamarche*

☐ Breanna Heintzelman*

☐ Brienne Elstad*

☐ Carl Harju*

☐ Cathy Elfstrand*

☐ Commissioner Kirby

Moynagh*

☐ Elizabeth Handt*

☐ Jacquelyn Bergo*

☐ Kelli Douglas*

☐ Kirk Wulf*

☐ Mikki Northuis*

☐ Natalie McClory*

☐ Sandra Greninger*

☐ Shirwa Adan*

☐ Tammi Dahlman*

☐ Whitney McElhone*

(E)=Excused

(U)=Unexcused

(R)=Attended Remotely

*=MHAC Member (16 Members)

(Need minimum of 9 for quorum)

8. Information Sharing –

- a. Diane - Advised that May is Mental Health month, there is a lobby display with a bunch of resources. Bethany from CAMHII looking for a new advocate, they do 6 meetings per year, the advocate is provided with a stipend/mileage. Free training for Guardianship in June 2025.

- b. Kirk W. - Advised on mental health first aid. It was first started for teachers. It's listed on the Buffalo High school professional development website. Working to get people off social media. Looking for sponsors to help keep it at no cost
 - c. Brienne - Advised that they have a new Peer Support specialist at Functional, however, you cannot be on MA coverage.
 - d. Gary from BCBS - Advised on new Behavioral health providers that are supported by Blue Cross – Charlie Health and Equip (eating disorder treatment plans)
 - e. Breanna H.- Advised on a 10 week program for 13 year olds doing Group therapy – DBT. It's one day a week Buffalo – Mondays and Rogers - Wednesdays
 - f. Lindsay from HealthPartners – Webinar scheduled 5/22 for Make it OK program. Staff did create a new tool kit for mental health month.
 - g. Jill P. – Advised that she appreciated the information sharing at the end as it shows that progress is being made.
9. Next MHAC meeting will be September 9, 2025, at 2:30 pm

Tammi motioned to adjourn the meeting, Cathy seconded. – approved.