



Minutes

Mental Health Advisory Council

Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, GC 1105

Attendees:

Members:

☒ Angela Lamarche*

☒ Breanna Heintzelman*

☒ Brienne Elstad*

☒ Carl Harju*

☒ Cathy Elfstrand*

☒ Commissioner Kirby
Moynagh*

☐ Elizabeth Handt*(U)

☒ Jacquelyn Bergo*

☐ Kelli Douglas*(E)

☐ Kirk Wulf*(U)

☐ Mikki Northuis*(E)

☒ Natalie McClory*

☒ Shirwa Adan*

☒ Tammi Dahlman*(R)

☐ Whitney McElhone*(U)

(E)=Excused

(U)=Unexcused

(R)=Attended Remotely

*=MHAC Member (15 Members)

(Need minimum of 8 for quorum)

HHS Staff Attendees: Gretchen Backer, Jill Pooler, Michelle Miller, Keith Bennett

Others in Attendance: Andrew Warren, Faith Rhode, Laura Duhn, Charity Mealman, Stacy Doyle, Hannah Ruth Patterson

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of the Agenda (any additions)
 - a. Tammi D. moved, Seconded by Cathy E. Motion carries.
3. Approval of MHAC Minutes from 05.13.2025
 - a. Cathy E. moved, Seconded by Brienne E. Motion carries.
4. Charlie Health presentation – Andrew Warren
 - a. Power Point presentation of Charlie Health Services
5. Sub-committee reports
 - a. Youth Subcommittee – Committee Representative – Keith Bennett
 - i. Youth mental health coalition, looking to have youth members join this committee. Established coalition in May 2025, coalition met over the summer to organize foundation of the committee. Hoping to have an action plan by the end of 2025. Looking to add more youth members. A flyer has been created for the youth recruitment piece.
 - ii. Youth Subcommittee is not officially a subcommittee of MHAC at this point. Does committee want to move forward with this being an official subcommittee? If so, this will be added to the agenda for November 2025
 1. Do we require youth members, who would be voting members, to attend?
 - a. Gretchen mentions quorum and requirements of committee members to attend meetings
 2. Look at amending by-laws?
 3. If you know if any youth who may be interested in being members of the youth subcommittee, please let Keith Bennett know.
6. Unmet Needs and Possible Solutions Discussion

- a. Always the issue of never enough providers or beds
 - b. Seeing a decrease in children services social workers – seeing a decrease in qualified providers, social workers, etc. in the mental health field
- 7. Action Items
 - a. Housing Stabilization issues happening – Carl inquires if we are seeing anything happening out in our area?
- 8. Information Sharing
 - a. Bethany O.
 - i. QPR training, online coming up – Bethany will email to Gretchen
 - ii. All day training – Oct. 22 in Waite Park
 - 1. The registration link is available online, free training! Link on calendar section on the CAMHI website. More info to come.
 - b. Natalie M. –
 - i. Ucare is cancelling 160,000 Medicare plans
 - c. Foua Khang will be coming in place of Gary from BCBS to MHAC effective November 2025
 - d. Keith B. –
 - i. If you know of any youth who would like to join the subcommittee – contact Keith Bennett
 - e. Carl H. compliments Wright County on their MHAC, said the committee here is run smoothy.
 - i. Suggests we encourage more members of lived experience join the committee, Wright County is currently very provider heavy on voting members
 - f. Michelle Miller
 - i. Meetings will be moving to a Teams format; Wright County will no longer be using Zoom.
 - g. Michelle Miller on behalf of Diane Erkens:
 - i. Starting August 1st, there is to be no billing to clients to get crisis services. The provider can still bill their insurance company, but if they don't cover the full cost or if there is a co-pay, they can't bill the client. This does not apply to residential per info shared in the meeting.

Updates to Statute 245.469: Emergency Services

- Chapter 38, Article 4, Section 8: Effective August 1, 2025

Subdivision 1. **Availability of emergency services.**

(a) County boards must provide or contract for enough emergency services within the county to meet the needs of adults, children, and families in the county who are experiencing an emotional crisis or mental illness. Clients must not be charged for services provided. Emergency service providers must ~~not delay the timely provision of emergency services to a client because of the unwillingness or inability of the client to pay for services~~ meet the qualifications under section 256B.0624, subdivision 4. Emergency services must include assessment, crisis intervention, and appropriate case disposition. Emergency services must:

- (1) promote the safety and emotional stability of each client;
- (2) minimize further deterioration of each client;
- (3) help each client to obtain ongoing care and treatment;
- (4) prevent placement in settings that are more intensive, costly, or restrictive than necessary and appropriate to meet client needs; and
- (5) provide support, psychoeducation, and referrals to each client's family members, service providers, and other third parties on behalf of the client in need of emergency services.

(b) If a county provides engagement services under section 253B.041, the county's emergency service providers must refer clients to engagement services when the client meets the criteria for engagement services.

9. Next MHAC meeting will be **November 18, 2025**. *Take note this is the 3rd Tuesday of the month to accommodate the holiday the week prior.*

Motion to adjourn Breanna H., Nathalie M. seconded. Motion carries