

Attendees:

Members (marked box indicates *Present*):

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Adan, Shirwa (excused) | ☐ Nibbe, Vickie (Vice Chair) (excused) |
| ☒ Antl, Linda | ☐ Schaefer, Karin (excused) |
| ☒ Bobrowske, Dennis | ☐ Schuger, Maria |
| ☐ Dahlman, Tammi (excused) | ☒ Schmitz, Nicki |
| ☒ Goodrum, Jami | ☒ Tyler, Jeremy (Chair) |
| ☒ Harju, Carl | ☐ Williams, Shane (excused) |
| ☒ King, Ronnie | |
| ☒ Moynagh, Kirby | |

HHS Staff Attendees:

Tarynn Anderson, Diane Erkens, Michelle Miller, James O'Dell, Kim Johnson, Jill Pooler

The Chair opened the regular meeting at 2:30 PM

1. Welcome New Member
 - a. Ronnie King, Salvation Army
2. Approve 2025-09-08 and 2025-11-10 Minutes
 - a. ACTION: Antl moved, second Harju, to approve the 2025-09-08 minutes. Motion carries
 - b. ACTION: Harju moved, Antl second, to approve the 2025-11-10 minutes. Motion carries
3. Review and Approval of Agenda
4. Discuss Meeting Days for 2026 – Mondays Conflict with Some Members
 - a. **CONSENSUS:** Third Tuesday, 2:30 effective March 17
5. Mental Health Advisory Council Update (Carl Harju, Diane Erkens, Tarynn Anderson)
 - a. Proposed amendment to the MHAC bylaws for county board approval: add one active youth member from Wright County
 - b. Capitol Mental Health (a 144-bed adult psychiatric facility) presentation at tomorrow's MHAC meeting
 - c. Detox center in St. Cloud closed its operations on January 1, 2026
 - d. Homelessness Point in Time survey on January 28 – PIT count is a national effort to identify and survey individuals who are experiencing homelessness
6. Public Health Task Force Update (Sarah Grosshuesch)
 - a. January is Radon Action Month. Presentation by Health Promotion Coordinator Laura Walter on radon basics and its impact on health
 - b. Presentation by Health Promotion Coordination Kai Sin on Healthy Aging
 - c. Presentation by Health Promotion Coordinator Megan Coleman on Statewide Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)
 - i. 87 counties receive funding; \$315K annual allocation

- ii. Will put together a summary of 2025 achievements and publish them on the website
- d. Member resignation; two upcoming new members
- 7. MN Council on Disability (MCD) Update (Jeremy Tyler)
 - a. Substantial turnover, including chair and vice chair. Seeking strategies for retention and participation
 - b. Met four times in 2025; to move to bi-monthly in 2026
 - c. Jeremy plans to meet with local and state representatives in the coming months – seeks and welcomes input on issues on how to best serve Minnesotans with disabilities
 - d. Issues brought to MCD: Outdated computer system and infrastructure are susceptible to fraud and inaccuracies, costing astronomical amounts of taxpayer dollars
- 8. Open Forum:
 - a. Presented the [2026 Legislative Priorities](#) to MN Legislators this morning
 - i. Outdated technology system and infrastructure
 - ii. MnCHOICES Streamlining
 - 1. Simplify processes/reduce redundancies
 - 2. WCHHS currently has no waiting list after a long time with clients on wait list
 - iii. MN African American Family Preservation Act and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (referred to as The Act)
 - 1. 2027 implementation not realistic; unfunded mandates
 - a. Current litigation in Hennepin
 - i. Hennepin and Ramsey received \$2.5M in 2025
 - 2. Increases child protection workload by 65% - increased reporting requirements, data requirement per child, which are not currently captured in the SSIS systems
 - a. Estimated 9 – 12 additional staff in WCHHS
 - 3. No current definition of specific training
 - iv. Child Welfare Funding
 - 1. Need comprehensive fiscal analysis of multiple funding sources to fully utilize and maximize access to services
 - a. Counties fund 45% in child protection area
 - v. Funding the Workload Shift for Federal SNAP Changes - H.R.1 (One Big Beautiful Bill)
 - 1. More compliance for SNAP cases
 - a. States incur a penalty for error rates at 6% and over
 - i. No current direction how to apply the penalty to counties
 - 2. Access to employment income information
 - a. Proposal to require employers to provide income verification free of charge; currently, the Work Number Equifax charges the State \$2M for Financial Assistance; and now charges for the use of their platform on the child support side (previously free of charge)
 - b. SNAP Litigation Update
 - i. Overview: On December 16, 2025, the USDA directed Minnesota to conduct in-person interviews/reviews for Supplemental Nutrition Program, requiring recertification of all SNAP households in four Minnesota counties (Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Wright)

to complete within 30 days. Non-compliance could jeopardize Minnesota's SNAP participation

- ii. MN State Attorney's Office filed an injunction; hearing slated for 2026-01-14
- iii. Counties do not have a way to comply within the timeframe

c. Director's Comments

- i. HHS Director Jami Goodrum retires March 6, 2026
- ii. Interim director: Court Services Director Mike McMillan

Antl moved, Schmitz second, to close the meeting. Motion carries - adjourned at 3:40 PM

Submitted by Naomi Blomberg, Administrative Specialist