



Mission:

Through collaboration and education, the NW8 Adult Mental Health Initiative fosters an array of community mental health services that meet the diverse needs of our region.

Vision:

A thriving community in which lives are saved, and residents feel supported in their mental health well-being.

Goals:

Understand the impact the AMHI is having on individuals served through funding, services, and partnerships-Educate communities in NW Minnesota on mental and behavioral health issues and the impact of the AMHI-Improve AMHI operational effectiveness-Maintain our commitment to collaboration with service partners across the region

NW8 Adult Mental Health Initiative Board Meeting

Minutes

9:00 am – 12:00 pm * July 8th, 2026

Sanford BH Education Room & MS Teams

Meeting Facilitator: Nancy Rhen

Attended: Shannon Abrahamson, Danielle Alida, Marie Booth, Brittany Swenson, Jan Carr Herseeth, Karen Warmack, Brenda Pauley Colter, Jeanna Kujava, Shauna Reitmeier, Melissa Lennon, Anna Stein, Sarah Lefebvre, Cherie Chaput, Liz Gerhart, Karla Laangas, Chris Kujava, Melissa Lennon, Brenna Olson & Sheila Piipo

- 9:00-9:05 Introductions
- 9:05- 9:10 Review & approval of 5.13.2026 agenda
 - Chris made a motion to approve the agenda, Karen seconded, all aye- motion carries
- 9:10-9:15 Review & approval of 7.8.2026 meeting minutes
 - Chris made a motion to approve the minutes, Karla seconded, all aye-motion carries.
- 9:15-9:45 Budget review
 - 2026 AMHI Budget review
 - AMHI budget- we are through Q2 but not all Q2 invoices have been submitted. We have received our Amendment approval from DHS for the 2025-2026 AMHI/CSP contract from the State.
 - Keep in mind these funds cannot be carried over to 2027. Next meeting we need to see where we are with our funding. Also, please start looking at your budgets to see if you will be able to spend all the funds by end of CY 2026.
 - 2026 Crisis budget review
 - Billing in Cognito- All invoices should be billed through Cognito with the authorization # as of May 1st for Uncompensated care brass codes. This is currently not happening. We will set up a meeting with Alluma to walk through the process and utilize our meeting with Sanford set up on July 20th to discuss it further. This process was effective May 1st, 2026.
 - Karen will send out Crisis transportation form to Director group and Shannon to have on file.
- 9:45-10:15 HR1 (The “BIG” bill) Employment; MA lookback
 - There is a lot of useful information on the DHS website about what to expect.
 - There are concerns on how much will be put back on the Providers.
 - Shauna can be a voice and gather resource preparedness for this bill. Does it make sense to gather feedback, etc.? Is there anything from the county perspective that Shauna can take back to this group for feedback. Karen will get feedback from her workers and let Shauna know.
 - There is a group of people that will fall off assistance due to where they are at with their disability – we should look at working with this group of individuals.
 - County also has an opportunity to SMIRT the clients which will speed up the disability process. Federal is currently 30-day lookback.
- 10:15-10:30 Children’s LAC/ Case manager group inquiry- Shannon



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- Tri-Valley is operating the Family Resource Center but does not currently have capacity to take this on. The group discussed whether Children's workers could attend an Adult LAC meeting and then form a separate Children's LAC.
- Shauna and Karla will bring this up as a discussion topic at the next Collaborative meeting
- 10:30-11:00 Credible mind discussion
 - **NW8 region: 88,000 population (Self-care cost: set up fee \$2000 & annual licensing \$12,500)**
 - 24/7 Mental Health resource digital platform
 - Help to answer questions related to mental health, substance use & well-being.
 - Offer articles, videos, podcasts, self-assessments & localized resources.
 - It can be embedded directly on our website.
 - [Click here to use these resources at no charge](#)
 - Can all of the members of the AMHI have the link on their website or is it just the AMHI that can embed it on their website as well?
 - We need to campaign it correctly- Add it to email and Partner websites, etc..
 - What is a realistic expectation- It should be low- 2-3%
 - Shannon will add this to Goal #2 agenda to set up a demo with Credible mind and look at bring it back to board for a recommendation.
- 11:00-11:15
 - 2027-2028 Crisis application updates
 - Both Sanford and Alluma have submitted their applications and Shannon sent to the Director's for the review. We are waiting for clarification on the Provider Assurance statement.
 - 2027-2028 AMHI/CSP Application updates
 - We are anticipating receiving the application end of summer/early fall.
- 11:15-11:30 NW8 AMHI Strategic Plan & Goals updates
 - Goal #1: Understand the impact the AMHI is having on individuals served through funding, services, and partnerships- Chris.
 - Shannon and I are working through Q1 data, but there are roadblocks we are running into. We might need to go back to the county case managers verify info received.
 - Marita is going to be out on FMLA from PSJ.
 - Goal #2: Educate Communities on mental & behavioral issues and the impact of AMHI- Shannon
 - NW8 AMHI Campaign report
 - safeTALK Training- August 27, 2026, 9am-2pm Legacy Event Center, TRF
 - Goal #3: Improve AMHI operational effectiveness.
 - No updates- AMHI Policy & Procedures
 - Goal #4- Maintain our commitment to collaboration with serve partners across the region
 - Organically happening
- 11:30-11:50 Round robin updates
 - Brenda has started a Veterans service committee- They are looking to ramp up- Let Brenda know if you have interested Veterans. They are meeting every 6 weeks currently.



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- Shauna has been working in Polk County, Crisis team, SUD providers & LE.
- Altru- The construction is moving along well- it should be weather proofed by August still anticipating Spring of 2027- They are looking for a social worker as their current SW is taking the Director of Clinical care positions.
- BCBS- Supporting DHS with the MSHO for Seniors.
- LifeCare- continue to struggle with staffing- they have several Providers in the area, but they are working remotely for other agencies.
- Brenna- As of July 1st she is officially full time as the NW8 RSPC.
- Sheila- NAMI is hosting a session regarding the impacts of Medicaid changes and how it will affect our clients.
- Jeanna- Healthy Quin Counties are starting to pull together priorities for their Community Health Needs Assessments.
- 11:50-12:00 Adjourn
 - AMHI Board meeting: September 9, 2026, 9:00-12:00pm at Sanford Behavioral Health & via MS Teams