

**NW8 Adult Mental Health Initiative Board Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**9:00 am – 12:00 pm \* March 10th, 2021**  
**Zoom**

**Attendees:** Karla Langaas, Chris Kujava, Julie Sjostrand, Julie Hanson, Karen Warmack, Shauna Reitmeier, Miranda Solem, Molly Paulsrud, Shannon Abrahamson, Leon Flack, Beth Nelson, Kathy Johnson, Jan Carr, Kristi Nelson & Lynell Simonson Popowski

**Absent:** Gary Sprynczynatyk, Carrie Serna, Larry Laudon, Heather Bregier & Dawn Baumgartner

Agenda Topic	Discussion Points	Actions/Discussion	Whom
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and Approve 3.10.2021 Agenda</li> </ul>	Move Open Forum up after review of Agenda and Minutes to give Lynell a chance to speak to the group. Karla made a motion to approve minutes as is and agenda with updates, Kathy seconded, all aye- motion passed	Chris K.
Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and Approve 1.13.2021 Minutes</li> </ul>		Chris K.
Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MACSSA AMHI Meeting Discussion</li> </ul>	MACSSA call- discussed the AMHI reductions and reform. Rural AMHI's are very concerned about losing funds throughout the entire State. The main reason why the governor is proposing budget cuts is because several regions are not spending all of their funding. MACSSA Legislative position is they do not support cuts to AMHI/CSP funding and are requesting additional funding. Chris- TCM rates are decreasing and will forward the info to Shauna.	Chris K.
Budget Cuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss reallocation of funds for 2022 if proposed cuts pass               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$95,958 AMHI reduction</li> <li>\$28,451 NW6 CSP reduction</li> <li>\$3,362 Pennington CSP reduction</li> <li>\$3,402 Roseau CSP reduction</li> </ul> </li> <li>Recovery Peer Specialist grant funding 50% reduction FY2022/2023</li> <li>Suspension of Mental Health First aid for FY 2022/2023</li> </ul>	We will need to look at 6.6% budget cuts in more detail if passed. Talked about cutting outreach project, possibly eliminate billboards and reduce some dollars in flex funding	All
Open Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Open Forum</li> </ul>	Lynell P.- Regional Transportation Coordinator is here from Northwest Regional Development Commission to get feedback	Public

		<p>on how she can best meet the transportation needs in each county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation guidance/consultation- inform the region about existing services</li> <li>• Vehicle Sharing- Use existing vehicles and find ways to share vehicles throughout the region for transportation needs</li> <li>• Volunteer Driver programs- work with current programs to restart or increase service post COVID-19</li> <li>• Develop local Human Service transit Coordination plan.</li> <li>• Emergency Preparedness plan- Work with local counties and emergency operations to develop transportation process in emergency situations</li> <li>• Staff Training- Train RTCC staff to gain expertise as a regional transportation resource</li> </ul> <p>Kristi- Norman/Red Lake rely on Tri valley- but transportation is very limited. One of the biggest hurdles- we are not seeing as many volunteer drivers and after hours, Holidays and weekends are a big issue when trying to find transportation.</p> <p>Kathy- Zoom meetings and telehealth services have helped eliminate some of the transportation issues.</p> <p>Kristi- good approach would be to reach out to hospitals and clinics to see if they can coordinate follow up appointments with the bussing schedule for each of the counties.</p> <p>Shauna- are there clients that are well enough in their recovery that could help with transportation?</p> <p>Chris- where are we going to get the funding to pay for these people? They are only paid mileage. Also, some people don't want to stick around for hours to wait for others. Issues we are seeing: payment, liability, wait time and volume of people transporting is limited. Kristi- DHS and MNDOT need to adjust the payment eligibility for the rural area. Chris- if you can find volunteers, please have them sign up- we are down to 12 drivers. Overall- policy changes need to be made in order for any transportation gaps to be eliminated.</p> <p>Beth- It would help to invite health plans to your regional meeting, especially MA. Beth also shared with Lynell that she would be willing to be a part of their regional meetings.</p> <p>Shannon will send Lynnell Shauna's information &amp; forward the group Lynell's info.</p>	
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review 2021-2022 Budget</li> </ul>	Not much activity in the budgets as of yet- Roseau and Polk county are the only ones that have sent in bills so far. There is a	All

		new fiscal supervisor in Kittson- If there is an issue with bills not getting sent in, Shannon will let Kathy know..	
Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round Robin Update from Attending Agencies               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CBHH</li> <li>○ Sanford</li> <li>○ NWMHC</li> <li>○ Life Care</li> <li>○ Ucare</li> <li>○ BCBS</li> <li>○ LAC-</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Social Services</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sanford-</b> Crisis has exploded and everyone needs placement- COVID in Pennington is terrible- IP has stayed at capacity- Everyone is full- Been having issues with Prairie as they sometimes won't answer their phone after 5pm. NL- IRTS beds are full, both Crisis beds open. Kathy- Are these new people you are seeing? Miranda- Some are new people that are waiting too long to seek services and some are clients we haven't seen in years. The kids they are seeing lately have been tough. The acuity of the children they are seeing is concerning (ages 12-16 with suicidal attempts &amp; ideation plans) Adults- psychosis/manic behavior.</p> <p><b>NWMHC-</b> Crisis team has been working with the homeless team to help with housing during this time. Uptick in volume for Crisis- they have a new reporting system for their phones and will be able to capture volume of calls that are coming into the Crisis line. Struggling trying to hire children providers. Tracking the Tele med Bill that is being brought forward in legislation.(Will Telephone stay included) With lack of bandwidth in our area, being able to provide services by phone has been lifesaving. Down 2 Psychiatric providers. Amber Deere moved to Kittson and Barb Norman retired. Part-time prescriber joined, but will not be able to start until this summer. They are not taking on new clients. 2 new executive positions have started. In final stages of rebranding project- identified new name, but have not publicly announced it yet.</p> <p><b>Lifecare-</b>Staffing is always a challenge- they are managing to keep their head above water. They are utilizing casual staff on weekends to help with the elimination of staff. There is a new clinical supervisor up in Kittson and they are looking at working with her. Transportation meeting- meets every six months- LE, Sanford, SS, AMHI Coordinator, - started with transport- but have utilized this group to improve processes. Roseau school hired another social worker and has agreed to work casual for LifeCare.</p> <p><b>Ucare-</b> Care management team is focused on members who have contracted COVID- reaching out to them personally to make sure they have the resources they need. Posted a new webpage on their website with COVID-19 resources.</p> <p><b>BCBS-</b> They are paying attention to what is going on with telemedicine. BCBS 2019- 65,000 telehealth visits- compared</p>	<p>Larry L Miranda S Shauna R Jan C Leon F Beth N. Dawn B County Directors</p>

		<p>to 3,000,000 visits in 2020. They are not in support of reducing the amount of telehealth services a provider can provide.</p> <p><b>Chris-</b> Workflow issue with Crisis- Crisis admit on Saturday- Crisis team didn't call until Tuesday for a commitment. Chris directed staff to figure out workflow with Sanford/Sheriff.</p> <p><b>Roseau-</b> County attorney concerned about MN Statute 609.066 Sub 2. Section B.</p> <p><b>Molly-</b> Riverview ED- cross educating on the commitment process. Molly is going to pull together a meeting with NWMHC and Altru.</p>	
Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review 2019-2020 Crisis Stats</li> </ul>	<p>Comparable- 2019/2020. Shannon will send comparable service county data. Kathy- BCBS can you pull our inpatient stats? Our role is to reduce hospitalizations, but we don't know what our numbers are as a whole and if we are being successful in reducing hospitalizations as a whole? Jan- Is there a way to identify how many folks are being transferred to ND that are not being served in MN? Beth, Kathy, Jan and Miranda are going to meet this Friday with BCBS analytics team to get some reports pulled for the region. Jan- length of stay would be interesting to see as well. Miranda will try and get that info back to the group for their unit.</p> <p>Beth said we should definitely be utilizing MCO's to pull data - think about health plans as a data friend- use us to your advantage.</p>	All
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2021 Meeting Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMHI Board Meeting- May 12th 2021 via Zoom</li> <li>AMHI Subcommittee- April 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 1:00-3:30 Zoom (Finalize History document &amp; Discuss options for project funding)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		All