



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 * March 11th, 2026

Sanford BH Education Room & MS Teams

Meeting Facilitator: Nancy Rhen

Attended: Chris Kujava, Julie Sjostrand, Shannon Abrahamson, Karla Langaas, Danielle Alida, Marie Booth, Miranda Solem, Brenna Olson, Brittany Swenson, Jan Carr Herseth, Karen Warmack, Brenda Pauley Colter, Jeanna Kujava, Denise Gudvangen, Shauna Reitmeier, Angel Pykla, Ashley Brekken, Denise Gudvangen, Ashley Brekken, Emma Nicholson & Anna Stein

- 9:00-9:05 Introductions
- 9:05- 9:10 Review & approval of 3.11.2026 agenda
 - Chris made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Karen seconded, all aye- motion carries
- 9:10-9:15 Review & approval of 1.14.2026 meeting minutes
 - Julie made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Brittany seconded, all eye- motion carries
- 9:15-9:45 Budget review
 - 2026 AMHI & Crisis Budget review
 - Due to billing changes, all billing has been held in Q1. Services are still happening- once bills start coming through in Q2 we will see this reflected in the budgets.
 - Any budget changes need to be submitted to Karen by April 1,2026
- 9:45-10:00 Mobile Crisis - Karen
 - Crisis Application Planning Cycle
 - Karen reviewed 2027-2028 Crisis application timeline and stated she does not anticipate any budget changes in this cycle.
 - Crisis team shared they will be adding more questions to the quarterly reporting document.
 - Crisis Funding Formula changes
 - Crisis team is working on a funding formula project same as the AMHI did a few years back. They are looking for volunteers to sit on this work group. Brenda PC and Miranda have both signed up to be a part of the work group.
- 10:00-10:15 NW8 Adult Local Advisory Council
 - Review and approve 2026 NW8 Adult LAC Workplan Board resolution
 - Shannon presented the LAC's 2026 workplan. Chris made a motion to approve the workplan as presented, Marie seconded, all aye- motion carries.
 - The LAC voted a new council member in from Pennington County and new officers in February. New member: Shawn R- Pennington, Chair: Connie S- Norman, Vice Chair: Tracy H- Norman, & Secretary: April K- Pennington
- 10:15-10:45 Bridges- Denise G. & Ashley B
 - 2025 Bridges Report
 - All funds were expended in 2025 with 6 of the 8 counties utilizing the grant. Mahnomen & Norman were the only counties that did not utilize bridges. The HUD waiting list is 10 months out and there

Serving Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau Counties



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is a lack of other Housing Subsidies. They are encouraging clients to stay in their current residence if it is an option as housing is very limited now.

- 2026 Bridges update
 - The group decided to leave the maximum amount at \$1000. Reach out to Director's for special requests exceeding the \$1000 limit. Housing costs continue to increase, so don't want this cap to be set in stone- there is flexibility.
 - Denise and Ashley will update the Bridges informational sheet with the form link and send it to Shannon to send out to the region and post it on the AMHI website.
 - Ashley Brekken- Financial Navigator is the new contact for Bridges.
- 10:45-11:45 NW8 AMHI Strategic Plan & Goals updates
 - Goal #1: Understand the impact the AMHI is having on individuals served through funding, services, and partnerships- Chris
 - Outcome reporting contacts have been identified, listening sessions took place and guidelines have been sent out to the group.
 - Case managers suggested trying to get data from Sanford Psych IP in Fargo as well- Miranda is going to look into this.
 - Chris is going to invite Patrick to the May meeting to report on the current data.
 - Goal #2: Educate Communities on mental & behavioral issues and the impact of AMHI- Shannon
 - Review & Approve Community Education and Prevention RFP & Application
 - Shannon reviewed the Community Education & Prevention Application with the group. Group requested to add: Projected number of participants to reach. Chris made a motion to approve the RFP & Application with suggested changes, Karen seconded, all aye- motion carries.
 - Shannon will make requested changes and email RFP out to the region and post it to the website.
 - NW8 AMHI Commercial Analytics
 - Shannon reviewed commercial analytics with the group. There have been 60,444 total impressions since the commercial was released on 12/22/2025 with 58,786 completions for a 97.26% completion rate.
 - Goal #3: Improve AMHI operational effectiveness- Shannon
 - Review & Approve Uncompensated Care Policy & Authorization Form
 - Shannon reviewed the Uncompensated Care policy with the group.
 - Suggested changes: Under Eligibility #6 Add: Individuals must have prior authorization Once online application is created add allowable services with check box to authorization form.
 - Karen made a motion to approve the Uncompensated Care Policy and Authorization form with suggested changes, Julie seconded, all aye- motion carries.
 - Shannon will connect with Brenda PC to create a Cognito form- authorization process to begin April 1, 2026.



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- Shannon will set up a meeting with Sarah, Miranda & Cherie to review invoicing requirements and authorization process.
- Cherie will be Shannon's back up.
- Goal #4- Maintain our commitment to collaboration with serve partners across the region
 - Organically happening
- 11:45-11:50 The Lion Heart Experience
 - Reviewed schedule-- Chris asked Shannon to investigate releasing a survey to the students. Shannon will check to see if we still have survey monkey subscription. If not, Shannon will work with Brenna on creating a survey in Microsoft Documents.
- Monday, March 16th: EGF
 - Session # 1: 9:00-10:30 am (Grades 7th & 8th: 320 students)
 - Session # 2: 10:45-12:15pm (Grades 11th & 12th: 340 students)
 - Session # 3: 1:00-2:30pm (Grades 9th & 10th: 300 students)
- Tuesday, March 17th: Crookston
 - Session One: 8:30-10:00 (Grades 6th & 10th-12th: Crookston 320 students)
 - Session Two: 10:20-11:50 (Grades 7th & 9th: Crookston 160 students)
 - Session Three: 12:30-2:00 (Grades 7th-12th: Fertile/Beltrami 230 & Crookston 90 students)
- Wednesday, March 18th: Mahnomon
 - Session #1: 9:00-10:30 (Grades 7th-12th: 300 students)
- Wednesday, March 18th: Waubun
 - Session #2: 1:30-3:00pm (Grades 7th-12th: 300 students)
- Thursday, March 19th: Warren
 - Session #1: 10:15-11:45 am (Grades 7th-12th: MCC 150, SAC 135 & BGMR 55 plus staff)
 - Session #2: 12:30-2:00 pm (Grades 7th-12th: WAO 225, Grygla 80 plus staff)
- Friday, March 20th: Hallock
 - Session #1: 9:00-10:30 am (Grades 7th-12th: Lancaster 80, Kittson Central 106, & Tri County 83)
- 11:50-12:00 Adjourn
 - Next Statewide Meeting: April 2, 2026, 1:00-3:00pm via MS Teams
 - AMHI Board meeting: May 13, 2026, 9:00-12:00pm at Sanford Behavioral Health & via MS Teams