



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 * May 13th, 2026

Sanford BH Education Room & MS Teams

Meeting Facilitator: Nancy Rhen

Attended: Chris Kujava, Julie Sjostrand, Liz Gerhart, Karla Langaas, Danielle Alida, Marie Booth, Miranda Solem, Heather Bregier, Brittany Swenson, Jan Carr Herseith, Karen Warmack, Brenda Pauley Colter, Anna Stein & **Shawn**

- 10:00-10:05 Introductions
- 10:05- 10:10 Review & approval of 5.13.2026 agenda
 - Chris made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Maria seconded, all aye- motion carries
- 10:10-10:15 Review & approval of 3.11.2026 meeting minutes
 - Karen made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Karla seconded, all eye- motion carries
- 10:15-10:30 Budget review
 - 2026 AMHI & Crisis Budget review by Karen. There will be a meeting later today to review Sanford budget.
- 10:30-11:00 Alluma- Brenda PC
 - Rural Health Transformation Fund
 - Brenda Pauley-Colter reported Alluma will be applying for a large federal initiative grant administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services . It provides funds to expand and improve healthcare access, upgrade technology, and sustain medical workforces in rural communities
 - HR1 (The “BIG” bill) Employment; MA lookback
 - Brenda Pauley-Colter reviewed some of the upcoming changes that will impact providers and people we serve. The group supports having this topic on the agenda for standing agenda item to review any changes coming.
 - Karen will include a handout of the eligibility worker changes in the minutes
- 11:00-11:15 NW8 Adult Local Advisory Council (Shawn & Connie)
 - LAC Brochure distribution (Discharge, Outpatient, etc.)
 - Shawn presented information on the new brochures developed which will be passed out to others.
 - Mental Health Awareness month outreach
 - Discussed mental health awareness month in May
- 11:15-11:45 NW8 AMHI Strategic Plan & Goals updates
 - Goal #1: Understand the impact the AMHI is having on individuals served through funding, services, and partnerships- Chris
 - Chris reviewed the handout on regional data and recommended we get more data on crisis call diversions from hospitals .



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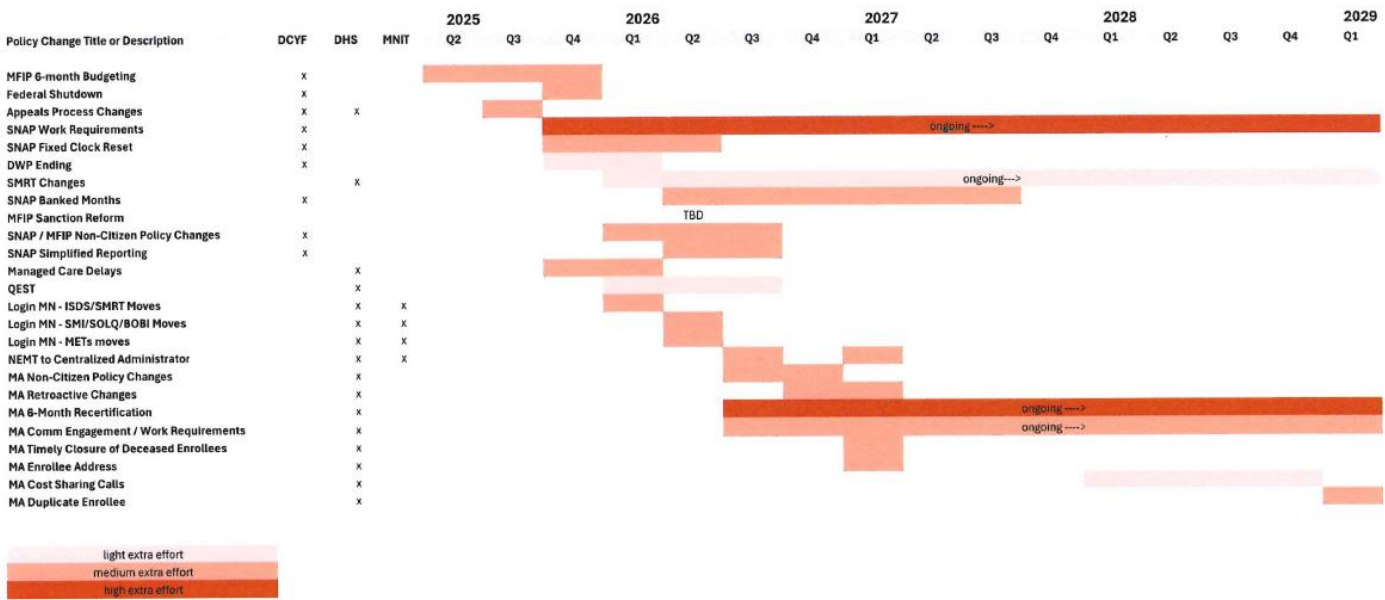
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- The committee is exploring using the AOS system that will help access and generate reports based. More information will be brought to next AMHI meeting as the committee counties to explore. Cost is \$1000. Annually for a subscription.
- Goal #2: Educate Communities on mental & behavioral issues and the impact of AMHI- Shannon/Jan
 - Reviewed & Approve Community Education and Prevention reporting form. Chris made a motion to approve the reporting form. Karen seconded, all eye-motion carries. Discussion of the activities needed to comply with all state reporting requirements.
- Goal #3: Improve AMHI operational effectiveness- Shannon/Karen
 - Review & Approve NW8 AMHI Policy handbook updates.
 - Brittney made a motion to approve the changes . Chris seconded, all eye-motion carries.
- Goal #4- Maintain our commitment to collaboration with serve partners across the region
 - No comments made- Organically happening
- 11:45-11:50 Round robin updates were provided by Sanford, Alluma, Life Care and NAMI.
- 11:50-12:00 Adjourn
 - AMHI Board meeting: July 8, 2026, 9:00-12:00pm at Sanford Behavioral Health & via MS Teams

County Eligibility Worker Changes

This chart represents periods of time where policy changes impact county eligibility workers. Shaded time periods reflect periods of training, extra case processing, tracking, or reporting resulting from a policy change. Shaded areas should be considered in excess of normal, day-to-day work for a county eligibility team.



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