

**Regional LAC Meeting Minutes**

January 23, 2023; 1:00pm – 2:00pm; In Person at Isanti County Family Services and via Zoom

Present:

Beise, Joy	Voc Rehab
Conant, Amy	Consumer Rep & True Life Connections
Escola, John	TSA
Flack, Leon	UCare
Harper, Mike	Rise
Hawkins, Emily	Isanti County
Heacock, Katie	Kanabec County
K., Joel	Pine County LAC
Klanderud, Nicki	CMC

Lind, Nicole	RSI
Mikrot, Lisa	Safe Transitions
Radosevich, Liz	R7E Coordinator
Schmidt, Barb	Pine County
Wright, Ashley	R7E Consumer Rep & WITW
Lussier Erickson Katrina	Empower
Boldt, Amy	Lighthouse
Jiang, Jennifer,	BCBS
Rhode, Rachel	Safe Transitions

Joel K. opened with introductions and attendees shared what they are looking forward to in 2023.

Hearth Connection, Marcus Schmit, Laura Craig. [www.hearthconnection.org](http://www.hearthconnection.org)

Long Term Homeless Supportive Services Fund, (LTHSSF)

- Goal to develop relationships with the providers in the Region.
- Seven regional projects across the State of Minnesota.
- Long term homelessness defined as 4x within one year.
- They have a two-year grant for \$1,058,855 in Central Region.
- Primary goals: reduce number of people experiencing homelessness, improve housing stability, maximize participant choice and self-determination, reduce systemic barriers to housing and services, maximize the amount of mainstream funding for supportive housing.
- Isanti County is the fiscal host for the LTHSSF grant. Hearth Connection is the Intermediary. The five providers are Central MN Mental Health Center, Lakes and Pines, New Pathways, Tri-County Action Program, LSS.
- 162 individuals served in the Central Region.
- Clients can access help from the program as long or as often as needed.
- Hearth's Intermediary Role: secure, distribute, and leverage government funds for supportive housing; manage contracts, training, and monitoring of supportive housing network; co-pilot custom web-based data and rental assistance management tool; gather and analyze data for compliance, performance, and better outcomes.
- January to June 2022: 95% of households who obtained housing, maintained housing for one year or longer; 5% of households exited the program to homelessness (those 5% can re-access the program)
- Trends from the field: lack of affordable units; lack of funds to address market requirements, impact of workforce shortages, increasing behavioral health needs and the wait lists for crisis and ongoing care is long.
- Hearth Connections goal as intermediary is to simplify the programs and processes
- Capacity building: train providers on how to bring funding. Hearth Connection wants to work beyond their existing network with new and different providers. Help providers understand state and federal funding.
- Working with Wilder Research to identify system barriers, conducted interviews with people with lived experience of homelessness, conducted a provider survey.
- Simplification: more flexible provider contracts, budgets, and reporting; eliminating silos, streamline state resources, community conversations.
- Looking for out of the box simplification solutions for people in supportive housing, potential and existing providers, and for oversight agencies.
- Questions, comments, suggestions to: [marcus@hearthconnection.org](mailto:marcus@hearthconnection.org)

Governing Board Report, Liz Radosevich  
AMHI grant has been signed.

Consumer Rep, Ashley Wright  
Plans to meet with peers in the community and bring back their experiences.

Consumer Rep, Amy Conant

Working on research for her new peer program which will be focused in the Region, looking for info/feedback on using peers.

Day on the Hill, March 9, 2023: <https://namimn.org/mental-health-day-on-the-hill-march-9th/>

Sign up to attend by scanning the barcode on the flyer at the above link or from [www.adultmentalhealth.org](http://www.adultmentalhealth.org)

9:30am: Welcome/Policy Briefing at Christ on Capitol Hill Church

11:00am: Rally in the Capitol Rotunda

Chisago County, Angie Kemen

- Announced they have a new adult case manager on board.
- Drop-in Center in North Branch. Information on the Region's website: <https://adultmentalhealth.org/category/drop-in-centers/>

Isanti County, Emily Hawkins

- Staffing is stable in adult case management.
- Hiring children's case manager.
- Exploring the WRAP program.

Pine County, Barbara Schmidt

- Hiring a Community Support Technician to replace the Consumer Support Program, will hopefully have the position filled by February and will be doing CSP services in house.
- Peer support with Wellness in the Woods. Pine County Drop-in Center at the Senior Center in Pine City. <https://adultmentalhealth.org/category/drop-in-centers/>

Wellness in the Woods, Ashley Wright

- WITW is a recovery organization, they are hosting four events in the coming year.
- VPSN will be starting legislative sessions each week. They also offer grief support, domestic survivors, Friday Night Freedom for substance use disorder, and Imagine Network events.
- They are offering WRAP through DOC and are considering connecting with Isanti and Chisago Counties jail programs.

Lighthouse, Amy Boldt

- This is Amy's first time attending this meeting.
- Outpatient groups in Milaca and Princeton still have wait lists.
- They are hiring for several positions.
- Difficulty getting new providers trained.

Empower, Katrina Lussier Erickson

- Hiring for LADCs and mental health providers.
- No longer adding people to their mental health waitlist as it is over 4 months out.
- Have a two week wait for intakes for their CD OP treatment program and groups are Monday through Friday mornings 9:00-12:00N and Monday through Thursday nights 5:30-8:30pm.

BCBS, Jennifer Jiang

- Housing Stabilization Services, Medicaid benefit. Looking for providers to contract with them. They provide enhanced rates for Housing Transitioning and Housing Sustaining services. Please connect with [Jennifer.Jiang@bluecrossmn.com](mailto:Jennifer.Jiang@bluecrossmn.com) or with [Gary.Sprynczynatyk@bluecrossmn.com](mailto:Gary.Sprynczynatyk@bluecrossmn.com), they can assist with navigation to make the initial connection.
- DHS is working on improving the crisis response system. Please share this information with any entities that are a part of the MH/SUD crisis response continuum to consider participating by completing survey and participate in focus groups if able. Participation will provide the most accurate information about what crisis response looks like in your community.
  - DHS crisis response work - <https://www.strategic-cc.com/dhs>

TSA, John Escola

Outpatient services for adults

Offices in Cambridge, Lindstrom, and Pine City

Voc Rehab, Joy Beise

Pine County Youth Counselor took new job so they are looking to reorganize

New placement coordinator, Kennedy, focusing on youth

Safe Transitions, Lisa Mikrot

Wait list is getting shorter

Rise, Mike Harper

- CARF accreditation, February 8-10, 3-year process
- Meeting regarding IPS projects in the state, will receive a budget increase if approved by legislators
- HSS, housing stabilization – lack of infrastructure in the State. There wasn't a consultation service provider in our Region so TSA took on the role and Rise will implement. Contracts signed mid-January with TSA, MHP, and Rise.
- Furniture program for people in need, call the Lindstrom office at 651-257-2281. Available to anyone but if not on a Rise program, the individual will need to move the items themselves.
- Tina Springer will take housing support specialist position open from Paul's retirement.

CMC, Nicki Klanderud

- Kicking off a new three-year Community Improvement Plan. Key components:
  - mental health
  - substance abuse
  - lack of social connectedness.
- In partnership with Isanti County Public Health CMC was accepted into the Suicide Prevention Cohort with DHS, funding for opioid program.
- Change to Chill is still going strong.

RSI, Nicole Lind

- CRF home in Princeton, Mora
- No update from DHS on the crisis residential bed
- Two homes in Pine County were sold to another provider because of staffing issues

Safe Transitions, Rachel Rhode

- Two openings in Cloquet
- One opening in Cambridge

Next meeting March 27, 2023.