

Regional LAC Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2025; 1:00pm – 2:00pm; In Person at Isanti County Family Services and via Zoom

Present:

Andersen, Jennifer	Canvas, ECCS
Beise, Joy	VocRehab
Boldt, Amy	Lighthouse
Flack, Leon	UCare
Ihrke, Kelly	Chisago County
Johnstone, Stacy	R7E Consumer Rep
K., Joel	Pine County LAC

Klanderud, Nicki	CMC
Lind, Nicole	RSI
Lussier-Erickson, Katrina	Empower Recovery Services
Mikrot, Lisa	Safe Transitions
Otto, Trisha	Recovering Hope
Schmidt, Barb	Pine County
Stevenson, Amanda	R7E Planner

GUESTS: A Place for You, Matt Viney, Samantha Johnson

Joel opened the meeting with introductions.

A Place for You, Matt Viney, Samantha Johnson

- Founded in 2012, located in Pine City the program offers temporary shelter for single adults without children
- Mission is to support individuals struggling with homelessness
- Core programs: shelter, hotel vouchers, rental assistance, outreach
- Served over 1000 individuals, serving 95-120 each year
- Hotel voucher program provides a temporary solution for adults and families by utilizing local hotels. The stay is 10 days or less and operates 24/7 as funding permits. Resources include food, essential care items, transportation (when available) and case management.
- The Rental Assistance program provides a long-term solution for adults and families transitioning out of homelessness who have secured a rental. It is designed to support households working toward sustaining housing independently within two years. Resources include crisis funding, case management, and supportive services.
- The Outreach program supports adults and families experiencing homelessness who are unable to access shelter options. Resources offered include food, essential care items, transportation (when available), and case management and supportive services.
- Direct Care Staff & Funding Sources: HHSSA has program support specialists and resource navigator. AMHI funds an outreach worker and contracted mental health professional who can provide DA and chemical use assessments. Ampact (AmeriCorps) funds a recovery navigator.
- Support Services: recovery meetings, counseling, skill building sessions, resource navigation, haircuts, journaling circle, painting classes.
- Mental Health counseling 10 sessions/month total 41 sessions in 4 months. 85% were 1:1 sessions, 20 SPMI clients served in 4 months. They predict they will see 60 for the year.
- Insurance reimbursed only 10% of costs, despite initial expectation of 50%. This shows a need for sustainable, grant based support for vulnerable populations.
- Outreach locations, Hinckley, Braham, Wyoming, Sometimes no one comes to the outreach locations, so Matt is open to ideas. They do receive lots of phone calls.

Governing Board Report, Amanda Stevenson

- Potentially some dollars will become available
- Gearing up for 2026, starting to prepare for next year
- Evolving guidance from DHS
- Last week’s housing voucher and landlord seminar went well
- Pine County mental health awareness event May 22 at Pine Tech

Consumer Rep Report, Stacy Johnstone



Consumer Rep, Stacy Johnstone

RSI Community Connections program starts Sidewalk Talks, monthly program to discuss important topics such as technology, loneliness, relationships, resilience, success and more. These will be virtual events for anyone who wishes to attend.

Chisago County LAC, Kelly Ihrke

- Discussion from the LAC Town Hall State Advisory meeting is that they are updating the guidebook
- Trying to get info about the LAC out to the public to build participation
- LAC meetings are being held at the Chisago County Drop in Center

Pine County LAC, Joel

- Focusing on Mental Health Day event on May 22, Lisa Stoffel worked hard on it. NAMI is presenting. RSVP is required.
- Momentum Place attended two LAC meetings to discuss a housing arrangements in Hinckley, 44 units, income based on the adjusted median income for Pine County, \$65,000. Housing supports units and affordable housing based on income. The service provider is tentatively Rise. Metro Plains will be the property manager.
- Every two weeks support group at drop-in center, Deeanna Williams leads it.

Lighthouse, Amy Boldt

DBT program has two openings. Tuesday 3:30-6pm and individual therapy with a DB provided each week.

Empower, Katrina Lussier-Erickson

- Immediate openings for outpatient substance program
- Close to opening women's sober house in Pine City, need to hire staff
- EMDR openings

ECCS, Jennifer Andersen

- Certified family peer support specialist joining the team
- Stamp out Suicide, August 9 in Wyoming

UCare, Leon Flack

- UCare is experiencing financial challenges and laid off 80 employees, hard for everyone, it was a last resort.
- Utilization and case management teams remain intact and work with providers and members.
- Reorganizing responsibilities internally

Safe Transitions, Lisa Mikrot

Opening for ARMHS in southern area

CMC, Nicki Klanderud

- Additions to staff: Antonia Gardner CNP and Dr. Thomas Joseph, he focuses on adolescents
- Completing the Community Health Needs Assessment, holding stakeholder meetings for 2026-2028. Mental health and isolated social needs still top the list.

Recovering Hope, Trisha Otto

- Immediate openings for residential treatment for women with a child
- Recovering Hope will provide transportation to their residential program
- Outpatient has lodging available

RSI, Nicole Lind

- Rhine Lake in Finlayson is getting ready to open for the season (<https://residentialservices.org/rhine-lake/>)
- RSI is currently hiring for several positions: Senior Director position and MH Practitioners and Workers for our IRTS/RCS

A Place for You, Matt Viney

- Mental health practitioner role is changing
- Openings for entry level front desk staff

Voc Rehab, Joy Beise

Joy encouraged everyone to continue submitting referrals. In addition to traditional referral options, they now offer an [online form](#) for referrals.

Agenda suggestions for the next meeting:

- Deaf and Hard of Hearing presentation
- Discuss approval of minutes