

Region 7E Adult Mental Health Initiative

Regional LAC Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2025; 1:00pm – 2:00pm; In Person at Isanti County Family Services and via Zoom

Present:

Andersen, Jennifer	Canvas, ECCS
Beise, Joy	VocRehab
Flack, Leon	UCare
Harper, Mike	Rise
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
Stevenson, Amanda	R7E Planner
B., Maria	Isanti County LAC
Thron, Kate	Chisago County LAC Chair
Stans, Alicia	RSI

GUESTS: Judy Leach, Jamie Chapin, DHS Deaf & Hard of Hearing Division.

Joel opened the meeting with introductions.

DHS Deaf, DeafBlind, & Hard of Hearing, Judy Leach, Jamie Chapin

Judy provided detailed information on the services their department provides to individuals and providers:

- **Scope & Mission:** Minnesota Deaf, DeafBlind & Hard of Hearing Services (DHS Division) supports individuals through direct services, education, and resources.
- **Demographics:** Nearly 50M Americans have hearing loss; 33% of adults 65–74 and 50% over 75 are affected. Veterans and late-deafened individuals have high rates of hearing loss and related mental health challenges.
- **Regional Offices:** Located in Duluth, Moorhead, St. Cloud, St. Paul, and Rochester.
- **Services for Providers:** Consultations, CEU trainings (hearing loss basics, Deaf culture, ASL), and educational presentations.
- **Services for Clients:** Assistive technology recommendations, real-time captioning, alerting devices, apps, and phone equipment through MN ACT (free phones, tablets, captioned devices, training, and support programs).
- **Mental Health Services:** Culturally and linguistically appropriate care, crisis intervention, counseling, and referrals. Emphasis on ASL communication, cultural competence, and understanding the impact of hearing loss.
- **Key Message:** DHS helps clients live safely and independently and supports providers with tools and education to better serve this population.

Two resources that summarize their programs and resources:

[State Services' brochure DHS-3982-ENG](#)

[ASL interpreting: A guide to service options DHS-7916B-ENG](#)

Governing Board, Amanda Stevenson

- Getting ready for 2026
- Talked about funding requests for 2026 and when to send out to providers. Budget meeting will be on September 26 at Cambridge Medical Center, Foundation Room.
- Isanti County LAC is kicking off a Drop in Center in August. The open house will be on August 7. Open 1:00-3:00pm on Thursdays.

Consumer Rep Report, Stacy Johnstone

- Joined two social groups, one of the topics was food and the struggle people experience in how to get food on a limited budget, some places offer an abundance of food and then food gets spoiled because they can't consume it in time, meal planning. Stacy stated she would love to see improvement in this area.
- Transportation also discussed. Transportation providers being late, long lead times, being dropped by provider because transportation failed.

Kanabec County LAC,

- Started needs assessment, 18 responses.
 - Only 60% of people know crisis services are available.
 - Lots of people don't get services because they don't want other people to know they are getting services.
- Will be doing National Night Out next week.
- Spoke at County Fair

Isanti County LAC, Maria

- Very busy getting ready for the Drop in Center opening August 7. Hours will be Thursdays 10-2.
- Getting dates, times, locations ready for next year.
- Working on increasing consumer attendance.

Chisago County KLAC, Kate Thron

- Updating guide book
- Trying to grow attendance
- Checking on transportation due to change in routes in Chisago

Pine County LAC, Joel

- Active LAC, lots to do with Drop in Center
- Sharing a booth at Pine County Fair with Pine County Adult MH and Adult Protection
- Mindful Event last Tuesday, Taylors Falls Riverboat on St Croix
- Next LAC meeting on August 12, 11-2, guest from Parks Department will join to answer questions.
- Health Fair at Drop in Center

RSI, Nicole Lind

- Alicia is taking Nicole's position, and has been working with RSI 20 days
- Lotus Grace, 19 people on the wait list, going well
 - Online referral form
- ARMHS. Are providers seeing a waitlist of people waiting for ARMHS? RSI has been seeing more and more referrals for ARMHS in the region.

Empower, Katrina Lussier-Erickson

- Offer morning and evening outpatient substance use treatment. There is a bit of a wait list.
- Losing another staff member, but working on filling the position.
- Lost and Found Recovery Cafe in downtown Pine City, not a restaurant, the term Café is a bit confusing. It's part of the Recovery Cafe Network, one in Frogtown St. Paul and one in Anoka. It will be a safe community space for people to get together and access resources. Eventually we will have a washer and dryer, a shower, and a space for people to have meetings. Plan to serve coffee and donuts. It's a free service. People become members and as a member you help out, whether that's volunteering your time, or committing yourself to being there for a specific number of hours a week to help other people.
- SHORT waitlist for therapy

Canvas, Jennifer Anderson

No updates at this time.

VocRehab, Joy

- Online interest form had some bumps in the road, but they are ironed out now for those interested in vocational rehabilitation services to express interest online. All other options remain as well: phone and email.
- Cambridge Voc Rehab has a deaf and hard of hearing specialist counselor on the team. Her name is Christy. She primarily supports individuals in northern Minnesota, and she's been on the Cambridge team for about a year.

Safe Transitions, Lisa Mikrot

- Fully staffed with ARMHS and open to taking referrals.

Rise, Mike Harper,

- IPS, vocational, review in March and received a score of 114, happy with the score
- IPS bill passed which funds 22 projects throughout the State. Now funded through 2027.
- Busy with housing and employment services.
- Rise moves through their ARMHS wait list quickly

CMC, Nicki Klanderud

- Finishing Community Health Assessment. MH and SU remain as priorities. Always interested in partnerships and building collaborations.
- Pick'M Up having a Community Awareness/Suicide Prevention Walk on Sept 13 in Pine City
- Allina's Substance Use Prevention and Recovery Coalition in Isanti County is hosting a walk on Sept 27 around recovery
- Shout out to AMHI for continuing to update/maintain the Resource Guide and have it available on the website. The Isanti County Sheriffs vehicles put a bumper sticker on their vehicles with a QR code directly to the resource guide, so it's easy for people to have access to resources.

Recovering Hope, Tricia Otto

- Residential treatment: for women, pregnant women, and those with children under the age of 5
- Outpatient services: board/lodge 2 homes, openings in both
- Mental health services: telehealth, in person, and groups. There are waiting lists but don't need to be a client or graduate of Recovering Hope to receive services.
- Walk in assessments available for anyone, if a male, they would help find placement for them.

Mille Lacs County, Jessica Andrich

- Fully staffed
- Change in staff attending the LAC
- OCC coming up
- Fair is next week

Agenda suggestions for the next meeting:

- Approval of minutes
- Pick'M Up presentation and walk