

**Region 7E Governing Board Meeting
June 23, 2025; 10:00am – 12:00 Noon**

Attendees:

Affiliation		Governing Board Members		Directors
Chisago County	x	Kelly Ihrke, 2025 Vice Chair		Robert Benson
Chisago County		Jolene Thorsen		
Chisago County	x	Stacy Johnstone, Consumer Rep		
DHS Liaisons		Abbie Franklin, Pam Sanchez, Andrea Abel		DHS
Isanti County	x	Emily Hawkins, Member & Fiscal Host		Jodi Donnay
Isanti County		Ashley Wright, Consumer Rep		
Kanabec County	x	Katie Heacock	x	Chuck Hurd
Kanabec County		Cassie Dahlberg		
Mille Lacs County	x	Jessica Andrich		Char Kohlgraf
Pine County		Barb Schmidt	x	Becky Foss
Region 7E Planner	x	Amanda Stevenson		

Guests: A Place for You, Kaitlyn Mattison and Samantha Johnson

MOTION: Kanabec County made a motion to approve the May GB minutes, Isanti seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consumer Rep, Stacy Johnstone

- Sidewalk Talk events are postponed until further notice.
- Stacy stated she spent some time researching AMHI related info.

Director's Update, Chuck Hurd

- AMHI update
- Budget planning
- Meeting with R7W Directors in July
- Fiscal departments, billing becoming important
- PMAP billing
- Counties trying to find more reimbursement
- CPSS county funded contracted positions
- Legislative, waivers cost shift was not included. Committee of 29 people will review how \$178M can be saved or it reverts back to a county shift.
- Behavioral funds available

Budget Items/Funding Requests

Funding requests:

- Kanabec: \$1,884.30 for car repairs, Brass 418
- Chisago: \$200/mo. June-Dec, total \$1,400; housing subsidy

MOTION: Isanti made a motion to approve the above-listed funding requests, Chisago second. All ayes, motion passed.

- Amount in unallocated: \$21,816.67. After the RADIAS contract ends on 6/30/25, the total will be \$146,399.67.
- The revised contract with RADIAS is fully finalized, they will not invoice the Region for any ACT services going forward. The amount of \$5,000 was contracted with them to be used as flex funds for Region 7E clients.

MOTION: Isanti made a motion to move the \$124,583 from the RADIAS ACT contract which ends on 6/30/25 into unallocated, Kanabec seconded. The money has to be spent before the end of 2025. The GB will allocate most of the funds available in Unallocated during the July meeting with Directors. All ayes, motion carried.

A Place for You, Kaitlyn Mattison and Samantha Johnson

They have a therapist through Empower which is funded by AMHI, the request is for 10 people, but they are now working with 12pp.

- The therapist does Professional Statements of Need, some people sign up with Empower for additional resources, she has trained some APFY staff on how to manage clients.

- APFY has a staff person who helps people get on Medicaid, but only 10% are reimbursed from Medicaid. Originally, they were hoping to generate up to 50% insurance billable services, but only 10% has been realized.
- The current grant is \$29,974 to have the therapist onsite eight hours/week at \$114/hour. January to now the number of people served has been 20 clients with 35 1:1 appointments. Matt's email response is below in blue. Stats are updated.

Billing as an ARMHS provider is something we have not yet fully explored; however, we recognize this as a great opportunity to structure our services moving forward. We are interested in assessing the requirements and potential benefits of becoming an ARMHS-enrolled provider to maximize sustainable funding and expand billable activities within the program.

The mental health provider on this program (MA, LADC, MHP) operates under the direct supervision of Dr. Katrina Lussier-Erickson, DMFT, LMFT, LADC, a licensed Mental Health Professional. This structure allows the provider to:

- Conduct individual mental health sessions.
- Perform Diagnostic Assessments (DAs) with clinical review, oversight, and co-signature from Dr. Lussier-Erickson, ensuring compliance with DHS standards.
- Provide services that may be eligible for insurance billing based on this supervision structure.

Currently, two hours per week are dedicated to activities that are not billable to insurance but are intentionally funded through this program to enhance resident engagement and care coordination:

- Weekly Team Meeting (1 hour): The provider attends interdisciplinary team meetings to offer clinical feedback and assist in strategizing support for shelter residents with significant mental health needs.
- Weekly Open Group for Shelter Residents (1 hour): This group is open to all residents and serves as a low-barrier engagement opportunity. While not a formal therapy group, it helps build trust and encourages participation in one-on-one sessions.

Since January 1, 2025, to date, 54 individuals have been served at the shelter. Of those, 27 have engaged with the Shelter-Based Mental Health Support Program, including:

- 14 participants with confirmed SPMI diagnoses
- 2 participants confirmed not to meet SPMI criteria
- 11 participants with unconfirmed SPMI status, often due to limited engagement or recent entry

During this period, 51 one-on-one sessions and participation in weekly groups by 5 residents have been documented.

These statistics are strictly from the Shelter-Based Mental Health Support program. The Mental Health Outreach position serves a broader role, engaging participants from multiple programs beyond just the shelter-based model. While there is overlap in individuals served, the Outreach worker operates more like an ARMHS provider, supporting participants across various settings. Due to less consistent service access and reduced on-site contact, it can be harder to confirm SPMI status and obtain clear statistics for participants served through outreach.

- Amanda stated that they have talked about doing groups, some of which may be billable, so she will follow up on that with APFY. See above RE: groups
- Chuck asked them to check whether Empower bills for ARMHS or if APFY should become an ARMHS enrolled provider. See above RE: ARMHS billing.
- If the region does not fund the request, they will run out of funds on July 1. If not funded, it would reduce the professional statement of need document to get started with the county. The request of \$20,900 would fund the therapist hours through the end of 2025.

- Stacy noted that they do try to find other funding sources.

MOTION: Isanti made a motion to fund \$20,900 for therapist services ending December 2025, Chisago seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Quarterly/Monthly Reports (vendors exceeding \$50,000)

- ECCS/Canvas Health:
 - Moving ahead with the Cambridge space. They tried to find space in Mora and nothing was available that would accommodate their needs. The space will be used for outpatient services and mobile crisis will office in the space. Construction is needed to ensure space will work for their staff and clients. The Region will not pay for any construction.
 - Amanda asked the Directors to discuss crisis services when they meet with the Region 7W Directors.
 - Amanda recommended creating a crisis services workgroup to monitor services and enable the partnership with Canvas to be more collaborative in nature. The workgroup, which will consist of the Region 7E AMHI Governing Board, will meet quarterly, ahead of the AMHI Governing Board meeting, from 9am-930 or 10am, beginning in July. The crisis meeting will occur the month following the end of the Quarter (January, April, July, October) and will specifically discuss crisis services. This will also coincide with the months that the Canvas Health Clinical Supervisor, Rori, will join the Governing Board at 10:30am to review data from the previous quarter.
 - The Region plans to RFP for crisis services in 2026 for the 2027-2028 grant cycle.
 - Isanti County was reimbursed the \$138,314 they were shorted for Q4 2024 crisis spending.
- LSS/Willow Grove: The Needs Survey has been created and shared; Amanda will go onsite to Willow Grove on 7/17/25 to support the survey implementation. Pooled funds from CHP are \$125,000. Amanda noted that the bible study each Tuesday is led by a resident and the AMHI is not paying for that activity. She will follow up with Willow Grove to ensure AMHI is not funding the bible study.
- Lakes and Pines/Regional Housing Coordinator: working to get new people on the Bridges Vouchers, no timeline for the decreased capacity. Lakes and Pines will communicate to county case managers that they are expecting funding for Bridges Vouchers as of 7/1 and they will accept referrals and applications after that date. All supervisors agreed that case managers should complete the applications, so Deb doesn't have to spend time on that task. They will not take applications prior to the contract being fully executed.
- Kanabec County Medication Management: Request for payment May 2025 services:

DESCRIPTION	BILLING RATE	TOTAL
25 Appts, no insurance	\$371.30/appt	\$9,282.50
31 Appts, Medicare, unable to bill	\$371.30/appt	\$11,510.30
Admin fee	10% of total	\$2,079.28
Invoice Total		\$22,872.08

- Stacy feels it would be helpful to know:
 - How many unique people the funds serve each month
 - That all people served are SPMI and have no billable insurance
 - The length of time the people are on the med management program
 - Katie explained that the reporting is different because the funding is different. The report shows only SPMI clients. If more data is needed, Katie needs to know what the GB wants to see on the report. Katie stated she can provide data on intakes vs follow up appointments. Katie stated there were three intakes in May, and three clients that were dups. Amanda stated that during last year's audit, she inquired the total number of appointments in the program and how many are AMHI.
- Growing Connections: Cassie shared feedback from clients that they love it and are astonished by the quality of the program. Amanda has also received lots of positive feedback.
- RADIAS Health/ACT: no need for Amanda to meet with them regularly. Amanda will follow up on status of flex fund spending (\$5,000 and invoices received).
- APFY: April is the new MH outreach staff.

- Rise: Amanda met with Rise on 6/5/25 regarding data collection and reporting.
 - Amanda developed a spreadsheet, which she shared with Rise for review; she expects some areas of the spreadsheet will be changed/edited.
 - Amanda stated she plans to create similar spreadsheets for other AMHI funded providers but intends to wait until after the July meeting with Directors. Emily agreed that all providers should complete similar spreadsheets to ensure consistent reporting on how AMHI funds are being spent.
 - Rise submitted a funding request for \$100,000 to continue services, more housing subsidies, and to fund HSS services. The staff providing AMHI services provide HSS services.
 - Amanda suggested this issue be discussed with directors at the July meeting and that the GB consider contracting specific, or ongoing providers for a two-year period.

MOTION: Isanti made a motion to table the Rise funding request until July, Mille Lacs seconded. All ayes, motion passed.

LAC updates or feedback

- Statewide Advisory Workgroup- continued discussion about updating the guidebook, gaining County Board buy-in, and LAC role/involvement in needs assessments.
- Isanti- Drop In Center starting in August 2025 at Common Ground Church in Cambridge on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 10am -2pm.
- Chisago- Drop In Center support groups are on a temporary hold.
- Pine- Agenda and minutes have been implemented; large presence at the last LAC meeting.
- Kanabec- At Robinson Park in Sandstone tomorrow.

PICK'M Up Coalition Update:

- Suicide Prevention Walk on Sept 13 in Pine County. Free registration.
- Formally accepted a \$2,000 donation from a family. Busy creating policies which will enable the group to accept donations.
 - The plan to use some of these funds to rent an ADA accessible porta-potty for the walk.
- Funding request for \$2,400 to fund 150 t-shirts. The Region will receive a 6% discount from Prism if the shirts are ordered from there. The GB agreed that the group should not charge for the shirts, but people can offer a free-will donation if they wish.
- Pine County has agreed to be the fiscal host and to provide a COI for the event.

MOTION: Isanti made a motion to fund the \$2,400 request with the condition that the group won't sell the t-shirts but can accept free-will donations from anyone who wishes to do so. Chisago seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Resource Guide

- Amanda asked the GB to review the pocket guide and forward information for any agencies that are currently not listed to Amanda and Linda for follow up.

Website

Amanda requested that the Board review the website and reply with recommendation changes/edits.

Amanda has been working with Sandy to upgrade the website and ensure items are added promptly. Sandy has advised Amanda that a plug in is available to post a Resource directory on the site. This would allow providers to post their info on an application form that would give us the opportunity to approve or deny the posting. If approved, the information would auto-populate into the directory plug in. Cost estimated between \$10,000-20,000 including Sandy's time to input data for the first time.

New Business for JULY.

- Move Transportation to the July agenda.
- Directors are attending the July meeting which will start at 9:00am. Agenda items include schedule dates for the budget meeting, date to push out RFPs, and to discuss items the Board may wish to fund in 2026.
- Statewide meeting
- Cassie suggested the board consider paying table fees for special events, such as the pride fair and county fairs.
- Becky mentioned that Pine County Sheriff's squads have QR codes on the vehicles, so they don't have to carry so much stuff.
- Starting in August the GB meeting will begin at 9:30am rather than 10. Linda will revise the calendar invites.

Meeting adjourned 11:57pm. Isanti made a motion to adjourn, Kanabec seconded. Motion carried.