

**Chisago County LAC Meeting Minutes**  
**January 14, 2026**  
**1-2 pm**  
**Main Street Church, North Branch**

Attendance:

❖ Welcome/ Agenda Addition

Kate Thron – adult mental health case manager/ community supports  
Melissa Williams – Sunflower Communities  
Michelle Ochsendorf – Consumer Rep  
Amanda Stevenson – Region 7E Planner (virtual attendance)  
JR, AO, JR, BG

❖ LAC business

- (Ongoing) Formal proposal for gas card or gift certificates- Persons receiving services, and not attending in a professional capacity, will receive \$20 per meeting. Currently this will be in the form of a check. This could change to a gas card in the future.
  - Stipends for virtual attendance
    - Gather mailing address/ email address for form to be sent, Kate will update email list form to include mailing address
- LAC Townhall (State Advisory Council workgroup) updates
  - No updates provided
- Planning for 2026
  - Volunteers for Chairperson/ Co-Chair and/or volunteer to attend Regional LAC and bring back information
    - Michelle has volunteered as co-chair
      - Kate will schedule meeting to share and split duties
  - Growing our LAC and recruitment
    - Summer Open House
      - Plan for July 8, hold at the DIC, offer food (ice cream)
      - Chip drop, spinning wheel for prizes, yard games just for fun
      - Invite Key stakeholders – offer personal invite via card
      - AMHI fund request – submit ASAP, easiest way for approval and reimbursement request
        - Inquiry if a community provider could offer sponsorship
      - Promotional items – create flyer, start promoting in May
    - Chisago County Fair
      - Is it possible to have a booth? What is the cost for booth, what are the rules, hours, expectations for booth staffing?
    - Are there funds available for local advertising to promote LAC and upcoming events?

❖ Regional Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI) updates

- 2026 launching Region 7E non-medical transportation services contracted with Stark Transportation
  - Welcoming feedback and suggestions to make service more useful
  - Regional flex fund also available to bridge the transportation gap
    - Used as a one-time basis, used to purchase bus passes
- Mental Health Day on the Hill on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 4 pm
  - Reached out to Stark on a shuttle bus being available and inquiry on any interest in LAC attendees to attend
- Dr. Beth Good & Associates now providing rapid, medication management for uninsured or under insured individuals
- Board membership likely to increase in 2026

- Local LAC attendees attending Regional LAC eligible for \$25 stipend and mileage reimbursement (1 Chisago County representative attending)
  - Link for regional meeting can be found on [adultmentalhealth.org](http://adultmentalhealth.org)
- Will be hearing more from mobile crisis services at board meeting in January, able to see 2025 data

❖ Resources

- Chisago County has partnered with CredibleMind – partnership launch was on January 5, 2026
  - Launch promo: complete free online assessment to be entered to win a \$100 gift card
- Serenity Circle is offering another group: Rising Beyond Trauma Circle
  - Saturday mornings starting February 7th

❖ Events/Training:

- Drop-in center calendar can be found on [adultmentalhealth.org](http://adultmentalhealth.org)
  - Wednesdays; Hours 10-2, Main Street Church in North Branch
- NAMI Presentations – to be held at the Drop-in Center
  - Creating Caring Communities on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 11-12
  - In Our Own Voice on Wednesday, March 18 from 11-12:30

❖ Ongoing recommendations/needs: \*Permanent affordable housing, improved access to ARMHS and CTSS, Transportation, Peer Support Specialist jobs/volunteer opportunities

- Are there any other unmet mental health needs specific to our County?
  - How can these needs be met?

❖ LAC Schedule 2026

**March 11**

**May 13**

**July 8**

**September 9**

**November 18 – pushed back a week due to Veteran’s Day**

**\*meetings will be offered in a hybrid format with TEAMS invite to be sent to LAC email list**

❖ Adjourn