

# AGENDA – revised on 2/19/26

## Region 7E Adult Mental Health Governing Board Meeting

February 23, 2026 | 9:00am - 12:00Noon | Participate in Person or via Zoom

Governing Board Members	Affiliation
Kelly Ihrke, 2026 GB Chair Jolene Thorson	Chisago County
Emily Hawkins, Fiscal Host & 2026 Vice Chair Alexandria Godeen	Isanti County
Katie Heacock Chuck Hurd	Kanabec County
Jessica Andrich Char Kohlgraf	Mille Lacs County
Barbara Schmidt Becky Foss	Pine County
Stacy J. Michelle O.	Consumer Rep Consumer Rep

Meeting URL:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83069978187>  
 Meeting ID: **830 6997 8187** and Passcode: **445737**  
 -----  
 For better sound quality, dial: **1 312 626 6799**  
 Meeting ID: **830 6997 8187** and Passcode: **445737**  
**To unmute if calling in, click: \*6**

“One or more Board members may participate in this meeting by interactive technology.”

**= attachment**

**= may need more info/incomplete**

**CALL to Order – Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **Approval of the agenda**
  - Is there any objection to approving the agenda as presented?
  - Any additions: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Approved     Amended
- **Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes: January**
  - Approved     Amended     Deferred
- **Consumer Rep Updates:**
  - Stacy J.
  - Michelle O.
- **Contract updates:**
  - Fully executed: All.
  - Contract issue: RISE Vocational Services- Contract is fully executed, but RISE has requested amendment for vocational services eligibility language.
    - Current contract language

### In Person Meeting Location

Isanti County Family Services; 1700 East Rum River Dr. So.; Cambridge MN 55008 763.689.1711

## I. SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

- A. The CONTRACTOR shall provide eligible residents of Region 7E with Adult Mental Health Vocational Services. Region 7E Adult Mental Vocational Services include:
  - a. New Millennium vocational services
    - i. Eligibility determination. CONTRACTOR must ensure that each service recipient is SPMI and has a Diagnostic Assessment within one year of the program acceptance date and, if continuing to receive services, every three years thereafter to ensure ongoing eligibility.
  - b. Coordinated Employability Alliance Services (CEA)
    - i. Region 7E AMHI provides a match for Individual Placement and Support (IPS) services for the Region.
    - ii. Eligibility determination. CONTRACTOR must ensure that each service recipient is SPMI and has a Diagnostic Assessment within one year of the program acceptance date and, if continuing to receive services, every three years thereafter to ensure ongoing eligibility.

- 
- RISE would like the amendment to reflect:
  - Eligibility determination. CONTRACTOR will ensure that each service recipient and is SPMI and has a diagnostic assessment within three years (36 months) of the program acceptance date and, if continuing to receive services, every three years thereafter, to ensure ongoing eligibility.
    - Discussion
    - Approved  Amended  Deferred
- Additional consideration: At Kanabec County’s LAC meeting in January, I learned about a case where I was told RISE was unable to provide AMHI funded vocational services to an individual that was also receiving waived services. I was not aware of this, so I connected with Maeta and Mike about the situation to better understand the reasoning, as well as potential larger impact to the Region. After talking with Mike, we agreed to reach out to DHS to seek clarification on payor of last resort, as it applies to BRASS 437, vocational services. My question was to determine potential impacts to existing services in Region 7E. DHS replied:
  - “AMHI-funded vocational services may be used in specific circumstances. If an individual is already receiving waiver-funded employment services—such as Employment Development Services, Employment Exploration Services, or Employment Support Services—then the waiver must be used to pay for those services.”
  - “However, if the individual is receiving IPS services and has been referred to IPS by a case manager or clinician, AMHI funds may be used. This is because waivers do not cover IPS services. In these cases, AMHI can fund the services as long as the individual meets all AMHI/CSP eligibility criteria, including being an adult with a Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI).”
  - This is great news/feedback; individuals receiving waived services can receive RISE services, as long as vocational services are not a part of the CSSP/waived services plan.

## 9:30AM:

- **Budget Review and Budget Actions:**
  - 2025 Final Numbers

## **In Person Meeting Location**

Isanti County Family Services; 1700 East Rum River Dr. So.; Cambridge MN 55008 763.689.1711

# AGENDA – revised on 2/19/26

- Mobile Crisis: \$995,986 out of \$1,050,859; \$54,873 unspent, we spent **95%** of the grant before refunds
- AMHI: \$1,807,980.00 out of \$1,845,755; \$37,775 unspent, we spent **98%** of the grant before refunds
- Returns/Refunds from Estimated Invoices:
  - Crisis Grant/ECCS/Canvas Health: **\$105,977.40**- Total underspending: **\$160,850.40**; 85% spent; 15% underspent
  - AMHI:
    - APFY- **\$3,678.35** (BRASS 403)
    - LSS- did not meet the deadline to provide their actual invoice. The Planner followed up 2x; received email on 2/3 that it will be received by 2/6; not received as of 2/6; emailed 2/6; email from Amy 2/11 indicating that all funds were not exhausted, did not have final accounting, but would gather the information and send asap. Planner clarified that unspent funds need to be returned to Isanti County/R7E AMHI. Invoice/documentation not received as of 2/13/26.

## ○ 2026 Budget

- Any questions from the Board?
- Planner question:
  - We've received two new funding requests for 2026 in addition to the two already received/scored. Would the Governing Board like to widely notify providers/others of potential AMHI funding availability, to allow others interested an equal opportunity to apply? If yes, what do we want that to look like?
- **Request to review:** There is \$9,000 that R7E has retained since the Riverwood Settlement in 2012. Three \$3,000 payments were made in 2013 before Riverwood filed for bankruptcy. R7E AMHI/Isanti County did not receive any additional settlement from the bankruptcy, which was completed/finalized.
  - Mark's input: It's there for use, if needed. Mark recommends utilizing or exhausting 2026 funds before using Riverwood Settlement Funds. The Riverwood Settlement Funds do not have parameters on use, like timeline or BRASS codes.
- Regional Flex Fund requests exceeding \$1,000:
  - Isanti County- Bridging referral, bed, and moving services expenses from Bridging warehouse to client home.
    - \$1,500 moving quote; \$342 bed from Bridging, \$80 Bridging referral; estimated total: \$1,922.00
    - Approved  Amended  Deferred
  - Chisago County- Bed/s and bases request for household
    - Beds x4 Furniture Mart \$599.96 and \$519.92 for platform bed bases (x4) Total: \$1119.88
    - *Question: Can AMHI purchase beds for household including minor children? (See next agenda item: clarity to process)*
      - Approved  Amended  Deferred

# AGENDA – revised on 2/19/26

- **ADDED:** Chisago County- Housing Subsidy, \$400/mo March- December; total up to \$4,000
  - Approved  Amended  Deferred
- Isanti County- Housing Subsidy request revisit, \$1,922? (CH)
  - Approved  Amended  Deferred
- Regional Flex Fund/Bed Program Process
  - Board members seeking clarity added to process
    - **Bed and Delivery Pricing**
      - 1. Clearly define the items that can be purchased. For instance, if we are allowing a box spring, frame and mattress, let's list each of them separately along with check boxes so that it's clear what each person is requesting. Not everyone needs all 3 items.
      - 2. Discussion on allowing mattress protectors - if allowed and L & P is in agreement with purchasing, then adding that to the form with a check box as well.
      - 3. Discussion on approving a Regional Flex Funds request that needs to be attached to the Bed Referral without having a cost or retailer on it. I am uncomfortable approving a flex funds request without this detail on it. We also do not know if the bed will cost greater than \$1000 and need Board approval.
      - 4. Question from above Regional request: If a household is in need of 4 beds, and 3 of the beds are for children, can AMHI fund?
- **DHS AMHI Monitoring/Review- It's done!** 😊
  - DHS noted the attention to detail in the policy and procedures.
  - Documentation for subcontractor monitoring was well organized and thorough.
  - Encouraged continued focus on ways to track service outcomes.
  - All future contracts and amendments should include AMHI/CSP eligibility criteria written within the contract.
  - Software costs, including cell phone service, must remain under the 10% indirect cost threshold for providers. As long as the amounts billed are allowable and within this limit, they are acceptable.
    - *\*I do see this as a potential concern/something to consider at future budget meetings (2027/2028).\**
  - Open Meeting Law resources that were requested:
    - Open Meeting Law statute: Ch. 13D MN Statutes  
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/13d>
      - Exceptions: Sec. 13D.01 MN Statutes  
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/13D.01>
    - Common Open Meeting Law Myths / Data Practices Office
      - <https://mn.gov/admin/data-practices/meetings/myths/>
  - In summary:
    - With limited exceptions, all meetings of public bodies must be open to the public.

- A gathering is subject to Open Meeting Law when:
  - Quorum (majority) of full public body or quorum of committee, subcommittee, etc. is present AND,
  - Quorum discusses, decides, or receives information on issues relating to its official business.
- A gathering is NOT subject to Open Meeting Law when:
  - Less than a quorum (majority)
  - By chance or social
  - Training or team building activities so long as business is not discussed

## 10:00AM:

- **Program and Service Provider Reports:**

- *Growing Connections:*

- *Cindy joining the Board at 10:00am IN PERSON to discuss program change for 2026 and answer questions.*
      - *Three 5-week session cycles; 2 sessions/week (30 sessions)- 9 spots in each session*
      - *1 end of year celebration for all (1 large session)*
      - *31 total sessions*
      - *Princeton farm (Prairie Care Farm) only*

- **Funding Requests:**

- **Chisago County- Credible Mind 2026**

- BRASS 402
    - Past Scoring: 2025/2026 Credible Mind 10-27-25  
1 = Poor · 2 = Fair · 3 = Satisfactory · 4 = Good · 5 = Excellent
      - Where does the proposal rank with the Region's priorities. Rating: 3
      - Rank how closely the proposal fills a GAP if it were funded. Rating: 3
      - Rank how well the request describes the proposed program. Rating: 5
      - In comparison to other funding requests, where does this proposal rank in priority? Rating: 3
      - If the program was funded in previous years, was it successful? Rating: NA
      - When you consider the cost per person, is there adequate justification to fund this request? Rating: 5
      - Is the program sustainable without the ongoing use of AMHI funds? Rating: 3
      - Total Score: 19 out of 30 possible points.
    - Approved    Amended    Deferred

- **Plum Behavioral Health Services/scoring sheet**

- BRASS 402, 403, 446?
    - Past Scoring: 11-24-25  
1 = Poor · 2 = Fair · 3 = Satisfactory · 4 = Good · 5 = Excellent
      - Where does the proposal rank with the Region's priorities. Rating: 3
      - Rank how closely the proposal fills a GAP if it were funded. Rating: 4

# AGENDA – revised on 2/19/26

- Rank how well the request describes the proposed program. Rating: 4
  - In comparison to other funding requests, where does this proposal rank in priority? Rating: 4
  - If the program was funded in previous years, was it successful? Rating: NA
  - When you consider the cost per person, is there adequate justification to fund this request? Rating: 5
  - Is the program sustainable without the ongoing use of AMHI funds? No
  - 20 out of 30 possible points.
- Updated proposal reflects a 15-session structure, updated timeline, and itemized budget. (Planner emailed to Board on 2/13 at 8:40am)
  - *Christine will join the Governing Board Meeting to answer any questions.*
  - Approved    Amended    Deferred

## o Love the Journey Inc.

- BRASS 454
- SCORING 1 = Poor · 2 = Fair · 3 = Satisfactory · 4 = Good · 5 = Excellent**
- **1. Where does the proposal rank with the Region’s priorities.** Rating: \_\_\_\_/5
  - **2. Rank how closely the proposal fills a GAP if it were funded.** Rating: \_\_\_\_/5
  - **3. Rank how well the request describes the proposed program.** Rating: \_\_\_\_/5
  - **4. In comparison to other funding requests, where does this proposal rank in priority?**  
Rating: \_\_\_\_/5
  - **5. If the program was funded in previous years, was it successful?** Rating: \_\_\_\_/5
  - **6. When you consider the cost per person, is there adequate justification to fund this request?**  
Yes (5) No (0) Maybe (3) Rating: \_\_\_\_/5
  - **7. Is the program sustainable without the ongoing use of AMHI funds?** Yes No Maybe
  - **Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 30 possible points.**  
 Approved    Amended    Deferred

## o Linwood Group Meetings

- BRASS 401
- SCORING 1 = Poor · 2 = Fair · 3 = Satisfactory · 4 = Good · 5 = Excellent**
- **1. Where does the proposal rank with the Region’s priorities.** Rating: \_\_\_\_/5
  - **2. Rank how closely the proposal fills a GAP if it were funded.** Rating: \_\_\_\_/5
  - **3. Rank how well the request describes the proposed program.** Rating: \_\_\_\_/5
  - **4. In comparison to other funding requests, where does this proposal rank in priority?**  
Rating: \_\_\_\_/5
  - **5. If the program was funded in previous years, was it successful?** Rating: \_\_\_\_/5
  - **6. When you consider the cost per person, is there adequate justification to fund this request?**  
Yes (5) No (0) Maybe (3) Rating: \_\_\_\_/5
  - **7. Is the program sustainable without the ongoing use of AMHI funds?** Yes No Maybe
  - **Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 30 possible points.**  
 Approved    Amended    Deferred

- **Unfinished Business:**

- **Item 1:** Subcommittees and assignments:
  - Determine subcommittees
    - Outcomes/Process
    - Housing- Lakes and Pines
    - Crisis
    - Transportation?
    - Willow Grove?
- **Item 2:** Complaint Policy and Process
  - Discussion
  - Data or information requests- shall we use Isanti County's form or create our own?
    - Isanti County's policy/form
- **Item 3 :** Certified Peer Specialist Training Opportunity in 2026
  - Region 5+ will be hosting this opportunity at Sourcewell in Staples, MN 5/11/26-5/22/26.
  - Training provided by RI International (same company DHS has used/worked with).
  - I have requested follow up/more info from the Region V+ coordinator 2x without response.
  - Opportunity to partner; Region 5+ requests that we would provide support for lodging and travel reimbursement for anyone from our Region.
  - **DHS follow up/response:**
    - **"402x, community education, can be used for the certified peer specialist training to pay for training, mileage, and lodging, for individuals with SPMI who meet criteria. Any other staff training could be paid out of the fiscal host fee. The fiscal host fee can be up to 10% of budget."**
    - **Through this discussion the Planner learned that DHS determines the administrative fee/fiscal host fee to be 10% of the total grant amount (\$184,575). BRASS 401 must not exceed \$184,575. This is \$16,779 greater than what Mark and the Planner determined through the formula he has used for several years (\$167,796). Including this information on the agenda to bring to the attention of the Board, as well as Isanti as Fiscal Host.**
- **Item 4:** R7E Housing Subsidy Policy follow up/review
  - **R7E Housing Subsidy Policy/form**
  - **DHS follow up/response:**
    - **"Region 7E can change the documented list of eligibility criteria for BRASS code 443x, Housing Subsidy, as long as the AMHI/CSP funds are used only as payor of last resort to pay for services provided to individuals who meet AMHI/CSP criteria."**
    - **"Sec. 245.4661 MN Statutes states that you must "utilize adult mental health initiative funding only after all other eligible funding sources have been applied."**

**Meaning if the individual is eligible for any other source of funding for the specific service (443), AMHI funds cannot be used.”**

- **“Also, any use of AMHI funds for an individual could potentially impact their benefits. This would be something to talk to financial workers about on a case-by-case basis.”**

- **Item 5:** Green Sheet follow up from Rori:

- My understanding is that all of the calls within the green section are calls FCFH receives from our 800 number between the hours of 5:00 pm to 8:00 am on weeknights and then on weekends and holidays. They code their calls in the same way that we code them during the day hours, from call types 1 through 5. 988 calls are only those in the box to the bottom right. They do not code their calls, but they will send us their call logs when, and if, they refer a caller to us.

- **New Business:**

- **Item 1:** Mobile Crisis Services RFP

- Discussion
- Next steps
  - Date to post/advertise
  - Method of posting/advertising

- **Item 2:** Wishlist update and process moving forward

- Planner idea, plan, or goal for 2026, was to receive proposals for funding, distribute as they come in, discuss and score at the next regular meeting and, if the Board supports, add to the wish list or “queue” for funding if/when available funding is identified. The thought process behind this was to be able to act timely with underspending and have projects that the Board has already discussed, scored, and identified as priorities.
- How would the Board like to see the wish list managed or function?
- Wishlist ideas proposed to the Planner, but have not received a proposal for:
  - Travis Law education to LE/dispatch in Region
  - Move Mindfully <https://move-mindfully.com/workshops/>
  - Car repair clinic/service in the Region

- **Item 3:** Region 7E Uncompensated Care Policy/Form

- Provider questions
- Provider outreach/education about this form
  - What does the Board wish for this to look like?
  - The Planner plans to add/review the Regional LAC agendas in 2026

- **Item 4:** What policies/forms does the Board want available on the website?

- Uncompensated Care Policy/Form
- Application for funding

- Others?
  
- **Announcements/Updates:** (Upcoming events, deadlines, policy changes, etc.)
  - Swag update: Sunglasses shared with counties equal nearly 100% of what was received. The Planner inadvertently overshad the fidget cubes with Kanabec and Pine thinking there should be two boxes per county, but that was incorrect. If providers are seeking more items, should the Planner share what she has until they’re gone, direct them to counties, or what does the Board feel would work best?
  - Isanti Drop-In Center- St. Patrick’s Day Bingo 3/19/26
  - Kanabec County- March 12<sup>th</sup> Mental Health and Social Medial presentation at Mora Elementary School.
  - Pine County Mental Health Event- 5/22- Pine Technical College
  
- **Action Item Summary/Items for March’s Agenda:**
- **Open Forum/Public Comment**
- **Adjournment**
  - “If there is no further business, I request a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting.”
  - Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**2026 Governing Board and Regional LAC Meeting Schedule**

- Governing Board Meetings: 9:00am – 12:00pm: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month except May and December
- Regional LAC Meeting: 1:00-2:00pm – every other month as scheduled below

In Person at Isanti County Family Services, Conference Room A and virtual via Zoom

<b>January 26 – 1:00pm Regional LAC Meeting</b>	<b>July 27 – 1:00pm Regional LAC Meeting</b>
<b>February 23</b>	<b>August 24</b>
<b>March 23 – 1:00pm Regional LAC Meeting</b>	<b>September 28 - 1:00pm Regional LAC Meeting</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>October 26</b>
<b>May 18 – 1:00pm Regional LAC Meeting ONE WEEK EARLY</b>	<b>November 23 - 1:00pm Regional LAC Meeting</b>
<b>June 22</b>	<b>December 21 ONE WEEK EARLY</b>

**Wish List**

- Transportation stipends for SPMI via Lift or Uber Account.
- Jail support/services
- Crisis training for County Case Managers
- Support Groups
- Budget for a needs assessment in 2027 for 2028.