

**Region 7E Governing Board Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
January 26, 2026; 9:00am – 12:00 Noon**

Attendees:

Affiliation		Governing Board Members		Directors
Chisago County	X	Kelly Ihrke, 2026 Governing Board Chair	Z	Robert Benson
		Jolene Thorsen		
DHS Liaison		Christian Ederer		DHS
Isanti County	X	Emily Hawkins, Fiscal Host & 2026 Vice Chair		Jodi Donnay
	X	Alex Godeen		
Kanabec County	X	Katie Heacock	X	Chuck Hurd
		Cassie Dahlberg		
Mille Lacs County	X	Jessica Andrich	Z	Char Kohlgraf
Pine County	X	Barb Schmidt		Becky Foss
Consumer Rep	X	Stacy J.		
Consumer Rep	Z	Michelle O.		
Region 7E Planner	X	Amanda Stevenson		

Guest: Angie Kemen, Chisago County

= Document was attached to Agenda

9:00AM: CALL to Order

- **Approval of the agenda**
 - Additions:
 - Updates from Dr. Beth Good and Kanabec County
 - Housing subsidy policy review
 - Status of 2026 signed contracts
- **Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes December**
 - **Motion:** Isanti County approve December minutes. **Second:** Chisago County. **Outcome:** Motion carried.
- **Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes 1/12/26- Special Meeting**
 - **Motion:** Isanti County approve January 12, 2026 Special Meeting minutes. **Second:** Mille Lacs County. **Outcome:** Motion carried. Kanabec abstained.
- **Consumer Rep Updates:**
 - Stacy J.
 - New clients, concerned about the state of the State.
 - Welcome to our new Consumer Rep for 2026-2028, Michelle O.
 - Michelle attended the Chisago LAC meeting and noted that needs are the same as in the past with transportation being key among them.
 - **Motion:** Chisago County to approve Michelle O. as the second Consumer Rep. **Second:** Kanabec County. **Outcome:** Motion carried.

9:30AM:

- **Budget Review and Budget Actions:**
 - 2025 Budget
 - 2025 was underspent by \$37,706.60 based on **estimated** invoices; roughly \$3,000 will be returned from APFY. Based on the estimated invoice, mobile crisis underspent by \$54,873.82 but the final total will be greater because they will be returning approximately \$103,000.

- 2026 Budget
 - Housing Flex for January is overspent by 4%. We are one month into the year which is 8% of the year; current spending trend is at 12%.
 - Received notice that Beth Good will not be contracting with the Region for med management for 2026. The letter stated that the insurance requirements are cost prohibitive. That allocation was \$175,890. The Planner suggested placing some of the funds into an uncompensated care line so any provider could submit a request for med management. The Planner will push out that process to providers, so they are aware of how to request funds. As of now, the funds will be moved to unallocated. The Planner will send a copy of the letter to the Board.
 - There was a parenting program proposed at the budget meeting. It was suggested to invite that provider to attend the February GB meeting to present the program again.
 - Chisago County Credible Minds program was not funded for 2026. Invite them to present at the February meeting.
 - The Board discussed current county insurance coverage requirements which were concerning for some providers.
- Regional Flex Fund requests exceeding \$1,000:
 - Isanti- \$4,706.18- for car repairs (engine replacement and labor = \$4,436; other charges are for oil change, gaskets, belts, fluids, coolant.) BRASS 418 has \$10,000 allocated.
 - **Motion:** Pine County motion to spend \$2,000 for this request. **Second:** Kanabec County. **Outcome:** Motion carried.
 - Isanti- \$2,200- Housing Subsidy of \$200/month for 11 months (February-December 2026) N.N. BRASS 443, there is \$30,00 allocated to the line, spent \$3,700 so far.
 - **Motion:** Pine County motion to spend \$200/mo for 11 months for this request. **Second:** Kanabec County. **Outcome:** Motion carried.
 - Isanti- \$2,200- Housing Subsidy of \$200/month for 11 months (February- December 2026) K.M.
 - **Motion:** Chisago County motion to spend \$200/mo for 11 months for this request. **Second:** Pine County. **Outcome:** Motion carried.
 - Housing subsidy request \$1,200. This person receives general assistance, so they don't qualify for a housing subsidy. Must be SPMI, have case management, and no other housing assistance.

Questions:

 - Are they getting other money and not able to receive AMHI money?
 - Is it wise to start the client on a subsidy if they won't be able to afford the housing cost after the subsidy ends.
 - Recommendation: reach out to DHS to get final answer.
 - Request will be deferred until the Region receives more guidance.
 - Planner: how does the Board want the Planner to move forward with requests that don't align with AMHI policy. With regard to MSA, GA eligibility, etc. – ask DHS how to proceed or change policy.

10:00AM:

- **Canvas Health/ECCS Quarter 4 Data with Rori**

- **Power Point**

- Outreach staff, Amelia, still working for R7E for a couple months and then will move into other regions.
- Filled staff position on March 2 start

February and March in each location, then the transition to inhouse or end-of-program will happen.

- Kanabec will continue a similar program, but date is not yet defined.
 - ITV is still available until the program ends within 2026.
- Will work with Isanti and the Planner to draft a letter of explanation to distribute to clients.
- Clinicians would like to stop taking referrals as of February 1 so as not to start with new clients and move them to others.
- Kanabec will inform the clients that they are no longer providing the service and will advise them they can contact their county. They will also provide a list of providers offering the service. Meeting with Isanti County on Thursday to draft the letter and to determine the cost of maintaining until the end is complete.
- It will be likely less than 4 months until they are completely done.
- Reason for shutdown is a change in funding and changing requirements in contract from the fiscal host
- Counties will provide a specific phone number for people to contact with questions, that information will be included in the letter.

- **Unfinished Business:**

- **Item 1: Bylaws (mark up version and draft with revisions)**

- Isanti removed many of the Planner references to the bylaws because the bylaws are meant to be enduring.
 - Removed: record retention, data requests, quorums,
 - Changed: The Planner and Admin are to distribute agenda, minutes, and necessary documents five days in advance of the meeting, rather than three days in advance.
 - Voting by proxy. Governing Board membership is to be the same for each meeting, but if counties want to send a case manager it may be different each meeting. Chisago noted that if one member couldn't make it, they could send someone who would have the authorization to vote.
 - **Motion:** Kanabec made a motion to add the following items to the bylaws: proxy voting, that a tie vote means the motion fails, and that the bylaws are approved upon signature of all directors. Voting by email will not be allowed. **Second:** Isanti. **Outcome:** motion carried.

- **Item 2:** With the approval of the bylaws, the Governing Board membership composition can move forward.
 - Who can be on the Governing Board email list? February materials will go out **Friday Feb 13**, will need full email list by then.

- **New Business:**

- **Item 1:** 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 worked with in the past).
 - They do not have the capacity to fill all the spots for the training.
 - Opportunity to partner; Region 5+ requests that we would provide support for lodging and travel reimbursement for anyone from our Region.

- Can we use AMHI funds to support training?
 - Ask DHS: what training is appropriate for AMHI to fund, loading transportation, ancillary costs. Can't support EMDR training, can we support peer support specialist training? In what ways is that different so we can guide future decision making? Is training that is open to the public available for counties to fund expenses for staff?
- **Announcements/Updates:** (Upcoming events, deadlines, policy changes, etc.)
 - Chisago County- NAMI presentation- Creating Caring Communities on Wednesday, January 28th from 11-12 @ Drop In Center
 - Mental Health Day on the Hill- 3/26/26
 - Stark has an 11-passenger vehicle; Cost is \$400 round trip. If the driver waits for pick up, it will be an additional \$25/hr.
 - Pine typically has had 8 people participate. That leaves three spots available to others in the Region.
 - Shall we proceed? If so, under Stark's contract or a Regional Flex Fund Request for Transportation.
 - Could be taken from Regional flex funds for transportation, may need two vehicles. Barb will submit the request for the entire region.
 - Allina Health Employee Wellness Fair- 4/8/26
 - Would the Board like R7E AMHI represented at this event? Mobile Crisis, Isanti Public Health, and a LAC member will be there.
 - Pine County's Mental Health Awareness Event- 5/21/26
 - Planner will attend to staff a table at the event.
- **Items for February's Agenda:**
 - **Mobile Crisis RFP draft-**
 - Please review the draft before February's meeting.
 - The Board will need to determine when and how it will be posted/advertised/shared. (We do not yet know the amount available or granted to us for 2027-2028; the 2025-2026 cycle included additional "one time" allocations.)
- **Signed 2026 contracts**
 - Most went to the Isanti County Board on January 20th
 - Pine, Chisago and Mille Lacs email to counties today, others still waiting
 - Contracts not gone to board: LGM, Kanabec
- **Open Forum/Public Comment**
 - None
- **Adjournment**
 - Motion pine, Chisago second to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 11:57am

- **Adjournment**

- **Motion:** Consumer Rep Ashley made the motion to adjourn at 11:36am. **Second:** Consumer Rep Stacy. **Outcome:** Motion carried.

2026 Governing Board and Regional LAC Meeting Schedule

Governing Board Meetings: 9:00am – 12:00pm: 4th 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

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