

**Region 7E Governing Board Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
April 27, 2026; 9:00am – 12:00 Noon**

Attendees:

Affiliation		Governing Board Members		Directors
Chisago County	z	Kelly Ihrke, 2026 Chair		
	z	Jolene Thorsen		
Isanti County	x	Emily Hawkins, Fiscal Host & 2026 Vice Chair		Jodi Donnay
	x	Alexandria Godeen		
Kanabec County	x	Katie Heacock		Chuck Hurd
Mille Lacs County	x	Jessica Andrich	z	Char Kohlgraf
Pine County	x	Barb Schmidt		Becky Foss
Consumer Rep	x	Stacy Johnstone		
	x	Michelle Ochsendorf		
Region 7E Planner	x	Amanda Stevenson		

Guest: Rori Johnson, ECCS

1. 9:00AM CALL TO ORDER Emily Hawkins Chaired the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL/QUOROM CONFIRMATION

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

- **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**
- Motion: Michelle approve Second: Barb Vote: All ayes, Katie Heacock abstained.
- **Approval of Agenda**
- Motion: Stacy approve Second: Mille Lacs Vote: all ayes

4. ACTION ITEMS

A. Budget Review & Financial Actions

- **Budget Review**
 - AMHI Q1:

AMHI BRASS code	Q1 Expenses
401 (Admin)	\$821.16
402	\$3,021.71
403	\$8,435.00
409	\$3,535.83
416	\$626.00
418	\$876.44
434	\$15,890.74
437	\$11,158.00
443	\$20,563.22
454	\$17,970.92
491	\$21,480.06
AMHI Q1 TOTAL:	\$104,379.08

- Unallocated funds = \$102,764

- Important to watch housing flex we are at 43% and we are only at 33% of the year.
- Will have funds from Kanabec County and also from Lakes and Pines not hiring the second position.
 - **Budget revision needed**
 - New DHS workplan revision form/workbook
 - R7E Planner recommends establishing strategic planning process to determine where funds should be allocated/services funded for remainder of 2026 as soon as possible. Options may be:
 - Bridges-like housing subsidy, we would need to implement, and it would require ongoing for 2027 and 2028.
 - The last Needs Assessment was in 2023, do we want to target funds for end of 2026
 - Available Admin funds can be used for training.
 - It was requested that the Planner provide budget totals showing each county's spent allocation, rather than only spending by BRASS code.
 - Regional flex funds: The Fiscal Host has had several returned checks and has had to stop payment on those checks for several reasons including: policy or account numbers haven't been provided, dates or months of service for housing related checks, not confirming that the address and business name provided for payment is the same on the W9. They are unable to issue payments until a receipt is received for certain items, such as car repair.
- MOTION: Mille Lacs made a motion to allocate \$15,000 BRASS 401 Fiscal Host Fee/admin dollars or \$3,000 per county for training. Kanabec second.
 Discussion: The available funds in the 2026 Admin budget line is \$15,748.50. The Region would have a wider reach with training providers, but staff would also benefit from additional training. Consider offering provider training in 2027 if Admin dollars are available and gather feedback from providers on which treatment modalities would be most beneficial in supporting their work with clients.
 All ayes, motion carried. The Planner was directed to track spending totals in each county on the budget.
- Mobile Crisis Q1:

MOBILE CRISIS BRASS	Q1 expenses + ADMIN by BRASS = TOTAL
431	\$85,226.01+\$675.80 Isanti ADMIN=TOTAL: \$85,901.81
432	\$14,892.56 +\$118.09 Isanti ADMIN = TOTAL: \$15,010.65

Regional Flex Fund requests exceeding \$1,000:

- **Request: Housing Subsidy- Chisago County- \$445/month for 8 months Total: \$3,560**
 - Motion: Kanabec approve Second: Isanti Vote: all ayes, motion carried.

Uncompensated Care funding requests exceeding \$1,000:

- Chisago has received a request; pending discussion later in the agenda.
- Other requests received, but do not exceed \$1,000.

9:30AM New Funding Requests/ Scoring

1. Isanti County Public Health request; \$11,074. BRASS 402
 - a. The program would train 75-100 adults and youth in the ambassador program. If every ambassador reached out to five people, the overall reach would be 500-1,000 community members as indirect outreach.
 - b. There was discussion about whether the Region can use AMHI funds for youth and school staff.

1 = Poor · 2 = Fair · 3 = Satisfactory · 4 = Good · 5 = Excellent

1. Where does the proposal rank with the Region's priorities. Rating: 2/5
2. Rank how closely the proposal fills a GAP if it were funded. Rating: 3/5
3. Rank how well the request describes the proposed program. Rating: 5/5
4. In comparison to other funding requests, where does this proposal rank in priority? Rating: 2/5
5. If the program was funded in previous years, was it successful? Rating: 0/5
6. When you consider the cost per person, is there adequate justification to fund this request? Rating: 3/5
7. Is the program sustainable without the ongoing use of AMHI funds? 0/5

Total Score: 15 out of 30 possible points.

MOTION: Barb Schmidt made a motion to approve the Isanti County Public Health request, Michelle Ochsendorf second.

Discussion: There was hesitation about targeting funds specifically for youth, as the Board has not funded other youth directed programs.

Emily Hawkins and Alex Godeen, Isanti County, abstained from scoring and voting.

Katie Heacock: no

Barb Schmidt: yes

Stacy Johnstone: no

Michelle Ochsendorf: yes

Jessica Andrich: no

Char Kohlgraf: no

Kelly Irhke: no

Motion failed. The Board directed the Planner to invite Isanti County Public Health to attend the May GB meeting for further discussion.

2. RSI- Lotus Grace funding request for the Connected Care & Resilience Toolkit Project; \$4,000. BRASS 402 or 403. Concerns cited:

- Clients would begin the program while residing at the IRTS. The program and tools (not iPads) would be available after discharge through an online portal using their own device.
- The grant would be \$1,550 if the iPads and protective cases are removed from the request.
- Amanda will inquire at DHS if the Region could purchase equipment if it's client driven.
- A decision to fund or not will be made after verification from DHS if the Region can purchase equipment.

New Funding Allocations/ Contracts/ RFP, if any

Mobile Crisis Services/ECCS RFP Next Steps Determination

- Northern Pines Mental Health Center and Canvas Health submitted proposals.
- The Planner outlined the differences in the two proposals and stated that it's likely that in 2027 and 2028 mobile crisis services will need to be subsidized with AMHI funds.
- Using the specific scoring sheet that will be provided by the Planner, each county should send their scores to the Planner by May 11.
- The Board will cast their votes for one of the providers at the May 18, 2026, meeting. This will enable the chosen provider the opportunity to complete the application together with the Region.

10:00 AM GUEST- Mobile Crisis Services/ECCS- Rori Johnson

2026 Q1 Data summary

- East Central Crisis Services reported 330 answered calls during Q1 2026, with monthly call volume increasing over the quarter. Of those calls, 30 resulted in responses, though not all responses resulted in a full assessment.
- Call activity was primarily handled by daytime staff, with 190 calls answered by daytime staff and 140 by FCFH. The most common call types were wrong number/hang up/dead air, information and referral, police requests for follow-up, and crisis counseling.

- Most calls were initiated by the person in crisis, followed by law enforcement and family/friends. Homelessness-related data identified 11 individuals at risk of homelessness, 3 in a homeless shelter, and 3 who were literally homeless.
- ECCS reported 30 crisis episodes, including 19 adults and 11 children. Most assessments occurred within two hours, and the most common primary reasons for crisis response were suicidal ideation, depression, dysregulated behavior, and anxiety/panic.
- ECCS provided 115 total billable services and completed 119 outreach contacts during the quarter. Outreach resulted in 247 contacts with identified entities, with the highest outreach categories including schools and social services.

The Board discussed their concern that most mobile crisis visits are virtual, and clients have expressed over the years that they want an in-person visit, especially in a crisis. Additionally, law enforcement wants to call and have someone show up because it's not their wheelhouse.

10:30 AM Policy / Governance Actions

Item: Grant Monitoring and Financial Review- Revised Policy/Forms

- Recent guidance from DHS indicates that more frequent grant monitoring and financial monitoring is required in our contract with the State.
 - All contracts exceeding \$50,000 will need to have a monitoring visit and a financial reconciliation before final payment can be made. That's roughly 12-13 providers that will need to have a visit by the end of the year.
 - Contracts that are for the two-year grant cycle, and exceed \$50,000 and are less than \$250,000 annually, only need to have a monitoring visit once within the two-year grant cycle.
 - No monitoring visits have been completed for the 2025 contracts.
 - The suggestion was made to keep existing forms and policies for this year and have the Policies and Procedures Task Group work on new forms and procedures for next year.
 - Stacy Johnstone noted that the Board needs to determine what is to be done if a provider is not in compliance.
- MOTION: Barb Schmidt made a motion to authorize the Planner to start monitor visits immediately using existing forms, Alex Godeen second. All eyes, motion carried.

Item: Request for Proposal- THP

- If the Board is interested in establishing transitional housing within the Region, the recommendation is to issue an RFP for 2027-2028 cycle versus within 2026.
- The Isanti County RFP policy was adopted by the Region, to do an RFP if the funding exceeds \$25,000.
- The suggestion was made to gather information from Housing providers to better understand the needs they are seeing and to have the Housing Coordinator lead the program.
- An option other than transitional housing would be to consider partnering with HUD on their NOFO program, which will be released in May, and combine HUD funds with AMHI funds and a provider to create a greater transitional housing program where a certain percentage or number of units would be dedicated to SPMI adults. HUD requires a match of 25% which is limiting for providers in the Region.

Program / Operational Actions

Item: Current Uncompensated Care Form/Policy

- Form and Process feedback from the providers that participated in the Q & A Sessions. Their responses:
 - It's a barrier to not know if they can request or receive reimbursement. The service often needs to be rendered to determine eligibility criteria, and payment is after the determination, provided the individual doesn't have documentation or a history elsewhere.
 - If funds are short term and to have a transition plan, adding a timeline or maximum length of time to give providers assurance about the payer source for a specific period of time and to prevent long-term reliance on uncompensated care funds.

- Prior authorization process through county intake.
- Challenges in getting assessments or prior authorization were discussed.
- Mobile Crisis suggested a crisis services assessment could support presumptive eligibility or prior authorization in some form which could lead to a lower level of care.
- Allina Partial Hospitalization Program is seeing barriers in transportation availability for their clients because they need 15 days of rides and not everyone that attends their program has medical transportation as some are on commercial insurance.
- There were questions about the underinsured definition which is stated as the plan doesn't cover the service needed.
- The question was raised about providing a diagnostic assessment for someone in jail. It was noted that if a diagnostic assessment occurs in a jail, it is the responsibility of the jail to pay for that; they are responsible for all medical and psychological care. The Board directed Planner to invite DHS to join future meeting to discuss Uncompensated Care.

May Agenda Items

- ECCS Award for 2027-2028
- Isanti County Public Health
- DHS AMHI/CSP representative RE: Uncompensated Care

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mille Lacs Second: Chisago Vote: All ayes

Time Adjourned 11:58am

Wishlist	Funding Requests Scored, but not funded
Support groups	Willow Grove Supportive Housing (\$55,000 (22/30)
Needs assessment in 2027 for 2028	Love the Journey- Uncomp. Care (\$104,512) (19/30)
Training for county case managers	Selah Wellness- Uncomp. Care (\$330, 000) (18/30)
Jail Supports/Services	TSA- Flow State Healing- Level 1 (\$5,258) (17/30)
CIT	

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