

**Region 7E Governing Board Meeting  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 18, 2026; 9:00am – 12:00 Noon**

Attendees:

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

Guest: **DHS AMHI/CSP- Christian Ederer and Jaime Preuss via Zoom**

**1. 9:00AM CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL/QUOROM CONFIRMATION** (*Quorum = 7 voting members*)

**3. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Agenda

**Motion:** Emily Hawkins to approve Second: Jessica Andrich

Online votes: Amy Tveldt and Stacy Johnstone voted to approve.

In person votes: Emily Hawkins, Alexandria Godeen, Katie Heacock, Jessica Andrich, Barb Schmidt, and Chuck Hurd voted to approve the motion.

All ayes, motion carried.

**GUESTS: DHS AMHI/CSP- Christian Ederer and Jaime Preuss**

Uncompensated Care and Presumptive Eligibility

- Incarcerated individuals
  - DHS is okay with uncompensated care services coming from jail if in support of transitioning back to community, but cannot pay for long term services while in jail or prison because AMHI funds are payor of last resort. (e.g. Medicaid eligible if released and corrections has responsibility for meeting health care needs while in custody)
- Private/commercial insurance copays/deductibles
  - Cannot pay for co pays, deductibles, or spend downs because they are not a service, just a payment. But they have encouraged Regions to look for alternative ways that could help alleviate financial burden for the client to pay their copays and deductibles. Interpretation of the statute is that we pay for direct services.
  - Christian will have to look at the policy, consult with his team and follow up. Emily pointed out that if we pay rent, the client may still not pay for their mental health services/needs, then mental health concerns continue to escalate.
  - Develop a written policy that clearly defines Region 7E uncompensated care requirements. DHS can review that policy when requested. Christian agreed the GB had good points, and will take them back to his team. He stated that ultimately the Region /Fiscal Host agency are responsible for using the funds. The Region should have back up why funding decisions were made.

- Chuck suggested that when DHS considers a new policy, they share the idea with the Regions to get feedback. Christian appreciated the suggestion.
- Presumptive Eligibility considerations
  - Means the part of the policy that determines whether an individual has SPMI or meets criteria for AMHI or CSP funds.
  - Considerations include what indicates presumptive eligibility and the timeframe an individual can receive services under presumptive eligibility before determination is required.
  - Additionally, presumptive eligibility applies to services when you can't determine eligibility, such as a community event or outreach (BRASS 402 or 403), as long as the intended audience is SPMI and as long as it's part of the Region's written policy.

#### 4. ACTION ITEMS

##### A. Budget Review & Financial Actions

###### Budget Review

- AMHI- Dollars unallocated = \$87,364
  - Mobile Crisis: 42% year gone by, underspent in administrative amount allocated, but Canvas Health is on target.
- Brass 418, Client Flex Funds slightly underspent, there is \$10K available.
- Brass 416 Transportation underspent, no utilization of Attaboys yet; Stark at 23% and the Region has received four of their invoices.
- Request from last month regarding where counties stand is on the bottom of the AMHI budget.
  - Amanda received confirmation that training is approved for counties 1/1/26-12/31/26.
- 443 Housing Subsidy Flex, slightly overspent. We are at 52% spent, over by about 10% year to date.
- Would like 408 and 452 additional funds allocated to those lines because we started to receive invoices for those expenses. In 452, we have three pending invoices, but nothing allocated, we have \$700 in our DHS budget.

**Motion:** Emily Hawkins made a motion to allocate \$10,000 to Brass 452, Chuck Hurd seconded.

Online votes: Amy Tveldt and Stacy Johnstone voted to approve.

In person votes: Emily Hawkins, Alexandria Godeen, Katie Heacock, Jessica Andrich, Barb Schmidt, and Chuck Hurd voted to approve the motion.

All ayes, motion carried.

**Motion:** Emily Hawkins motion to allocate \$10,000 to 408 for DAs, Jessica Andrich second.

Online votes: Amy Tveldt and Stacy Johnstone voted to approve.

In person votes: Emily Hawkins, Alexandria Godeen, Katie Heacock, Jessica Andrich, Barb Schmidt, and Chuck Hurd voted to approve the motion.

All ayes, motion carried.

###### Regional Flex Fund requests exceeding \$1,000:

- Mille Lacs- damage deposit/1<sup>st</sup> month rent, \$1,223

**Motion:** Katie Heacock to approve Second: Jessica Andrich

Online votes: Amy Tveldt and Stacy Johnstone voted to approve.

In person votes: Emily Hawkins, Alexandria Godeen, Katie Heacock, Jessica Andrich, Barb Schmidt, and Chuck Hurd voted to approve the motion. Mille Lacs abstained.

All ayes, motion carried.

- Isanti- Three twin beds/platforms, and one full bed/platform for household, \$1,027

**Motion:** Katie Heacock to approve Second: Jessica Andrich

Online votes: Amy Tveldt and Stacy Johnstone voted to approve.

In person votes: Emily Hawkins, Alexandria Godeen, Katie Heacock, Jessica Andrich, Barb Schmidt, and Chuck Hurd voted to approve the motion. Isanti abstained.

All ayes, motion carried.

### Uncompensated Care funding requests

- Kanabec/Love the Journey, 3/1/26-12/31/26 (\$860)
- Planner recommends allocating additional funds to Uncompensated care, BRASS codes (408, 452, or 454)
  - Medicare is paying for the service, and it has a high client responsibility.
 

Policy change options:

    - Change the policy to call it “client responsibility” and remove a service not covered by their existing plan.
    - Strike “not covered by their existing plan” and “Medicare co-pays or premiums” from the current policy.
    - Strike “care for incarcerated persons” from the current policy.

**Motion:** Jessica Andrich made a motion to modify the policy to remove “not covered by their existing plan,” “Medicare copays or premiums,” and “care for incarcerated persons.” Second: Emily Hawkins

Online votes: Amy Tveldt and Stacy Johnstone voted to approve.

In person votes: Emily Hawkins, Alexandria Godeen, Katie Heacock, Jessica Andrich, Barb Schmidt, and Chuck Hurd voted to approve the motion.

All ayes, motion carried.

### B. New Funding Requests/ Guests/ Scoring

#### GUEST: Avi Yetman, Isanti County Public Health

1. **Revisit Isanti County Public Health request BRASS 402, \$11,074**
  - a. Avi explained the situations public health is seeing in the community and how they would benefit from the program. She explained it is Evidence-Based. Unlikely to be insurance-billable because not working with therapists and one-on-one. The funds are to promote training and receive printed resources.
  - b. Scored: 15/30

**Motion:** Chuck Hurd made a motion to approve. Second: Stacy Johnstone

Online votes: Amy Tveldt and Stacy Johnstone voted to approve.

In person votes: Emily Hawkins, Alexandria Godeen, Katie Heacock, Jessica Andrich, Barb Schmidt, and Chuck Hurd voted to approve the motion.

All ayes, motion carried.

2. **Revisit RSI- Lotus Grace request BRASS 402, \$4,000**
  - a. Connected Care and Resilience Toolkits
    - i. Connected Care: enhance client engagement, supports skill-building, strengthens community outreach through digital, printed, and physical resources.
    - ii. Client Toolkits: Coping skills resources, therapeutic items, mental health first aid materials, and education handouts to help clients develop resilience, manage stress, and practice skills learned during services.

- iii. Tablet-based digital resources: Tablets will serve as portable, personalized digital hubs for each client. They would stay with Lotus Grace, not move with clients when they move out.

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: 1/5
  3. Rank how well the request describes the proposed program. Rating: 4/5
  4. In comparison to other funding requests, where does this proposal rank in priority? Rating: 1/5
  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
- Total Score: 11 out of 30 possible points.

iv. Discussion: Received email from DHS stating that technology cannot be purchased.

- b. **Motion:** Request died for lack of motion.

### 3. Fernbrook Family Center BRASS 402, \$5,000

- a. Increase ARMHS program development by shadowing a southern facility

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: 2/5
  3. Rank how well the request describes the proposed program. Rating: 3/5
  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
- Total Score: 12 out of 30 possible points.

- b. **Motion:** died for lack of motion

### 4. Lakes and Pines AMHI "Bridges like" Housing Subsidy, BRASS 443

- a. Utilize 2026 underspending. Ongoing commitment looking ahead to 2027 would be \$117K with \$90K in direct costs, plus \$26K in admin costs for Deb and other staff.

- b. Discussion

- i. Looking to add up to 5 subsidies for 2026, following the Bridges Housing Voucher model. Would strongly encourage Region 7E commitment looking ahead to 2027 for any individuals awarded AMHI bridges like subsidy.
- ii. They would follow the Bridges model because it's a great structure and process.
- iii. Would be SPMI only; Priority One County Referral based on who has most vulnerability or need.
- iv. These AMHI funded would only be county referred and determined SPMI. Thus, the program would not be open to outside counties.
- v. The Board will suggest to Lakes and Pines that they manage all housing needs for the entire Region including Bridges, housing flex, and vouchers. The Region would not be involved in approval of the vouchers or flex funds.
  1. However, there was concern expressed about losing local control of flex funds.
  2. The Planner expressed concern about the Region's ability to sustain ongoing subsidy funding in future years. The Region's available funding could look different in the years ahead, and there are no additional one-time allocations for Mobile Crisis Services 2027-2028 cycle.

**Motion:** Katie Heacock made a motion to fund up to five vouchers for 2026 and continue conversations about future housing needs. Second: Emily Hawkins

Online votes: Amy Tveltdt and Stacy Johnstone voted to approve.  
 In person votes: Emily Hawkins, Alexandria Godeen, Katie Heacock, Jessica Andrich, Barb Schmidt, and Chuck Hurd voted to approve the motion.  
 All ayes, motion carried.

**C. New Funding Allocations/ Contracts/ RFP**

**Mobile Crisis Services Determination for 2027-2028**

- a. Reviewed individual scoring and slide deck provided by the Planner to compare Northern Pine Mental Health Center and Canvas Health:
  - o Year one AMHI support for Canvas would be \$175,040 and year two \$246,011.
  - o Year one AMHI support for Northern Pines would be \$294,540 and year two would be \$362,977.
  - o If awarded, Northern Pine would open an office in the Region.

**Motion:** Emily Hawkins made a motion to approve Northern Pines Mental Health Center as the provider for mobile crisis services for 2027 -2028. Second: Jessica Andrich.

Online votes: Amy Tveltdt and Stacy Johnstone voted to approve.  
 In person votes: Emily Hawkins, Alexandria Godeen, Katie Heacock, Jessica Andrich, Barb Schmidt, and Chuck Hurd voted to approve the motion.  
 All ayes, motion carried.

- b. Guidance to The Planner when communicating to Canvas, that we will be taking our phone number and keeping East Central Crisis Services as the name if Northern Pines agrees.

**AMHI 2027-2028 Application/RFP format for funding requests**

- The Planner would like to send the application to the providers by the end of June.
  - o The cover letter will be reviewed at the June meeting so it can be used when the application goes out.
  - o The Planner will work with the subcommittee to provide the draft of the cover letter for discussion at the June meeting.

**D. Policy/ Program/ Operational/ Governance Actions, if any**

**Item: Current Uncompensated Care Form/Policy**

This will be reviewed by committee.

**5. NON-ACTION ITEMS (Information / Discussion)**

1. Presumptive Eligibility Policy/Process Discussion, potential July agenda item
2. March 2026 Employment Information:

**March 2026 Employment Information**

	Chisago	Isanti	Kanabec	Mille Lacs	Pine	Totals
Competitively Employed	35	36	11	6	6	94
Not employed/not seeking employment/receiving RSDI/SSI	144	76	6	41	72	339
Supported Employment	5	8	8	5	5	31

**6. MISCELLANEOUS**

- Announcements
  - o Pine’s Mental Health Event 5/21/26
  - o PICK’M Suicide Prevention Walk/Run 9/19/26- Kanabec County
- Future Agenda Items

Cover letter / application process for 2027  
 Mobile crisis application  
 Report from Michelle regarding training

- July meeting agenda  
 Presumptive Eligibility Policy/Process Discussion, potential July agenda item
- Board Member Comments  
 Add Consumer Rep Reports to the agenda.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Barb Schmidt moved to adjourn Second: Chuck Hurd  
 Online votes: Amy Tveldt and Stacy Johnstone voted to approve.  
 In person votes: Emily Hawkins, Alexandria Godeen, Katie Heacock, Jessica Andrich, Barb Schmidt, and Chuck Hurd voted to approve the motion.  
 All ayes, motion carried.

Time Adjourned 11:56am

<b>Wishlist:</b>	<b>Funding Requests Scored, but not funded:</b>
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	Isanti Public Health -I am Safe (\$11,074) (15/30)
	RSI-Lotus Grace (\$4,000) (not yet scored)

**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

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