

Regional LAC Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2026; 1:00pm – 2:00pm; In Person at Isanti County Family Services and via Zoom

Present:

B Rhonda	Kanabec County LAC
Beise, Joy	VRS
Broekemeier, Sadie	Recovering Hope
D., Deb	Kanabec County LAC
Harper, Mike	Rise
Hawkins, Emily	Isanti County
Janke, Lainie	TSA
Johnstone, Stacy	R7E Consumer Rep

K., Joel	Pine County LAC
Lutz, Deena	
Lussier-Erickson, Katrina	Empower Recovery Services
McGonigle, Emily	Sagent Behavioral Health
Mikrot, Lisa	Safe Transitions
O. Michelle	Consumer
Stevenson, Amanda	R7E Planner
Williams, Melissa	Sunflower Communities

Joel opened the meeting with introductions.

Motion by Stacy J. to approve the May Meeting minutes with one correction: Pine County Drop-In Center hours updated under Barb's report. Second by Deb D. All ayes, motion carried.

Governing Board Updates, Amanda Stevenson

- Uncompensated Care policy: Amanda Stevenson offered one-on-one meetings for providers needing guidance on the policy and form.
- 2027 Funding Application confirmed open and accepting submissions through August 11th; Q&A session scheduled for July 31st, 10–11 AM via Microsoft Teams.
- Consumer representative vacancy: A posting for a new consumer rep on the Governing Board will go out before year-end; providers encouraged to identify suitable candidates.
- Upcoming OCCs:
 - Pine County OCC: August 12th
 - Mille Lacs County OCCs: August 13th (Malacca) and August 18th (Onania)
- Pick 'Em Up Suicide Prevention Coalition community walk: September 19th (Saturday), starting and ending at Mora High School.
- Chisago County strike (ongoing since May 1st) noted as significantly slowing case management progress for community connectors working with affected clients.

Empower Recovery Services, Katrina Lussier-Erickson

- 2nd Annual Walk for Recovery: September 26th, starting and ending at Pine County Fairgrounds; includes resource fair, dunk tank, bouncy house, food trucks, and live music.
- Vendor tables available at \$50 each; ~75–80 attendees participated last year.
- Lost and Found Recovery Cafe located at 545 3rd Avenue SE, Pine City; programming includes:
 - Monthly free tobacco treatment class: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 2–3:30 PM
 - Game night: every other Thursday, 5–7 PM (next: August 6th)
 - Free painting class: July 29th at 3 PM, limited to 15 participants (call 320-629-0059 to register)
- Will have a booth at the Pine County Fair.

Sunflower Communities, Melissa Williams

- First provider in Minnesota to update policies to accept pending waiver for assisted living and memory care.
- Clients with MA open can now be admitted without waiting for waiver approval, reducing wait time barriers.

Sageant Behavioral Health, Emily McGonigal

- Cambridge location: zero waitlist for ARMHS skills services; still accepting referrals.
- Therapy openings: available both in-office and via telehealth.
- In-office psychiatry: provider returning from paternity leave with near-immediate availability.
- CTSS skills: very short waitlist, available for adults.

- Behavioral Health Home Care Management openings for adults and children, typically within one week of referral.

RISE, Mike Harper

- Currently undergoing CARF accreditation (Certified Accredited Rehab Facilities) review; auditor visiting from Massachusetts for 3 days.
- IPS (Individualized Placement Support) employment program received an exemplary score in its most recent review.
- Developed a housing services flowchart to help navigate complex eligibility criteria across multiple funding streams:
 - Programs include: long-term homeless housing, rapid rehousing, transitional housing, housing access services, FHPAP
 - Criteria varies by funder: some require coordinated entry, state or federal homeless definition, SPMI status, or a statement of need from a mental health professional
- Flowchart to be distributed via Linda and Amanda.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Joy Beise

- Team is fully staffed and actively welcoming referrals.
- Some service categories are closed, resulting in requests for additional medical documentation to establish disability and its impact; providers asked to return records promptly.

Therapeutic Services Agency, Lainey Janke

- Evening appointment openings in Cambridge with newer provider Casey Malone.
- Samantha Parch expected to return early fall; will see children and adults at Cambridge and North Branch locations.
- Reva Anderson now in Pine City office; takes evening appointments and is building caseload quickly.
- Psychological testing services: extensive waitlist across Dr. Miranda Gilmore, Dr. Christine Johnson, Dr. Samantha Rogers, and one intern. Providers encouraged to still refer but consider parallel options.
- TSA is entering its 49th year in August; 50th anniversary celebration planned for next year.

Recovering Hope, Sadie Broekemeier

- Services include residential for women, women with children, and pregnant women; lodging program; outpatient substance use services (virtual and in-person).
- Brooke Copeland in Mora offers DC 0-5 assessments with openings; specializes in children ages 3–10.
- Introducing Dena Lutz as new referral representative (relocated from North Carolina) to attend future LAC meetings and community outreach.
- 10th Anniversary Picnic: August 12th (Wednesday), 3–6 PM at Kids' Kingdom; includes ice cream truck, grilling, photo booth.
 - Invite to be sent to Linda and Amanda for distribution.

Pine County Drop-In Center

- Open every Tuesday, 10 AM – 2 PM.
- Upcoming activity: visitor from Princeton farm program (Cindy) coming the following day.
- August event: "Let's Go Fishing" outing at Rush Lake.
- Strategy to increase visibility: taking photos of community activities and swag bag donations to submit to the local newspaper.
- Mental health swag bags distributed to hospitals; group exploring another round of bag assembly.
- An activity planning group was formed to support more programming options.

Isanti County / LAC Updates, Emily Hawkins

- Transportation remains a major ongoing barrier to services and supports.

- Laundry access identified as an emerging need — particularly for homeless individuals and those without in-unit laundry; cost at laundromats cited as \$40–\$50/week for two people.
 - Exploring options to support laundry access as it directly impacts employment readiness and general well-being.
- Isanti County fully staffed in August.
- Isanti Drop-in Center: 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, 10 AM – 2 PM; summer attendance lower, some groups moved outdoors to local parks.

Pine County Fair Outreach

- Multiple organizations participating in outreach at the Pine County Fair; backpacks with crisis line information distributed widely.
- Positive community engagement reported; many individuals approached booths with questions. 24

Agenda suggestions for the next meeting:

- Approval of minutes