

Present: Angela Youngerberg, Phil Claussen, Barb Dietz, Chera Sevcik, Suzi Nerison, Sue Rynda, Cassie Sassenberg, Mark Shaw, Klea Rettmann, Naomi Ochsendorf

Others Present: Anna Garbers, Amy Haas, Jamie Hayes, Teri Herder-Blahnik

The SCCBI Joint Powers Board met at Le Sueur County Human Services in Le Center. Mark Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Introductions followed.

Approval of Minutes: Phil Claussen moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2021 meeting. Chera Sevcik seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda: Naomi Ochsendorf moved to approve the agenda. Klea Rettmann seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

JPB Membership, notification of Anna Garbers as alternate JPB member: The Executive Committee of Faribault & Martin Counties Human Services Board voted to authorize Behavioral Health Manager, Anna Garbers (or successor) as alternate JPB member (letter included in meeting packet).

August Vendor Report: Nothing out of the ordinary. Expenditures included the purchase of gift cards for the upcoming Stakeholders Meeting. Barb Dietz moved to approve the August Vendor Report. Klea Rettmann seconded. Motion carried.

September RMT Information Summary: Jamie reported on the September 9th RMT meeting that occurred in the morning before the Stakeholders Meeting. The meeting followed an abbreviated agenda. LAC and county updates were provided. The group viewed Horizon Homes' Crisis Services promotional video and brainstormed ways to market it. Jamie provided an AMHI Reform Workgroup update. Discussed the RFP, splitting beds up and possible leads as there have been no applications to date. There was discussion about staff turnover at Sioux Trails Mental Health Center. Committee Reports:

- **Crisis Committee** – Crisis utilization slowed in August.
- **Integrated Services** – Jeni Kolstad gave the Provider Spotlight about her new practice, Pride Counseling Services. Let Teri know if you want a copy of the meeting summary.

Lunch followed the meeting with author, Gary Green attending as a guest of the RMT.

September Stakeholder Recap: The Stakeholders Meeting went off without a hitch on Thursday, September 9. There were 127 registered guests, 22 county/SCCBI staff and 17 vendors, totaling 166 people in attendance. Gary Green spoke about mindfulness in recovery and signed copies of his books during an extended break. Donna Meyer was presented with the Tamra Rovney Achievement Award. Donna's family, friends and co-workers from Horizon Homes and Blue Earth County Mental Health Center, along with members of Tamra's family, attended the award presentation. Jamie shared the PowerPoint presentation with the Board.

AMHI Reform Workgroup Updates (9/15/21 agenda & notes included in meeting packet): Jamie reported on the progress of the AMHI Reform Workgroup meetings. The first factor to be addressed in the funding formula was population. It was determined that using population as a factor is complex. There is concern that it risks setting up a metro vs. rural scenario if too much weight is placed on population, and that it is not the best method to determine funding. The next factor that the workgroup will discuss is 'social determinant of health and medical risk.' DHS is focusing on a handful of indicators from which to draw data. There are some concerns about the following indicators and/or their data sources:

- **SMI** – DHS is using SMI numbers; however, in the SCCBI region and rural Minnesota, services are targeted to the SPMI population. People with SMI are much less likely to receive MH services or even receive an SMI diagnosis in rural Minnesota. Because the bulk of our AMHI grant funds are spent on the SPMI population, our reporting reflects SPMI numbers, not SMI, which puts us (and rural MN) at a disadvantage compared to metro areas that report more SMI numbers.

- **Past Incarceration** - This indicator was developed based only on “individual level prison data received by DHS from the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Jail data is not included.” This is again another indicator that will heavily represent metro areas where most prisons are located. Larger numbers of the rural population are incarcerated in rural jails. *[There are 10 state prisons and 82 jails. Prisons are at Faribault, Lino Lakes, Oak Park Heights, Red Wing, Rush City, Shakopee, St. Cloud, Stillwater, Togo and Willow River/Moose Lake]*
- **Homelessness** – The reporting period for collecting homelessness data is January, the coldest time of the year. Our rural homeless population seeks couches of family and friends or travels to metro areas in search of homeless shelters where they can find protection from the cold. Homelessness in rural Minnesota is severely underreported when the data is collected in January.

Jamie completed a workgroup survey in which she responded that DHS is failing to address service needs and multi-county initiatives. Also, the meeting format does not allow for any other discussion. DHS’ continued drive to reform AMHI funding through the creation of a mathematical formula is troubling. DHS has failed to ask what it is that regions need. Their goal should be how to improve access to quality services.

Sioux Trails Mental Health Center Updates: Jon Schlenke started his new role as Executive Director of Sioux Trails Mental Health Center in June. He quickly started restructuring the agency. Following the termination of two providers, a mass resignation of staff and providers ensued. With 14-16 staff remaining, services are being consolidated to the Mankato and New Ulm offices. The Gaylord, St. James and St. Peter offices have closed. STMHC leadership has been meeting separately with County leadership to discuss the restructure and request office space in county buildings. The Board discussed concerns about how to ensure that county contracted services with Sioux Trails will continue (i.e., Sioux Trails is contracted to provide clinical supervision of county staff, but they no longer have anyone on their staff to provide the service).

Update on Transportation Needs: Jamie met with AMH Supervisor Amy Pluym and AMH/CMH Supervisor Julie Hogen yesterday to start a conversation about options for a pilot project that would fund crisis transportation. They may start a regional conversation with a provider as they begin the planning process.

Update on Youth Crisis Residential Discussion: The Youth Crisis Residential Discussion that was included on the agenda for the September 2nd Crisis Committee meeting was tabled after all CMH Supervisors exited the Crisis meeting early to attend a different Children’s meeting. Jamie determined that this type of discussion will not work within the Crisis Committee structure and requested direction on how to best navigate the discussion outside of Crisis Committee. It was suggested to schedule a one-hour Zoom meeting with the CMH Supervisors that will not conflict with a CMH meeting. Discussion followed about how Children’s MH fits with Jamie’s position and the Adult Mental Health Initiative. Jamie’s title of ***Mental Health Manager*** can be flexible if determined to allow for this. The Crisis Grant includes funding for Children’s Mobile Crisis and Rapid Access Psychiatry. The JPB Agreement states to serve “persons with mental illness.”

Update – Fiscal Monitoring 2021: Jamie is contacting Eide Bailly to start the contracting process for 2021 fiscal monitoring. She is looking at doing Quarter 2 this year (we usually alternate between Q3 and Q2). Jamie requested JPB permission to have Eide Bailly to look specifically at Q1 for Psychiatry only. Sioux Trails billed all of their appointments in Q1 as premium urgent care, which is paid at three times the regular rate. The Board was in favor of singling out Psychiatry for monitoring of Q1 fiscal activity. Jamie will work with Eide Bailly to get the contract wording completed in time to present to the Board by the October meeting.

Other Items: Glowing reports are being received about Urgent Care services at the Crisis Center. They are utilizing every single appointment and have been able to arrange same-day appointments for new admissions.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Teri Herder-Blahnik, Administrative Assistant SCCBI

Next JPB Meeting:

Friday, October 15, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at [Sibley County Human Services, 111 8th Street, Gaylord](#)