

Regional Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 18th, 2025

1:00-2:30pm

This meeting was held hybrid.

Convene: 1:00[m

Attendees:

Kathy Hallbeck, Pat Sharbonda, Rebecca Person, Ryan Rhodes, Melanie K, Arlene Selander, Cynthia Johnson, Deanna, Nikki Rieke, Jenny Vaughn, Heather Stanley, Kelly Brinkman, Janet, Jason Burkle

Introductions and organizational updates

Minutes of 8/21/25 Regional LAC Meeting: Approved and seconded.

Public Comments:

Crisis Line and Referral Service Updates

- Heather Stanley announced Crisis Line and Referral Service will move from being its own entity starting to being absorbed by Northern Pines starting January 1st. Their number will remain the same. It will transition from a volunteer model to a paid staff model which will lead to greater access to training and services. Their office will likely move to the Northern Pines Urgent Care office. The LAC briefly discussed billing options. They are working to ensure everything is transferred and there is no downtime with the line.
- Heather highlighted the challenge of getting volunteers to work the crisis line, naming specifically the benefit of having a CLC student volunteer as part of their area of study.
- TBD what will happen with the coalition Heather began with Destiny Tinnes.
- The Regional LAC will have until the end of the year to decide on a new meeting location.

New members

- Put on the floor in October with individuals letting them know of interest in positions. Training to occur in Nov and December to prepare to take their seat by Jan.

Conference

- Conference taking place next week. 15 in the region will be attending.
- Discussion on tabling for the event and what to bring for the Regional LAC (brochures, chapsticks, and brochures from each county) to showcase their organization and structure.

Cass County LAC

- Cass County LAC and the newness of their LAC causing some challenges such as lack of understanding. They do not need permission from their county/county support as it is in statute. There is an issue with lack of funding through the county, and that they should pursue mini-grants through AMHI.
- Deanna relayed she has a barrier with getting the required information through. She was instructed to contact her fiscal host. She is waiting on payment (check) before her next steps and is looking for support. They are coming together to provide printed supplies.
- Next steps are to bring forward any ideas of how to help Cass County.

New business:

- Zoom Account setup
 - This is to be discussed at the next meeting when Danielle is present.
- Community event/outing
 - Individual County Support for end-of-year events
 - There are funds available for all of the counties and tribes. If anyone is doing an event in the fall to let the Regional LAC know so they can offer support.
- Region V+ AMHI update
 - Consumer and Community Partner Survey
Consumer: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QFH8JSJ>
Community Partner: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RXDPRDD>
 - Many of the completed surveys are paper copies. Unknown about the amount of provider surveys completed.
 - Surveys will be provided at upcoming conferences and events. It was suggested pairing surveys with an incentive of some sort whether it was an item or gift card upon survey completion.

Workgroup reports:

- **Succession Planning**
- **Awareness/Event Planning**
 - Brochures
 - Event materials
- **Rebuilding relationships with County Commissioners**
 - **Who are the county reps for each LAC?**
 - Jennifer Vaughn for Crow Wing, Melanie for Todd, Kristi for Wadena, Rebecca is interim for Aitkin

Upcoming events/trainings:

Other:

Jennifer Vaughn has a rural famer/ ag program that is free and is open to any farm, rancher, ag worker. It is a program through the state of MN. There is the option for services to be provided directly to the consumers or can receive services in person at the MHC or through telehealth.

Pilot program – serving any individuals leaving treatment or incarceration can self-refer or be referred by someone else. It is voluntary. Individuals are interviewed and are provided connection with others through multiple platforms for up to a year. Amber from Wellness in the Woods has been passing out information on this pilot.

Online radio platform – This will be a radio station housed online. The application is open currently until Monday with interviews to follow.

Community Transition Practitioner (Northern Pines) – Molly Dirks currently has 6 clients she is serving right now.

Adjourn: 2:30pm