

**Summary of the June 14, 2011 "Conversations ..." Meeting of the Region IV South  
Adult Mental Health Consortium serving Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens and Traverse Counties**

**"A Conversation ..."**

**June 14, 2011 ~ Those Attending:**

*Iver Aal	Stevens Co. Resident	*Carroll Anderson	Pope Co LAC – Consumer
*Janine Anderson	Pope Co. Consumer	*Keshia Anderson	Reg 4-S Crisis Program
*Michele Bankord	PCS	*Diane Barduson	Douglas Co Socialization Coord. - Consumer
*Rebecca Berg	Residential Living Solutions	*Sue Boese	Com. Behavioral Health Hosp.-Alex
*Sarah Boll	PCS	*Randy Bouwman	Pope Co. LAC
*Edith Brasel	Pope Co. LAC – Consumer	*Marian Bundy	Pope Co Consumer
*Noreen Carlson	Douglas Co. Social Services	*Fran Cin	Life Center - SCMC
*Alicia Davidson	Reg 4-S AMHC Pre-petition Screening	*Heather Danner	Reg 4-S AMHC ICRS Team
*Patricia Eggers	Grant Co. Consumer & Socialization	*Mark Erickson	Stevens Co. Resident
*Ted Estenson	Stevens Co. Resident	*Vonnie Evavold	REM Central Lakes, Inc.
*Jennifer Filgas	Ombudsman MH/DD	*Judith Fox	Traverse Co. Socialization – Consumer
*Ken Fridgen	Douglas Co. Consumer	*Al Glaseman	HRA of Douglas Co.
*Leanne Harmsen	Pope Co. LAC & PCS	*Elizabeth Hinds	Stevens Co LAC
*Gloria Jahrman-Johnson	Pope Co. Consumer	*Rosemarie Johnson	Grant Co. LAC- Consumer
*June Kedor	Douglas Co. - Consumer	*Amy Kiehn	Douglas Co. Sat. Transportation – Consumer
*Bill Klein	Lakeland Mental Health	*Kay Lagred	Pope Co. Public Health
*Catie Lee	PrimeWest Health	*Shelly Leonard	<small>Pope Co. Consumer, LAC, WCP Drop In Cntr Coord.</small>
*Dennis Lindor	PCS-Traverse Co LAC	*Claudia Liljegren	Lakeland Mental Health
*Char Lundebrek	Pope Co. Human Services	*Keith Lundsetter	PCS
*Carolyn Mallery	Douglas Co. Consumer	*Kayla Mattocks	PCS
*Chad Meyer	PCS	*DeeAnn Miller	Pope Co. Human Services
*Joyce Moen	Pope Co. Resident	*Joanie Murphy	Stevens Co. Human Services
*Jane Nygaard	Douglas Co. Resident	*David Pearson	Pope Co. Consumer
*Joyce Pesch	Reg 4-S AMHC	*David H. Peterson	Milestones
*Elaine Peterson	Pope Co. LAC	*James Pew	Life Center – SCMC
*JuliAnn Randall	Douglas Co. Consumer	*Anita Renstrom	Douglas Co. Consumer – LAC
*Corrina Rost	PCS-Glenwood	*Danie St. John	PCS-Maplewood
*Karen Salem	Douglas Co. Resident	*Karen Schulz	Pope Co. Socialization – Consumer
*Rita Smith	Douglas Co. Consumer	*Julie Sonju	Douglas Co. LAC - Consumer
*Deb Stark	Stevens Co. Social Club	*Cheryl Starner	Grant Co. LAC
*Jed Stump	PCS	*Lucille Tullis	Pope Co LAC – Consumer
*Ken Volk	Douglas Co Consumer	*Mary Volk	Douglas Co. Consumer
*Gloria Wartner	Pope Co. Resident	*Emma Westrom	Grant Co. Consumer
*Deb Hengel	Facilitator		

**ADDRESS ADDITIONS / CHANGES:**

CHANGE: Randy Bouwman  
~~24824 Ct Rd 29~~ **515 6th Ave SE Apt 12**  
Glenwood, MN 56334

CHANGE: Deb Stark  
~~PO Box 514~~ **303 ½ Atlantic Ave. Apt 2**  
Morris, MN

**Mailing Address for Region IV S Adult Mental Health Consortium**

Correspondence well as bills and vouchers:  
should be mailed to  
Region 4 South AMHC  
PO Box 222  
Elbow Lake, MN 56531

*Region IV-S AMHC Administrator:*  
Joyce Pesch  
joyce.pesch@r4south.org  
218-685-8229  
FAX – 218-685-641

**Summary of the June 14, 2011 “Conversations ...” Meeting of the Region IV South  
Adult Mental Health Consortium serving Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens and Traverse Counties  
Purpose of Meeting Tuesday, June 14, 2011 held at Hoffman Community Center – Hoffman, MN**

Welcome & Introductions

1. Approval of Agenda \*Additions, \*Clarifications, \*Changes – ADDED: Pope Co Consumers requested time to speak regarding Per Diems – added to Agenda item #5
2. Approval of summary of May 10, 2011 “Conversations...” meeting. :
3. Meeting Packet Information – Joyce Pesch
4. PRESENTATION: West Central MN Communities Action –Housing – TABLED to future meeting
5. Financial Report – Joyce Pesch
  - A. Monthly Report
  - B. Applications/Proposals (ACTION NEEDED) (1) Douglas County Human Services – Request for \$13,000.00 in Transitional Housing Funding  
**ADDED:** C. Pope County Consumers – Topic: Per Diems
6. AMHI Administrator’s Report – Joyce Pesch
7. Region 4-South Adult Mental Health Consortium Governing Board Report – Joanie Murphy
8. State Advisory Council Report
9. State Liaison Report
10. Report from the Warmline Task Force
11. “Day at Home” Updates
12. Work Teams and Task Forces Meet
  - A. Transportation
  - B. Training & Education
  - C. Services for Hard-to-Serve
  - D. Integrated Physical and Mental Health
  - E. Housing
  - F. Crisis Response
13. Reports from Work Teams and Task Forces
14. Updates- Community Based Adult Mental Health Services:
  - A. Socialization Projects – Douglas, Pope, Stevens, Traverse
  - B. Employment – Douglas Co. Social Services, & Prairie Community Services
  - C. Housing – include Bridges-like and Shelter Plus Care
  - D. Crisis Prevention
  - E. Aftercare Services:(1) Intensive ARMHS (2) Aftercare Nurse
  - F. Milestones IRTS (Intensive Residential Treatment Services)
  - G. ICRS (Intensive Community Rehabilitative Services) Team (1) Program Report (2) Board Report
  - H. Community Behavioral Health Hospitals
  - I. Safety Net – including Flexible Funds from each county
  - J. Training and Education
  - K. Day on the Hill
  - L. Douglas County Saturday Transportation
  - M. Warm Line
  - N. Pope County Drop In Center
  - O. Stevens Co Drop In Center
  - P. Traverse County Support Group
  - Q. Web Site – [www.r4sconversations.org](http://www.r4sconversations.org)
  - R. Homeless to Housed Committee
  - S. Public Relations - Anti-Stigma Campaign – [www.reallifeconversations.com](http://www.reallifeconversations.com)
  - T. Transportation
  - U. Grant County Drop-In Center
  - V. Health Screenings
15. Announcements
16. Agenda for July 12, 2011 “Conversations...”

*Summary of the June 14, 2011 “Conversations ...” Meeting of the Region IV South  
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**THE SUMMARY:**

**Introductions...** Name and role in the AMHI ...

**1. Agenda Approval, Additions:** Approved with the addition of: Pope County Consumers – Per Diem Discussion as Agenda Item # 5-C.

**2. Approval of May, 2011 “Conversations...” Summary:** Approved after clarification on page 5: *II. Work Team and Task Force Reports – A. Transportation: Agenda: #2. Reviewed \$2,000.00- deleted third zero to right of decimal point*

**3. Meeting Packet Information – Joyce Pesch**

3-A. Information –

- [1] Client Access Transportation pending reports - Douglas County
- [2] Warm Line Letter – Karen Salem

3-B. Program Openings – Added to meeting packet Prairie Community Services openings. *Reminder given to all provides that programs opening information can be sent to Joyce Pesch to have it included in the “Conversations...” meeting packets.*

3-C. Reports including in meeting packet:

- [1] Administrator’s Report – June 2011
- [2] Adult Crisis Response Program – June 2011
- [3]ICRS - Intensive Community Rehabilitation Services – Program – June 2011
- [4] Prepetition Screening – June 2011
- [5] Region 4 Housing, Douglas Co. HRA – June, 2011
- [6] Douglas County Flexible Funding – May, 2011 Comment: this report gives the up-to-date numbers ADDED TO Meeting Packet after list was printed:
- (7) E-mail communication from Lorraine Pierce SUBJECT: Possible Shutdown Info
- (8) NAMI communication – side 2 of the document emphasizes what would happen to adult and children’s mental health
- (9) Day on the Hill (March 8, 2011) Report
- (10) Stevens County Social Club – Events in April & May 2011

3-D. Financial Reports

[1] For Period ending May, 2011 Comments included: Administrator noted that the front side and the top half of the second side reflect the Adult Mental Health Consortium’s budget. The bottom half of the second side reflects the Crisis Program’s budget. Noted that here are places we are under spending at this time, but this doesn’t mean that we won’t be spending out the budget as time goes on. Noted that checks paid in May are for services provided through April, reflecting 42% of our year. Noted also was that when looking at the financial report people should look at the percent spent, but also look at the total amount. Example of this was with the line item “Health Screening/Brochures.”

Other line items specifically noted: Training has not spent much to this point, but they have trainings planned. WRAP Training expenses noted are last years’ expenses. Douglas County Employment seems to be running slow at this time. PCS Employment is a little behind in billing, so their percentage of planned expenses is low. Douglas County Saturday Transportation line item is at partial status. Part of this line item (\$5,000.00) will be reallocated to cover the Traverse County request approved by the AMHC Governing Board upon the recommendation of the “Conversations...” group. Requests for the Flexible Fund and Transitional Housing funds are coming in. The Incentive Fund line item shows only 2.7% use, but vouchers are coming in 2-3 months late. We will be moving allocations into the IRTS line item because of

3-E. Applications/Proposals (ACTION NEEDED) – See Agenda item 5-[2]

**4. PRESENTATION: West Central MN Communities Action – Housing –** TABLED to future meeting

**5. Financial Report – Joyce Pesch**

[A.] Monthly Report – ending May 31, 2011. Comments included: Administrator noted that the front side and the top half of the second side reflect the Adult Mental Health Consortium’s budget. The bottom half of the

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second side reflects the Crisis Program’s budget. Noted that here are places we are under spending at this time, but this doesn’t mean that we won’t be spending out the budget as time goes on. Noted that checks paid in May are for services provided through April which reflects 42% of our year. Noted also was that when looking at the financial report people should look at the percent spent, but also look at the total amount. Example of this was with the line item “Health Screening/Brochures.”

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Question: Are the Pope Co. requests made in May reflected in this financial report? Reply: No they are not. This is because at the May 10 “Conversations...” meeting the recommendations was made to the Region 4-S AMHC Governing Board to approve these requests. The Governing Board did approve these requests as recommended at their May meeting. However, the Governing Board’s May meeting was on the same day as the AMHC checks are issues by the fiscal host. Therefore the checks for the Pope County requests are first paid the *next* month (June). Additional response: It is important to remember that none of approved May requests are reflected in this fiscal report.

Further comments included: Regarding the Crisis Response budget: Overall this is a little below the projected expenses because the day shift on the east side of our AMHC region is still in process of being paid. Once this is done the spending will be on target.

Overall, the AMHC Administrator believes we will have more than adequate resources to make it through the current 12 month period which ends December 31, 2011.

Comment that if there is a Work Group that has a project that may need resources in 2011, they should bring this to the attention of the “Conversations...” group so we can figure it into the planning and budget. Noted that we do not yet have our First Quarter reimbursement, but cash flow is not a problem because of one quarter’s advance received at the beginning of the year.

[B.] Applications/Proposals

(1). From Douglas County Social Services – Request \$13,000.00 in Transitional Housing dollars from the Initiative for 2011.

**ACTION: Motion made by Joanie Murphy to recommend to the Governing Board to approve this request Motion seconded by Elaine Petersen.**

Discussion included: [Q] Is \$13,000.00 the same amount as requested in the past as per our AMHC’s policy?

[R] Clarify that our AMHC’s policy is to look back at the previous 12 months and see what was spent in that time period. The \$13,000.00 requested at this time is an appropriate amount.

Comment [C] from “Conversations...” participant: Why do the counties get money before services are provided, when other services have to provide the services first, and then submit for reimbursement?

[R] In the case of the Transitional Housing requests, these are for services where there is no other payment source. Also clarified that it varies from county to county. For example, Pope County cash flows the expenses and then submits for reimbursement; Grant County does reimbursement and direct bills for salaries. Projects that are front-ended include Flexible Funds, Transitional Housing, Drop-In Center.

Additional discussion included:

[C] Douglas County is getting money more than one quarter ahead.

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[C] Maybe we should only approve one-quarter’s amount at a time.

[C] There is an ebb and flow of requests that fit into the Transitional Housing funds. Some months there are more requests than others.

[Q] Will these Transitional Housing funds help people homelessness situations? [R] Only if the person makes a requests. Noted that it just depends on what other resources each county has available? Example: in Douglas County, Wings has a program that is only for women and children.

[C] Pope County would need to have a certain amount in Transitional Housing funds so they would have an assurance that funds are available.

[C] Noted that even the AMHC only gets a one-quarter advance, and then we submit for reimbursement.

[C] Suggestion made that we make a recommendation to approve a \$13,000.00 spending capacity, but do only a one-quarter advance with the rest of the funds done on reimbursement basis with a settle up process at the end.

[Q] Would the county then bill for one quarter only?

[R] Clarification of the suggested process: (1) Request is made for full amount needed for 12 months. (2) Recommendation from “Conversations...” to Governing Board for Approval. (3) Upon approval, the initial check would be an automatic “first quarter” advance. (4) The county at their choice could then request reimbursement on either a monthly or on a quarterly basis.

[C] Clarification from AMHC Administrator that Transitional Housing is actual reflected in two line items: “Transitional Housing/non housing portion” and “Transitional Housing/Housing Portion.”

[C] Noted that the payments noted on the financial report reflect payments to date to Stevens County and Grant County. The financial report does not include the payments to Traverse County and Pope County that were approved at the May Governing Board meeting.

[C] Clarification given that we do have the funds to cover the Douglas County Social Services’ request on the table at this time.

[Q] Re-clarification requested that in the past counties have requested funds for the full year? [R] Yes, historically there has been a single check issued for the Transitional Housing requests.

**Vote conducted by show of hands.**

**Motion APPROVED with 54 “yes” votes to 6 “no” votes**

[C] Pope County Consumers – Per Diem Discussion – At issue was a question on why stipends (per diems) were docked for people for a recent “Conversations...” meeting? People presented information that individuals had to leave (“Conversations...”) because of anxiety attacks or doctor’s appointments. They noted that anxiety attacks are a mental health issue. Discussion followed which included these comments:

- There is a policy in place about people need to attend “Conversations...” meetings for the entire time in order to receive a per diem.
- Some people indicated then didn’t know of this policy.
- Clarification presented by AMHC Administrator that in regard to people who attend that are not consumers, nor LAC members. These individuals’ time at “Conversations...” is being paid by their employer. It is their employer that deals with situations when the employee arrives late or leaves early,
- Comment from consumer/family member that those who are not being paid to be here have a value and need to receive stipends.
- Noted that “Conversations...” starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends a 1:00 p.m. – or when the meeting facilitator releases the group. “Conversations...” is regularly scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month. Therefore it was suggested that people schedule personal appointments around this regularly scheduled date and time.
- Noted that consumers, family members, LAC Members are paid per diems because our Region 4-South Adult Mental Health Consortium wants to hear their voices.

**ACTION:** Agreement that we would have further discussion on the Per Diem Policy and Procedures at the next “Conversations...” meeting.

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**6. AMHC Administrator’s Report** – Written report included in meeting packet. Comments included:

- DVDs of the Pope County Drop In Center are ready for distribution today.
- Crisis Cards are also available at today’s meeting.

**7. Region 4-South Adult Mental Health Consortium Governing Board Report** – Joanie Murphy

- All recommendations from the May 2011 “Conversations...” were approved by the Governing Board.
- A Region 4-S AMHC Joint Powers Board meeting will be scheduled for late summer or early fall.

**8. State Advisory Council Report** – None presented

**9. State Liaison Report:** Lorraine Pierce was not present but provided correspondence on a possible state shutdown.

Additional information on the possible MN State Shutdown was provided:

- County Directors have received e-mail on the possible shutdown.
- It was noted that the (Region4-South AMHC) umbrellas is MN Department of Human Services (DHS). Should a MN State Shutdown occur: DHS has no authority to incur costs after 12 o’clock midnight on June 30. This is true even if they have federal or grant dollars.
- Noted that the MN State Attorney General has petitioned the Courts with a list of critical services.
- Noted that the Governor and the Department Heads are putting together an essential services list, which will also be presented to the Courts.

ACTION – the AMHC Administrator will do a daily post on the Region 4-South AMHC website about the status of the MN State Shutdown.

**10. Report from Warm Line Task Force** – Removed from agenda as no Task Force was formed.

**11. “Day at Home” Updates:** Update given by Cheryl Starnier on the planning being done for this project. Reported that “Day at Home” is like the annual Mental Health Day on the Hill, with the difference being the legislators will come to us. The date is Friday, September 30. We hope to also include the BCOW Adult Mental Health Initiative (serves the counties of Becker, Clay, Otter Tail and Wilkin). The purpose is to share how legislatives decisions affect persons effected by Mental Health issues. The agenda for “Day at Home” will include: (1) Trainings: helping people learn how to talk with the legislators; (2) updates on what is happening; (3) Meal with a keynote speaker – DHS Commissioner Jessen; and (4) time for meeting with your legislators. We are working to maybe involve NAMI in this event. The planning group is looking at possibly having this in Alexandria. We are working out the registration details including on-line registration, brochures as well as a phone registration option.

**12. Work Team and Task Forces Meet:**

A. Transportation; B. Training & Education; C. Services for Hard-to-Serve; D. Integrated Physical & Mental Health; E. Housing; and F. Crisis Response.

**13. Work Team and Task Forces Report:** *[NOTE: Comments presented during large group report are indicated in ITALIC following each Work Group’s report.]*

**A. Transportation** - Note Taker: Danie St. John Persons in Attendance: Judith Fox, Pat Eggers, Danielle St. John, Rita R. Smith, Amy Kiehn, Liz Hinds

**AGENDA:**

1. Douglas Co. Saturday Transportation: Is it working, worthwhile? 2 people rode this bus last weekend, roughly 2-6 each week. 8 unduplicated.  
What is the need and are there changes that need to be made? Are there other avenues for providing this service?

**ACTION ITEMS**

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE TIMELINE**

None

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**B. Training & Education** - Note Taker: Cheryl Starnier Persons in Attendance: Cheryl Starnier, Gloria Johnson, Keith Lundsetter, Iver Aal, Janine Anderson, Emma Westrom, Ken \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA:

1. "Day at Home" project. Continue fine tuning agenda and "picture" of this gathering will look like.
2. Will attempt to meet in June yet

ACTION ITEMS PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE TIMELINE

1.  
**C. Services for Hard-to-Serve** – Note Taker: Heather Danner Persons in Attendance: Alicia Davidson, Heather Danner, Ken Fridgen, Rebecca Berg, Fran Cin, Noreen Carlson, Elaine Peterson, Lucille Tullis, Kay Lagred, Karen Schulz, Michele Bankord, Vonnie Evavold, Mary Petersen, Chad Meyer, Dave Peterson, Sue Boese

AGENDA:

1. Questionnaire on Hard to Serve: Defining "Hard to Serve" – Questionnaire sent to individuals to fill out for next time.
2. Switch to topic "Gaps in Service Delivery" in August.
3. Sex offender placement Resources: Discussed placement tool. Plan to gather data from TCM in are. Discussed if there is a state website with listing of sex offender services. This could be a good resource.

ACTION ITEMS PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE TIMELINE

1. Check our website Alicia I month
2. Gather data on numbers from TCM demographics and referrals so we can decide if we should invest AMHC's resources.

*LARGE GROUP REPORT: In today's discussion talked about that Milestones does not provide sex offender treatment. We don't know if there are any other providers. Discussed coming up with a position statement for the AMHC. Question: Is sex offender services for both males and females? Response: Milestones has served two people – one male and one female. Concern expressed with Crisis Assessment – is "sex offender" question on the Crisis ER Assessment? Response: Yes, it is. Concern expressed that we don't have that many, if any, sex offenders (seeking MH services) in our region, so we don't want to open up a program to the entire state.*

**D. Integrated Physical & Mental Health** - Note Taker: Jim Pew Persons in Attendance: Marian Bundy, Edith Brasel, Rosemarie Johnson, Randy Bouwman, June Kedor, Ted Estenson, James Pew, Gloria Wartner, Joyce Moen, Mark Erickson, David Pearson, Carroll Anderson, Ann Challes

AGENDA:

1. Discussed Checklist: \* Easy to use. How do we get these to people? Hand out at "Conversations..." Make copies to take to Drop In Centers.
2. No staff assigned to our group. If we had ideas.
3. Not enough time to do anything else.

ACTION ITEMS PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE TIMELINE

1. Bring list to larger groups to discuss additions to list
2. Need to Discuss Health Screening
3. Wellness plans and Goals. Group
4. Learn to do your wellness goals with your providers and your support people (Individual)

**E. Housing** – Note Taker: Al Glaseman Persons in Attendance: Al Glaseman, Shelly Leonard, Jane Nygaard, Carolyn Mallery, Dennis Lindor, Leanne Harmsen, Diane Barduson, Deb Stark

AGENDA:

1. West Central Community Action will speak to us at the July meeting.
2. Transitional housing is located in Alexandria, Glenwood, Wheaton, etc. Homeless Shelters are in Moorhead and St. Cloud. Presently people are given a voucher for one night and then a bus ticket to St. Cloud or Moorhead.

ACTION ITEMS PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE TIMELINE

1. We will ask West Central Community Action regarding single males with major criminal/felony issues.
2. What is transitional housing? Would like someone from Human Service to give a light report and example of what it means and involves.

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**F. Crisis Response-** Note Taker: Corrina Rost Persons in Attendance: JuliAnn Randall, Jeb Stump, Sarah Boll, Ken Volk, Jennifer Filgas, Julie Sonju, Anita Renstrom, Joanie Murphy, Kayla Mattocks, Corrina Rost, Kesha Anderson, Mary D. Volk, Karen Salem

**AGENDA:**

1. Satisfaction Survey, review of Kesha’s draft and any suggested changes. Feedback said to add the question “Would you utilize this service again?”
2. Thoughts on crisis workers used as an escort for ER to other places – issues with insurance. Other ideas on ways for transportation from ER to placement.

<u>ACTION ITEMS</u>	<u>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</u>	<u>TIMELINE</u>
1. Brainstorm ideas for transportation when we go community based	All Members	NEXT MONTH

\*\*\*Comment from AMHC Administrator at the end of all the Work Team Reports: While it is appreciated that people have a passion to work in a particular group on a particular topic, sometimes groups need additional people. Sometimes it is helpful and/or necessary for a visiting “professor” or professional to sit in with a particular Work Group to provide input. This is especially true of the case management staff.

**14. Updates from Community-based Adult Mental Health Services**

A. Socialization Projects – Douglas, Pope, Stevens, Traverse B. Employment – *Douglas Co. Social Services & Prairie Community Services*

\*August 24 will be the 4-county trip to the Science Museum and Old Country Buffet – Karen Schulz

C. Housing – *include Bridges-like and Shelter Plus Care* D. Crisis Response

E. Aftercare Services: (1) Intensive ARMHS (2) Aftercare Nurse F. Milestones IRTS (Intensive Residential Treatment Services)

\*Dave Petersen announced that the IRTS can now take crisis clients again.

G. ICRS (Intensive Community Rehabilitation Services) Team (1) Program Report (2) Board Report

H. Community Behavioral Health Hospitals I. Safety Net – including Flexible Funds –all counties J. Training and Education

K. Day on the Hill L. Douglas County Saturday Transportation M. Warm Line N. Pope County Drop In Center

O. Stevens Co Drop In Center P. Traverse County Support Group Q. Web Site – [www.r4sconversations.org](http://www.r4sconversations.org)

R. Homeless to Housed Committee S. Public Relations - Anti-Stigma Campaign – [www.reallifeconversations.com](http://www.reallifeconversations.com)

T. Transportation U. Grant County Drop-In Center V. Health Screenings W. Wrap Trainings

**15. Announcements -**

1. Lakeland Mental Health Center in Alexandria is moving. As of June 27, 2011 Lakeland MH Center – Alexandria will be located at 1500 Irving Street, Alexandria, MN 56308 (in the old Heartland Orthopedic Specialist Building).

**16. Agenda for July 12, 2011 “Conversations...”**

- (1) Discussion on Per diem policy and procedure
- (2) West Central MN Communities Action – Housing
- (3) Warmline Adjustments
- (4) Work Teams and Task Forces Meet

Further discussion followed on the ramifications of the possible MN State Shutdown to the Region 4-South Adult Mental Health Consortium:

- At this time we don’t know exactly how a MN State Shutdown would affect the AMHC. While we are a grant under Social Services (considered essential?) and we provide services under MA, we are in “new territory.”
- County Director gave an update that benefit notices have been sent. Everything is on hold at this time. However, indication given that food support and health care benefits would continue. Comment made that when you receive a benefit notice, that you sit tight and don’t’ panic, yet.
- CHBB staff noted that state layoff notices received as of June 10.
- AMHC Administrator indicated that she has asked the opinion of the AMHC’s attorney if the AMHC has

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an obligation to notify all of our contractors and AMHC staff of possibly layoffs.

- Comment that while it may not be obvious to everyone, but it is not just ICRS, IRTS and Crisis services that may be affected, but every line item (i.e. Drop-In Centers, Socialization projects, etc.). Caution that people shouldn't panic, but do need to be mindful of the situation.
- AMHC Administrator noted that Region 4-S AMHC won't incur costs until there is authorization to do so.
- Noted that if even if “worse comes to worse,” critical services will continue.
- Consumers noted some personal concerns/fears of the ramifications of the pending MN State Shutdown and what it would mean to them personally.
- Clarifying question asked if all AMHC services would stop as of July 1, if AMHC is not considered “essential services?” Response: We have level of confidence that the MH Division at DHS is stressing the importance of the AMHC as essential services, but we don't know for sure.
- Question on what has been heard on any timelines, as service providers haven't heard much through their various associations.
- Comment that people need to sit tight and have plans for whatever occurs.
- Clarification requested on difference between “AMHI” (Adult Mental Health Initiative) and “AMHC” (Adult Mental Health Consortium). Response “AMHI” is the name of the State Grant. “AMHC” is the name of our stand-alone entity. Concern expressed if the “AMHIs” are cut, that we as an “AMHC” would also be cut.
- Inquiry made of PrimeWest services. Indication given that PrimeWest Rule 79 Case Management would continue.
- Clarification given that the benefit notices sent included such programs as MA, Group Residential, Food Support and Cash Grant.
- Question: “How would the MN State Shutdown affect the Socialization Projects? Response: No one can incur costs unless they have been deemed “essential services.”
- Question: Might there be retroactive payments? Response: This would only happen if written into the new legislation, and it was suggested not to count on that.
- Clarification: Pope County Socialization group as a trip planned for the Science Museum in July, what should they do? Response: in talking with the customers, share with them (without scaring people) the potential situation. We will know the last week in June.
- Question: How will we know we are “essential?” Response: If the AMHC's attorney advises that the AMHC needs to let employees know, the layoff notices will be sent this week.
- Question: Where can people go with questions on benefits, etc? Response: Talk with your Financial Worker, or PrimeWest Member Contact person, or County Case Manager.
- Clarification on “no costs incurred” during a potential MN State Shutdown: If you get a check from someone for something you might do at the Drop-In Center, you cannot “volunteer” your time during a shutdown.

**2011 “Conversations...” Meeting Schedule –**  
**August 9      September 13**  
**October 11    November 8    December 13**