MEETING REPORT

Meeting: St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Advisory Committee

Date: October 18, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Place: Webex

Members Present: Nate Sandman, Nathaniel Coward, Pam Kramer, Gina Marsalla, Mike Lindgren, Shannon Sweeney-Jorgenson, Kaitlin Eperstad, Loretta Bickford, Heather Kainz, Rose St. John, Sally Koski, Janet Kennedy

Staff present: Linnea Mirsch, Amy Westbrook

Guests: Terry McCabe, Maggie Myers, Laura Birnbaum

County Commissioners:

Ex Officio: Susan Michels (CCLStL CHB), Janelle Lambert (MDH)

Members Absent: Terry Defoe, Timothy Nybo

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Follow Through** |
| Approval of Minutes | Janet Kennedy moved and seconded by Sally Koski; approved by all |  |
| Introduction |  |  |
| Developing Safety Net Services – Terry McCabe | 40 years of waiver program; going through restructure currently; reviewing what a safety net is and the role of the county; where are gaps and where can county step in – connecting services and assurance of person centered; reviewing what is role of county case management; work loads need to be manageable and need to provide professional development to case managers; bringing together stake-holders together internally; external feedback – will be next step;  Internally identified: child to adult transition – supporting children and young adults related to disability, partnering with Children and Family Services; developing a new focus for case management: interim case management – to support people who are falling through cracks, e.g. discharged from the hospital but don’t yet have a case manager; aging population interim case management – e.g. transitioning between case management and managed care for 65+; currently developing scope of work; dedicated to maintaining footprint from birth to throughout life; support navigator – first call response until get connected to services, there is a lot to navigate at this time, want to offer assistance; case management support – housing, employment, etc.  Feedback to Terry  Janet: understanding process is challenging for caregiver and for an organization that needs to support people; is it possible to contract out until the County can maintain capacity for this “first call support”  Lorreta: when sick with major illness – employment issues, coverage issues, etc., in the process of what type of support is out there – the phone calls that are needed and the number of people that one needs to talk to is too many; ongoing – emotionally exhausting and time consuming during a time that is already that; an easier solution would be better; Lorreta is a home care nurse for 38 years and landlord currently, sees the same thing with clients and renters; not everyone calls back; is there a way to involve the client or care giver in selecting type of case management (e.g. transition age case management); for children when they are ready to transition in adult case management – disability is predominate waiver; role of social worker is to identify these options for individuals  Shannon: navigator role is very needed; it works within MnSure, care coordination in some clinic settings; eliminating the phone tree is a good idea; applaud forward thinking  Gina: providers often have a hard time billing due to patient being on waiver; navigators – meals on wheels, extra communication would be nice so not to waste resources at the service provider end  Nathaniel: most frustrating is waiting for a response from the people that they are trying to get a hold of  Service delivery is so personal and different for everyone based on their needs; will be back for more feedback at different stages of the reimaging |  |
| Cannabis Legislation, Maggie Myers | Review of current legislation: HF100 – MN Adult use Cannabis bill;  Looking to learn from CA, CO, WA who have already passed similar legislation  Aug 1 – full decriminalization  See attachment |  |
| Housing and Homeless Investment, Laura Birnbaum | Homeline is a good resource for housing as it relates to cannabis legislation; in 2022 in Duluth 600 used the warming shelter – doesn’t include domestic violence shelters, etc.; in northern St. Louis County, AEOA served 273, but turned away 900 people; numbers are under-reported  ARPA – need to be encumbered by end of 2024, and expended by end of 2026 - federal funds related to response and recovery; SLC received $54 million; Duluth also received ARPA funds;  Groups continue to approach city council for increased funding, they may not recognize how much the city and county are actively doing to address homelessness  Direct case – students have not been chosen yet, still early in overall process (aged 18-24 years); suggestion to reach out to Mesabi East principal  LifeHouse (has drop in center) and LSS provides youth services in Duluth |  |
| Department Updates | Health and Human Services Conference; suggested for future topics is transportation especially in rural areas (reimbursement); and staffing in healthcare  Better Bus restructure in Duluth is seemingly leaving people out of routes so there is limited access for transportation |  |
| Next Meeting Dates | 1/10, 4/10, 7/10, 10/9 |  |
| Member Comments, Announcements, Discussion/Request for Topics | Mike Lindgren and Janet Kennedy motioned to adjourn |  |