

Mesabi Behavioral Health Network

Minutes

DATE: September 14, 2026

TIME: 10:00 – 11:30 am

Present: Marlise Riffel, Laura Greensmith, Valerie Turnbull, Jennifer Elmberg, Jennifer Rich, Ray Jobe, Nicole Lind, Emily Barto, Kelly Sather, Shireen Lee, Shila Piippo, Lauren Pipkin, Leah Masucci, Eli Corbin, Salgy McCoy, Cindy Kvilvang, Brandie Webb, Cassie Liubakka, Angela Ritacco, Alyssa Israel

Facilitator: Cassandra Hailey

Recorder: Kelly Sather

Agency Updates

- Local Advisory Council [seeking members](#) – Oct meeting cancelled but continuing to look for applicants to fill vacancies. Currently 6 openings as they work to bring in diverse populations representing our communities.
- Recovery Night Out – Sept 24 – if anyone is interested in having a table at the Virginia location, please reach out to Chad Nickila. If you want information shared but unable to attend, please contact Cassandra Hailey who is willing to share information at the MBHN table.
- NAMI
 - NAMI Iron Range will be hosting a Hope for Recovery class on October 24th 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Essentia, focused on family members who can help loved ones struggling with illness in supporting others and helping with their own struggles.
 - Friday, Oct. 6th there is a NAMI conference available virtual and in-person, earning 6 CEUs.
- SLC Public Health
 - Our Recovery has just launched. [Our Recovery, Our Community](#)
 - We continue to offer lockboxes at all our Government Service Centers. Intended purpose for these is to help address accidental ingestion of substances. Any individuals can acquire them by asking lobby staff. If your organization is interested in acquiring a number of these, you can contact Kaitlyn Krob KrobK@stlouiscountymn.gov for bulk orders.
- Align North
 - MH Networking meeting is Wednesday, September 16th at 11:00 a.m. at the Align North Building in Virginia. There will also be a Rest and Digest Trauma informed yoga class with a limit to 7 people during the food truck festival on September 19th.
- Recovery Month – Tye Dye event on September 19th, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Olcott Park.
- Boys & Girls club of Hibbing
 - Cassie Liubakka is working on doing a fundraiser for this.
 - One part of this is a lip sync battle.

BTBHN Updates:

- A. Beacon Clubhouse – manager position interviews are underway
- B. Behavioral Health Pipeline – exploring having an advisory board that would be meeting quarterly with the specific workgroups doing the monthly work.
 - Another BH Summit will be hosted.
- C. Grant Updates
 - Current grants: Can Renew (partnership with Range Transitional Housing) focused on workforce and housing and the CTE through Northeast Service Cooperative that is focused on workforce development.
 - Applications: HRSA Impact grant focused on Opioid and other substance use disorders.

Network Business:

- A. Governance Board update
 - Policy Committee
 - i. Data Storage, Communication, and Guest Speak policies in process
 - ii. [Approved policies](#) can now be found on our website
 - Annual review of charter approved
- B. Workgroup Updates:
 - Education Workgroup
 - Presenter catalog is getting updated with two additional trainings available and a directory of all trainers. If you provide a training and would like it listed there, please contact Aubrie and/or Cassandra.
 - Working on toolkit and mental health hacks. Creating flyers to be shared on such places like the back of bathroom stall doors. Initially created with AI; however, students made it clear that was not okay and went back to create flyers that were human in nature and engaged some students in creating. Some ideas were gathered from students during youth mental health night.
 - Social Connectedness Sub-Workgroup – finishing the executive summary for the social connection survey that will be posted to the BTBHN website and shared with providers/partners.
 - [Community Events - Discover the Range](#)
 - Communication Workgroup
 - SLC PHHS Conference panel members needed: Oct 7, 12:30-1:30
 - Please let Cassandra know if you are interested in participating. Questions will be known ahead of time with some questions coming from attendees.
 - Brochure was developed that will be going to the Governance Board for approval.
 - Range of Emotions Podcast
 - Transportation Workgroup (on hold)

The next MBHN monthly meeting is on October 5, 2026: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM