

**Regional Meeting**  
**Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Coordination Committee**  
**Ashland County Oredocker Room & via Zoom**

January 9, 2024

**Regional CCS Committee:**

**Ashland County:** Terry Barningham, Pam Stanny, Jan Kupczyk, Billie Keelin, Bad River Tribal Representative Erica Toman\*

**Bayfield County:** Tom Croteau\*, Johanna Perkins, Cecelia Webb\*, Sandra Notzke

**Members-at-Large:** Val Levno, Thomas Mittelstaedt\*

**Members Excused:**

**Others Present:** Karlie Pierson\*, Andrea Yrjanainen, Elizabeth Skulan\*, Megan Dirkes \*

*\*Denotes attendance via Zoom*

**Call to Order and Introductions:**

Meeting was called to order by Thomas Mittlestaedt at 12:30pm

**Discussion and Possible Action:**

**Regional Minutes:** Review of the October 2023 Minutes: A motion was made by Jan to accept the minutes and a second was made by Billie. Minutes were accepted and motion was passed.

**Ashland and Bayfield County Plan and Policy Review:**

Val and Tom presented the revisions that had to be made for the Ashland and Bayfield County Plan and Policy for the year. This includes the additions and deletions of vendors/staff, any grammatical corrections, agency changes, and normal business changes. The significant changes to the plan include Ashland and Bayfield County now having the Electronic Health Records. Also there were language updates in the discharge policy to include the fair hearing language, changing Mental Health Professional to Service Facilitator and that this would be provided upon discharge from the program. Bayfield County also has updated the Electronic Data Security and with their Electronic Health Records they have uploaded all information from 07/01/2023. Anything prior to that date is still in hard copy for Bayfield County.

**Ashland County:** Jan made the motion to accept the Plan and Policy Changes with a second from Billie. Changes are accepted and motion was passed

**Bayfield County:** Sandra made the motion to accept the Plan and Policy Changes with a second from Johanna. Changes were accepted and motion was passed.

**Presentation: Megan Dirkes with Christian Servants Home Care:**

Christian Servants Home Care started working with CCS in early 2023 with Ashland and Bayfield County with the focus of serving the most rural of counties in the state. They are hiring retired social workers and currently have a staff of 7 and in process of hiring one more. The workers focus on the participants goals with guidance, education, daily life skills and supports. They usually meet with participants a couple hours a week and will work with what matches their schedule. A few testimonials were given and received well by the group. The group thanked Megan for her time and sharing what Christian Servants Home Care is about.

#### **Review of Program Report:**

Val gave an update on the interns that have been participating with CCS through Northwoods Tech and Northland College.

Val let everyone in the committee know that she will be retiring in May 2024 and that her position along with the director's position will be posted and they are looking for applicants. The committee wished her well and thanked her for her years of service.

There have been five psychotherapists added to the program and we now have Dr. Jeffrey Holmgren taking over for Dr. Meza for the telehealth portion of the program. Dr. Holmgren started with us at the beginning of October. It was made note that MMC is now Tamarack Health Ashland Medical Center. Tom is working with the Criminal Justice Court in Bayfield

#### **Children's Services:**

Val updated the group on the work that psychotherapists are doing with the children in the program along with Christian Servants Home Care. The question was asked as to what ages of youth are served and it is from 0-18 years. The skill development is age appropriate and can include services like equine therapy and equine assisted learning.

#### **2023 State Satisfaction Survey:**

Val shared the results of the State Satisfaction Survey for both programs and was proud to report higher scores for both! Ashland administers the survey monthly. With increased contact to home and provider services help achieve these scores. The areas of "I feel I belong in my community" and "I do better socially" were higher in both counties. The goals for 2024 are general stabilization for the surveys and vendors with the upcoming transitions for the year.

#### **New Business:**

No new business at this time.

#### **Public Comment:**

Jan asked about public comment being at the end of the meeting vs the beginning. Discussion included public comment was at the beginning of the meeting previously and those in attendance wanted to make a comment after they heard what was said at the meeting. Public comment was then moved to the end of the meeting.

The meeting dates for 2024 are as follows:

April 9<sup>th</sup> – Washburn

July 9<sup>th</sup> – Ashland

October 10<sup>th</sup> – Washburn

Meeting was adjourned by Tom M at 1:18pm.

Respectfully submitted, Andrea Yrjanainen Ashland County CCS Program Administrative Assistant