

Ashland and Bayfield County Regional  
Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Coordination Committee Meeting  
Ashland County Conference Room  
Hybrid Meeting  
Tuesday, July 11, 2023

**ACCS Members Present:** Terry Barningham, Billie Keelin, Jan Kupczyk, Thomas Mittelstaedt

**BCCS Members Present:** Tom Croteau (arrived at 12:35 p.m.), Cecelia Webb, Sandra Notzke, Johanna Perkins (arrived at 12:50 p.m.), Thomas Mittelstaedt

**Members-at-large:** Thomas Mittelstaedt, Val Levno

**Members Excused:** Mark (Andy) Bastin, Lorna Gamble, Collen Grand

**Others Present:** Sarah Traaholt, Heather Gilbertson, Jess Bigboy, Jerry Seitz –Partners in Recovery Center

**Call to order and Introductions:**

Mittelstaedt called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.

Levno conducted roll call. Ashland quorum present at 12:33 p.m. Bayfield quorum was present at 12:35 p.m.

**Discussion and Possible Action:** Review and Approval of the April 18, 2023, meeting minutes.

Motion by Kupczyk, second by Keelin to approve the Ashland County, April 18, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**Discussion and Possible Action:** Election of Officers - Ashland County CCS Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion by Keelin, second by Kupczyk for Mittelstaedt to remain Chair. Mittelstaedt accepted nomination. Motion passed.

Motion by Barningham, second by Keelin to elect Kupczyk to Vice Chair. Kupczyk accepted nomination. Motion passed.

**Discussion and Possible Action:** Review and Approval of the April 18, 2023, meeting minutes.

Motion by Webb, second by Notzke to approve the Bayfield County, April 18, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**Discussion and Possible Action:** Election of Officers – Bayfield County CCS Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion by Croteau, second by Notzke for Webb to remain Chair. Webb accepted nomination. Motion passed.

Motion by Croteau, second by Webb to elect Notzke to Vice Chair. Notzke accepted nomination. Motion passed.

**Discussion and Possible Action:** Review and Approval of the April 18, 2022, meeting minutes.

Motion by Kupczyk, second by Notzke to approve the Regional CCS Meeting, April 18, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

### **Presentation on Partners in Recovery Center (PIRC) – Jerry Seitz**

Levno introduced Jerry Seitz to the group. Seitz has been a substance use counselor at Memorial Medical Center's Behavioral Health Services since 2006 and is the Board Chairman of the PIRC. Seitz noted that recovery has become much more complex throughout the years. When he began his work as a counselor, approximately 80% of clients were strictly alcoholics. When drugs were involved, it was usually just one. Today on average clients are using three to four drugs. Addiction is stronger and more difficult to treat. However, lives can be turned around. Addiction is not a life sentence. PIRC wants to be a part of offering hope and a safe place for addicts to jumpstart a new life.

Seitz's personal recovery journey fueled his advocacy. He wanted more than just meetings to be available to those recovering in the Chequamegon Bay area. Seitz reported recovery is learning to live and enjoy life with a sense of community. PIRC has space for organizations to host recovery meetings. They generally run meetings seven days a week. Seitz explained the Center is much more; it is a safe place for recovering addicts to drop-in, socialize, and hang out.

Partners in Recovery works closely with Voices in Recovery to host sober events such as Packer Parties, barbecues, potlucks, movie nights, New Year's Eve parties, puzzle competitions, Christmas parties, crafting, "Big Book" Across the Bay Safe and Sober Party, painting classes, trivia, bingo and more. Event details are posted on PIRC Facebook page.

Seitz said the building owners charge a minimal fee for rent. However, PIRC is responsible for taxes and building repair and maintenance, which is costly. Due to the workforce challenges, it has been difficult to staff and keep the Center open. The Center is currently run by volunteers. PIRC has received an Essentia Health Grant that may help pay to hire someone part-time for a year and a half. This would assist with staffing, maintenance, and lawn care. PIRC's goal is to be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. if/when there is adequate staff. The Board is also identifying and considering other ideas to make the Center more sustainable for the future. PIRC is located at 410 West Lake Shore Drive. Children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

Kupczyk asked if there were any large sponsors. Seitz replied that they have some people that help with donations, especially during COVID. The PIRC Board may host an open house and invite businesses and community members. This might help them identify more sponsors and volunteers.

## **2022 CCS Program Evaluations**

Levno reviewed the handout and summarized the 2022 CCS program evaluation information and its comparatives to the 2021 program evaluation.

### **Program Report**

Enrollments for Ashland are in the low 40's and Bayfield is in the mid-40's.

Croteau notes there were many referrals in 2022. The trend continues for 2023. There have been an increase of mental health and addiction cases this summer. There have been many referral sources, including Memorial Medical Center, Bayfield County Human Services, schools, because of outreach, and participants returning to the program.

Provider Network updates:

- Gritty Fish in Washburn provides CrossFit and yoga classes. Provider can serve two to three participants at this time.
- Two skill building staff resigned from InDIGO. They are advertising to fill those positions.
- Christian Servants Home Care has hired two staff to provide skill building.
- Almost home Again is a residential placement option. CCS is funding the therapeutic portion of the placement costs for two Ashland County participants.

Levno continues to conduct outreach. Levno has contacted school principals, counselors, and special education teachers. Levno noted the Drummond School district is especially interested in getting information.

Levno reports staff have invested a large amount of time learning and entering information into the new software EchoVantage. As of July 1, 2023, CCS staff fully transitioned from the Management Information System (MIS) to EchoVantage. Croteau notes there are still a few glitches, but they are being worked on. Levno reports that because of the transition, there is no enrollment report for this meeting. She hopes to have a report for the next meeting.

### **Childrens Report**

Levno states that Christian Services Home Care has hired two social workers. Youth in both counties will benefit. Work with communication, relationships, medication management, physical health and wellness monitoring, and supporting family with psychoeducation are some supports that may be offered by the provider.

Croteau notes that some families question how these services may benefit youth. CCS provides the extra assistance they may need and help to navigate the systems.

### **Discussion: New Business**

Levno asked the group on what type of presenters should be invited to the meetings. Kupczyk suggested providers. Webb would like to hear about programs locally besides Alcoholics Anonymous. Webb would also like to hear from peer specialists. Webb is willing to give a presentation on the Life Ring Recovery Program. Croteau suggested a presentation by service facilitators. The group was receptive to the idea. Webb gave kudos to Stephanie Tutor, Bayfield County Service Facilitator, for all Tutor has done to help her.

Levno noted that Bad River just received a grant to start a CCS program. A main contact for the program not yet been identified.

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

Jess Bigboy stated she was glad she was able to attend this meeting.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

October 10, 2023 - Bayfield County Conference Room A at 12:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Traaholt, Bayfield County Clerk