

Ashland and Bayfield County Regional  
Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Coordination Committee Meeting  
Bayfield County Conference Room A  
Hybrid Meeting  
October 10, 2023

**ACCS Members Present:** Billie Keelin, Terry Barningham, Pam Stanny, Jan Kupczyk

**BCCS Members Present:** Tom Croteau, Ceceila Webb, Sandra Notzke, Val Levno

**Members-at-large:** Val Levno

**Members Excused:** Thomas Mittelstaedt, Johanna Perkins, Lorna Gamble

**Others Present:** Sarah Traaholt, Karlie Pierson, Vanessa Sowl, Elizabeth Skulan

**Call to order and Welcome New Member:**

Webb called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. Levno introduced Pam Stanny to the group. Stanny will be a member of both the Ashland and the Regional Committee.

Levno conducted roll call. Ashland, Regional quorum present. Bayfield quorum was present including member-at-large, Val Levno, as a voting member for this meeting.

**Discussion and Possible Action:** Review and Approval of the Ashland July 11, 2023, meeting minutes.

Motion by Barningham, second by Kupczyk to approve the Ashland County, July 11, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**Discussion and Possible Action:** Review and Approval of the Bayfield July 11, 2023, meeting minutes.

Motion by Croteau, second by Notzke, to approve the Bayfield County, July 11, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**Discussion and Possible Action:** Review and Approval of the July 11, 2023, meeting minutes.

Motion by Levno, second by Keelin, to approve the Regional CCS Meeting, July 11, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**A Day in The Life of a Service Facilitator – Vanessa Sowl, Bayfield County**

Vanessa Sowl has been a CCS coordinator for just over a year. Sowl notes that she is deeply honored to be a Service Facilitator. Sowl stated that being a service facilitator means that above all you need to have a trusting relationship with a person, to be able to assist them as they work on their recovery goals.

Service Facilitators check in with participants often, depending on participants need, this may be monthly, weekly, or biweekly and can be phone calls and/or in person visits with participants to check in and provide support.

Service Facilitators coordinate services for the participant. Examples of such services include equine therapy, equine assisted learning, peer support, medication management, skill development, and mental health evaluations. Service Facilitators help participants connect with other agencies and support. Service facilitation may include assistance with setting up appointments, arranging for transportation, and otherwise navigating logistics, which may be overwhelming to participants.

Sowl notes that mental health does not exist in a vacuum. Service Facilitators try to consider the whole person and the community to which they belong.

Sowl states that day-to-day work includes conducting: functional screens; comprehensive assessments; and substance use disorder assessments; as well as service planning and completing the necessary documentation to bill Medicaid.

Service Facilitators provide Individual Skill Development and Enhancement (ISDE) which are side by side supports such as assisting with shopping due to anxiety, participating in social activities, exercise and self-care activities, assistance with setting up schooling or any other support a participant may identify during a Service Plan meeting.

Service Facilitators plan and support participants in case of a crisis. Safety plans outline a participant's needs and potential support in the event of a crisis. Service Facilitators may assist in a crisis, such as arranging for behavioral health inpatient or more intensive services.

Bayfield County Service Facilitators attend weekly team meetings with other service facilitators, mental health staff, behavioral health staff, and regional CCS director to give updates, provide feedback, collaborate, and support their peers.

Service Facilitators participate in various training and educational activities throughout the year to learn new skills, reinforce skills, gain perspective, and support the broader mental health community.

Service Facilitators hope that at the end of the day, participants are safe, feeling supported, and know they are building the mental health recovery tools they need to make a difference in the future.

### **Review Program Report**

Levno reviewed CCS enrollment with group. Levno noted that Bayfield program is still inching upward but is not growing at the rate it was previously.

Ashland and Bayfield both have had positive discharges. These are discharges of participants who no longer need CCS programs. Croteau notes that the service ending isn't always an easy transition for participants. Facilitators work with participants before discharge to connect them with natural support who will take the place of any paid, professional support needed. Croteau notes that the goal is to give the participant all the tools they need to be successful. Should their needs change, participants may reapply for CCS.

Levno noted that with the Medicaid unwinding, documentation is now required for health care renewals. As this has occurred, some participants no longer qualify for Medicaid and, as result, CCS.

Both Ashland and Bayfield have had a discharge due to loss of Medicaid. Service Facilitators worked with these participants to prepare them for the transition.

Levno reported there are no staffing changes for either county. Bayfield County had an intern who continued to work on a limited basis over the summer. Her position ended in August.

Levno reported provider Gritty Fish, a CrossFit provider, has added a new staff member who is providing yoga to participants.

Levno noted Christian Servants Home Care has hired three part-time staff. Christian Servants serves both Ashland and Bayfield County participants.

Levno highlighted marketing and outreach efforts and an article on bucket approach for tobacco cessation that is being used by Service Facilitators provided in meeting packet.

The committee discussed the homeless shelter and low-income housing in Ashland County. Levno reported Bayfield County has hired a UW-Extension staff member to work on housing development. Levno feels in the next couple of years significant progress will be made to help homeless and low-income families in both counties.

### **Children Services**

Levno noted there was nothing new to add.

Levno reviewed current services offered for children including equine assisted learning, medication management, assisted transportation, physical health, going to doctor appointments, psychoeducation, peer support, art therapy, in-home therapy, crisis prevention and substance use treatment.

Croteau noted some youths have been graduating from the program.

### **Discussion: New Business**

None

### **Opportunity for Public Comment**

None

### **Informational Items**

Notzke noted there was a meatball dinner that will be held Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Iron River, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Levno noted that CCS began using Echo Vantage, the MIS replacement, on July 1, 2023. Levno reported there are still issues with billing and report development the vendor is working on. Croteau noted that more staff training and work to be completed before the software is fully functional.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

January 9, 2024 – Ashland County HHHS Ore dock room at 12:30 p.m.

April 9, 2024 – Bayfield County 12:30 p.m.

July 9, 2024 – Ashland County 12:30 p.m.

October 8, 2024 – Bayfield County 12:30 p.m.

Meetings were adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Traaholt, Bayfield County Clerk