COUNTY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026

Clothing drive

Join us for our second clothing drive of the year! We've been working hard to sort and organize donations, and we're excited to share them! Stop by County Connection on November 12 or 13 to find what you need. No sign-up or paperwork is required! Reminder: This event is open to anyone with an AMH case manager, so non-members will be in the building during the clothing drive.

End of year party

Please join us for our End-of-Year Party! We'll be celebrating the year together and enjoying a delicious meal. The party will once again be held at the PHHS building. We look forward to celebrating with everyone on November 17th

Cards for elderly

We will once again be making cards for isolated elderly individuals throughout Minnesota through Friends & Co. Join us on November 23 to make cards and help spread some holiday cheer to those who may be feeling lonely or isolated. Every card is a little reminder that someone cares! Learn more about this organization at https://friendsco.org/.

Contact Info

County Connection 716 Sibley Ave, Gaylord MN 55334

County Connection (507) 237-4133

Ashley Cellphone (507) 327-0644

Amanda Cellphone (507) 479-3384

Dawn Cellphone (507) 327-0645

Website: Sccbi.info

NOVEMBER ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

11/2 Free movie at St. Peter community center. Movie: Apollo 13. Sign up with Amanda or Dawn

11/4 Outing with Dawn and Amanda to New Prague boutique $$ and lunch $$ 8 people can sign up. Please sign up with Amanda or Dawn

11/16 Free movie at St. Peter community center. Movie: six triple eight. Sign up with Amanda or Dawn.

11/17 End of year meal at PHHS. Please don't arrive any earlier than 11:30am as the room may not be ready!

11/20 Heartland outlet in Shakopee $$ and lunch at Pizza Ranch $$ sign up with Ashley or Amanda

11/23 Card making for isolated elders, come enjoy card making and a sweet treat as we create these cards.

11/30 Snowman craft with Ashley and Amber! come make a snowman ornament

No RN education group in November 2026 or December 2026

Support group will continue to be peer-led

Staff will determine if it is safe for you to attend specific activities based on recent mental or physical health issues. Signing up does not ensure your attendance. Please refer to the Group outing Policy regarding cancelations. YOU MUST INFORM STAFF IF YOU NEED TRANSPORTATION

Happy Birthday

Lola
Nov 4th

JOIN FRIENDSHIP HOUSE FOR THE

10 COUNTY YEAR END MIXER

SINGING

BINGO !

'TURKEY DINNER' LUNCH

THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR MERCIFUL SAVIOUR

- 515 2ND AVE NW, FARIABULT, MN 55021

DECEMBER 2ND, 2026

FROM 12:00PM TO 3:00PM

LAC Meeting Minutes

Date: October 13, 2026
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: County Connection, 716 Sibley Ave, Gaylord MN 55334
Attendees: Kris Swenson, Sandy Schlueter, Kristin Priem, Keith Pfarr, Marli Schabert,
Amber Berg, Christine Rath, Laurie Wieman, Dawn Giesen, Vicky Fahey, Lynn Schmerbach,
Samantha Messerli, Ashley Dietrich, Sandie McGuire, and Gail Thomes.

Introductions

Introductions were skipped.

Guest Presentation

Sandy Schlueter and Kristin Priem, from MRCI is in attendance to give a guest presentation. Sandy explains that the role of an IPS Employment Specialist is to help clients find and keep competitive employment. The client would need to have 3 things: a mental health diagnosis, be receiving case management services and be ready to work. They will review the client's skill set, talk to local businesses and find a good fit. They will help with applications, resumes and help prepare for interviews. Sandy handed out booklets, brochures and business cards along with company promotional products for the taking. A question was asked about the difference between MRCI's Employment Services in comparison to Vocational Rehabilitation Services. It was then explained that Vocational Rehabilitation has more to do with the funding of the service, and then MRCI would deal with the hands-on client and employment services.

RMT Update

Kris attended the RMT meeting and gives update. The RMT meeting consists mainly of Supervisor's and Consumer Representatives in the Region. Kris explains that the Joint Powers Board is mainly made up of Directors. The Sibley County Consumer Representative spot is open for Sibley County. Kris encourages anyone interested in this role, to give this serious consideration and should let your case manager know of your interest. The Consumer Representative would get $50 per deim and gas reimbursement. Also, the SET Committee, which helps plan the Stake Holders meeting and other events, receive $40 per diem for

attending meetings. Some Consumer Representatives do fill this role on the SET Committee but these spots are limited and optional.

Kris spoke about the Tamra Rovney Award. This year's recipient is Blue Earth County's Human Services Director Phil Claussen. The award will be formally presented to Phil in November. The award is given by the South-Central Community Based Initiative (SCCBI). This award recognizes leaders in Adult Mental Health who demonstrate fierce advocacy and commitment to improving the lives of people who are impacted by mental illness.

Kris states Sibley County had a CSP Grant Site Visit by the State a month ago and this went well.

Stakeholders

Next Stakeholders meeting date has not been decided.

Upcoming Activities

Please see newsletter and calendar for upcoming events.

Additional:

Adult Mental Health and LAC will need to give their yearly presentation at the Commissioner's meeting on November 24. Ashley presented last year's power point slides to make updates. Klea will present on budget, etc. and will get the slide information to Ashley. Let Ashley know if you have any changes to the slides or additions, especially any new challenges the group may be facing. The last section will be saved for any Consumer Testimonials so if anyone wants to add this, please let your case manager know. The AMH Unit meeting on November 5 can be used to proof the power point and assign slides for the presentation.

2026 LAC Meetings: Meetings will be held quarterly, on the second Tuesday of month at 1:00 p.m. at the County Connection, 716 Sibley Ave, Gaylord.

January 12, 2027; April 13, 2027; July 13, 2027; October 12, 2027

Next meeting is scheduled for second Tuesday of the Month, Quarterly:

January 12, 2027 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Gail Thomes, Adult Mental Health Case Management Aide

AUTUMN WORDSEARCH

H K U B M N S Z D W Y O Z H
Y A X I T H X Q P M O D G C
M W R C H I L L Y H R J Z L
Q R W V X F R O Z O A R P Q
L V Z A E L A H Z C N U O Z
N Y W N Q S O B L T G S G L
O F D J Y M T R O O E T P A
A F J D U O I E J B A L I U
J A N F A L L E H E R I A T
D H O G F E H Z T R T N B U
Y R O H V X J Y Z L H G B M
M A U F L E A V E S Y G B N
Y C R I S P Q L X D B H U G
I R D M M K L C O Z Y F I N

AUTUMN
BREEZY
CHILLY
COZY
CRISP
EARTHY
FALL
HARVEST
LEAVES
OCTOBER
ORANGE
RUSTLING

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 Open 10:30am-3pm **11am MHM** **CSP: Free movie in St. Peter (Apollo 13)**	**3** Open 9am-3pm 10am Recycling info group	**4** Open 9am-3pm **CSP: New Prague boutique and lunch $$** **8 people can sign up**	**5** Open 10:30am-3pm 11am outdoor walking group	**6** Open 9am-3pm 10am Movie @ CC
9 Open 10:30am-3pm 11am MHM 1pm Chair stretching	**10** Open 9am-3pm 10:30am Peer Support group	**11**	**12** Open 9am -3pm All day: clothing drive	**13** Open 9am-2pm all day: clothing drive
16 Open 9am-12pm 11am MHM CSP: Free movie in St. Peter (The six triple eight)	**17** **No open hours** Noon: End of year meal/party @ PHHS	**18** Open 9am-2pm All day open crafting	**19** Open 11:30am-3pm 1pm bingo	**20** **No open hours** **9am** Heartland Outlet in Shakopee $$ pizza ranch for lunch
23 Open 9am-3pm 10:30am MHM 11am card making	**24** Open 11am-2pm 11am card games	**25** Open 9am-1pm 10am Virtual Reality (VR) headsets	**26**	**27**
30 Open 9am-3pm 10am MHM & snowman craft w/Ashley and Amber			Contact info **Ashley** (507) 327-0644 **Dawn** (507) 327-0645 **Amanda** (507) 479-3384 716 Sibley Ave, Gaylord, MN	