

TO: HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
FROM: MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUBJECT: UNMET NEEDS REPORT
DATE: FEBRUARY 2023

UNMET NEEDS REPORT

The following unmet needs were identified and discussed at 2022-23 Mental Health Advisory Council (MHAC) Meetings. MHAC has a statutory responsibility to present a report outlining the committee's understanding of unmet mental health needs of both children and adults residing in the county as least annually to the Board. The following is a list of the unmet needs and possible solutions discussed:

1. Lack of mental health providers to offer services for children struggling with thoughts of suicide and depression

Solution Discussions: Central MN Mental Health and other community mental health providers are struggling to hire staff due to the staffing shortage. Central MN Mental Health Center is providing updates and available support options to venues such as Safe Schools, MHAC meetings, and through other community partnerships. Also, discussion hotline options such as 988 and our local mobile crisis teams.

2. Additional training opportunities available to providers and concerned citizens on mental health

Solution Discussions: CAMHI continues to share training opportunities with the MHAC team and team members are able to share appropriately within the community.

3. Lack of housing availability in Wright County and the rising homelessness population within the county
 - a. Need for more housing
 - b. Need for more mental health beds

Solution Discussions: Wright County has Outreach social workers available to connect community members struggling with homeless to resources.

4. The need for more providers able to accept TCM clients on managed care plans

Solution Discussions: Blue Cross has been working to recruit additional providers

5. Lack of safety net services and placement options for adults and children with significant mental health and behavioral needs

Solution Discussions: MACSSA & AMC have legislative position statements attempting to address this concern.