

BRIDGING THE GAP SUB-COMMITTEE

301 N. Main St, Adrian, MI 49221
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MEMBERS

Judge T. Morgan, Monica Hunt, Sarah Palmani, Garry Clift,
Bronna Kahle, Terry Collins, Sheriff Troy Bevier,
Kevon Martis, Tim Kelly

MEETING LOCATION

Commission Chambers
301 N. Main St.
Adrian, MI 49221

Minutes: Wednesday, September 17, 2025

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: September 16, 2025

Motion by Collins to approve the minutes of September 16, 2025, seconded by Kahle. Motion carried.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

A. Refuge Land Purchase for long-term female residents - *H.E.R. (Heal, Empower, Restore)*

Lynsey Rye, Jessica Roddy, and Heather Brown of H.E.R. Refuge Board presented their Land Acquisition Project.

H.E.R. is a Heal, Empower, Restore Refuge committed to establishing a long-term residential treatment program for female adolescents aged 13–17 in Lenawee. They will serve teen girls experiencing mood disorders, substance-use disorders, trauma-related disorders, and eating disorders.

The proposal is to fund the purchase of up to 10 acres of land in Lenawee for the future site of H.E.R. refuge. There are no long-term treatment facilities for this population in Lenawee County.

Rye reviewed how this proposal fits with the requirements of Exhibit E, the list of Opioid remediation uses.

Rye shared national data and local data to support the need for a female adolescent long-term treatment program.

The proposed project timeline and budget would take place over three quarters, in 2026.

Measures of success include acquiring land in Lenawee County, securing donors, grants, and community engagement.

Discussion opened up regarding the nearest female adolescent facility. Rye reported that the nearest one is about 2 hours away; one is in Grand Rapids, and one is in Detroit. However, these are short-term facilities, and the HER Refuge is a 6–8 month program.

Discussion continued regarding the expense of care. There would be no charge for the participants; Rye discussed that even those with insurance struggle with coverage for these programs. Roddy shared that they have planned an annual and three-year budget to provide the services, free of charge. The goal is to acquire the first three-year budget through fundraising before opening the doors.

The Refuge would include individual and family counseling, in-house academic education, life skills training, health & wellness, and volunteer bible studies.

Roddy shared that the H.E.R. Board has been established for almost 10 years, laying the foundation for this Refuge, having thoroughly & intentionally made plans for this project.

The Refuge could house up to 10 female adolescent Lenawee County residents.

It was asked if the board had considered purchasing an established building to renovate.

Roddy stated they had considered that, but after researching, they determined it would not fit them. They follow strict guidelines from the State of MI, and current properties do not align with their vision.

The goal is to open the Refuge in 2028.

V. Public Comment

No public comment.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Collins, seconded by Morgan, to adjourn at 3:44 pm. Motion carried.