

BRIDGING THE GAP SUB-COMMITTEE

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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, December 17, 2025

I. Call to Order

Present: *Comm. Kevon Martis, Comm. Terry Collins*

Also Present: *Sheriff Troy Bevier, Community Development Coordinator Francine Zysk, Medical Examiner Office Manager Sarah Palmani, Health Officer Monica Hunt, Citizen Garry Clift, Mental Health Rep. Tim Kelly, Communications Coordinator Jen Ambrose, Admin. Coordinator Carissa Zubke, Administrator Kim Murphy, Deputy Administrator Shannon Elliott*

Absent: *Judge Todd Morgan, Bronna Kahle*

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm by Comm. Martis.

It was announced that meetings will continue into the new year, at the regularly schedule day/time.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: November 19, 2025

Motion by Collins to approve the minutes of November 19, 2025, seconded by Bevier. Motion carried.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

A. Pathways Engagement Center - Lenawee Community Mental Health Authority Jen Carpenter (LCMH) and Kellie Niese were present to review their proposal for a Pathways Engagement Center. Services in Lenawee have been present since 1973 and serve as a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Core Provider. ROSC is a Recovery-Oriented System of Care that brings together numerous community partners to support Recovery and wellness. Through this process, a need was identified for a place individuals could go when struggling with substance use, which led to the creation of the Pathways Engagement Center. The Center offers minimal barriers to entry and provides peer support services.

Staff have been trained in SMART Recovery (Self-Management and Recovery Training), which is offered twice daily at Pathways. The Center has also begun hosting public sober events. Pathways is open daily from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and works closely with emergency rooms and law enforcement to provide a space for individuals in Recovery. Niese discussed the importance of Peer Recovery Coaches. Currently, the program has seven full-time Recovery Coaches, one FTE Program Coordinator, and one FTE Program Supervisor. The funding request is to cover one additional position. In 2024, the program hosted 537 individuals through various events, recorded 492 encounters (including admissions and re-admissions), and admitted 202 unique individuals. Consumers are not only from the City of Adrian but from throughout Lenawee County.

Carpenter shared several challenges, including the lack of billable services, changes in federal funding, and difficulties with overnight staffing.

A discussion followed regarding whether accepting the grant would impact their state grant funding: Carpenter stated the state grant had been reduced, which is why additional funding is being requested. Telehealth services were also discussed; Niese noted that while telehealth can help address barriers such as transportation, many individuals prefer having a local, in-person place to go.

A question was raised regarding the percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness. Carpenter estimated that over 50% are homeless. The program also serves individuals involved with the court system and those who have secured housing. Further discussion included ideas on how to serve residents outside the City of Adrian better. Carpenter noted previous efforts to provide transportation to outlying areas; however, residents were reluctant to use the labeled buses, possibly due to the stigma associated with them.

Discussion continued regarding potential growth and whether the facility could outgrow its current space. Carpenter stated that, at present, the overnight space is meeting program needs.

Tim Kelly abstained from voting on the Pathways Engagement Center.

B. Increasing/Improving Basic Needs for Transportation - Lenawee Public Transportation Authority

Kate Daisher and Morgan Torres were present to discuss their proposal. In October 2022, services were joined. LPTA currently operates 18 vehicles, 14 of which are buses. LPTA operates 283 days a year. Torres focuses on assisting individuals with special circumstances. The program's current funding consists of 34% state funding and 18% federal funding. Despite Lenawee County and State appropriations, the organization continues to experience an annual shortfall, with an estimated \$500,000 deficit.

LPTA has begun offering medical transportation. The last call for transportation is currently at 3:30 p.m. When working with Sobriety Court participants, transportation remains a barrier, as participants are required to attend meetings that often occur in the evening. Service hours are limited to Monday through Friday; prior evening and weekend services were eliminated due to budget constraints.

LPTA would like to expand its current transportation hours. Currently, service to outlying municipalities, such as Morenci, is provided only twice a week, and they would like to

extend this service. They also hope to offer low- or no-cost rides for individuals seeking treatment and recovery services, as well as improve access to treatment, recovery services, employment, and housing.

Daisher discussed how quickly services could be implemented due to the organization's existing infrastructure. It was noted that individuals enrolled in court programs are often required to complete a 90-day program, and without transportation, they must rely on others for the duration of that period.

The proposal requests \$100,000 annually for two years to cover personnel costs, vehicle operation, maintenance, fuel, ride vouchers or passes, and data tracking. Daisher discussed challenges related to tracking and distributing vouchers, particularly regarding confidentiality and ease of use.

Daisher discussed the ability to pre-schedule transportation for medical appointments, in addition to non-scheduled pick-ups and drop-offs.

LPTA shared that they have partnered with both the Department of Aging and the Department of Veterans Affairs, which also offer ride services.

Sustainability was discussed, and Michigan Transportation was identified as a potential resource for matching funds for specific types of rides.

V. Public Comment

A member of Alcoholics Anonymous made a public comment regarding the ride services the organization offers to those in Recovery. They are located in Jackson, Hillsdale, and Lenawee County. The organization has a website, a QR code, and a hotline to find meeting dates and times, as well as to request a ride.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Collins, seconded by Bevier to adjourn the meeting at 3:55pm. Motion carried.