

BRIDGING THE GAP SUB-COMMITTEE

301 N. Main St, Adrian, MI 49221
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MEMBERS

T. Morgan, M Hunt, S. Palmani, G. Clift, B. Kahle, T. Collins, T. Bevier, K. Martis, T. Kelly
Adrian, MI 49221

MEETING LOCATION

301 N. Main St,

Minutes: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

I. Call to Order

Present: *Comm. Kevon Martis, Terry Collins*

Also Present: *Administrator Kim Murphy, Deputy Administrator Shannon Elliott, 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, Captain Randy Casey, Melissa and Brian Vargas, Megan Widmer-LCMH, Bridget Kelly- YouTurn Health*

Absent: *Sheriff Bevier, Judge Morgan, Bronna Kahle*

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: February 18, 2026

Motion by Kelly to approve the minutes of February 18, 2026, seconded by Collins. Motion carried.

III. Old Business

No discussion.

IV. New Business

Comm. Martis provided information regarding the request for some presenters to return. After the last subcommittee meeting and administrative discussions, it was determined that each of the proposals below could be beneficial in Lenawee County but with some adjustments. Three organizations were present to discuss their amended request for proposals.

A. YouTurn Health Presentation

Ms. Zysk stated that the You Turn Health RFP has been amended to make telehealth services available to all community members. The original RFP was intended to be implemented within the jail; however, it has now been broadened and is no longer limited to justice-involved individuals.

Bridget Kelly was present to discuss the amendment to the RFP. As a result of this change, services will now be provided to all residents of Lenawee County rather than being limited to the jail setting. The services offered remain the same and include online activities, virtual peer coaching, and family support.

Kelly also discussed the referral process, recommending continued collaboration with the jail while expanding partnerships with other community resources. Examples include Boys & Girls Clubs, Catholic Charities, and other funded programs to help establish a broader referral network. Zysk recommended sharing information through local libraries to increase awareness.

All services will be delivered via telehealth, allowing for “when needed” or “in the moment” support. Online content is accessed using an access code. Additionally, the program will recognize various mental health awareness months.

The average age of participants served is 17 and older, though services have been provided to individuals as young as 13–14.

B. McCullough, Vargas, & Associates Presentation

Melissa and Brian Vargas provided a brief overview of the addendum to their Request for Proposal.

Brian shared that since presenting the initial proposal, they have begun collaborating with the Lenawee County Jail. McCullough, Vargas & Associates (MVA) is currently offering peer recovery coach services at the jail through funding from the Byrne JAG grant, which is set to expire this fall. Captain Casey expressed hope that the grant would be renewed.

Brian further discussed additional service gaps. Peer services at ProMedica are available for individuals with substance-use needs. However, for individuals meeting certain criteria in the hospital setting, peer services cannot be billed to insurance. This presents an opportunity where opioid funding could be utilized.

He also noted that peer coaches are unable to bill for services provided in group settings, such as shelters, which is another area where funding could support service delivery. Currently, peer services are only billable in office settings and for one individual at a time, creating limitations.

Care packages were discussed, which may include items such as Narcan and necessities (e.g., socks) for distribution within the community.

The organization is requesting an extension of the funding period to allow expenditures over a five-year timeframe. They also requested flexibility in staffing, including the ability to utilize both full-time and part-time positions.

Melissa discussed ongoing efforts to build partnerships, including collaboration with Catherine Cobb for substance use disorder (SUD) services, as well as strengthening other community relationships.

Currently, the organization employs seven peer recovery coaches, with four based in the Adrian office. There is a goal to recruit additional peer coaches and supplement the salaries of those currently providing peer services.

It was also noted that commercial insurance does not reimburse for peer services, presenting another opportunity for the proposed funding to fill gaps.

The discussion concluded with questions regarding “branch” licensed facilities. MVA stated that each location requires its own individual license to provide services.

C. Lenawee Sheriff's Office Presentation

Jail Captain Randy Casey was present to discuss the amended RFP for medically assisted treatment services (MAT) at the Jail. The revised proposal includes \$75,000 for MAT services that would be implemented by their healthcare provider, VitalCore.

Captain Casey stated that it was difficult to estimate the number of individuals that could benefit from this funding, as they do not currently have definitive data which represents the number of people in need. Captain reported the plan is to identify individuals when they come in, if they are in need of substance-use disorder (SUD) services.

Through this funding they plan to:

- *Have the health provider assist in identifying individuals in need*
- *Health provider to store this data*
- *After a period of 1 year, baseline data will be available*
- *RFP is amended to request \$75,000 for 1 year*

Comm. Martis relayed that if additional MAT services are needed after the initial funding is exhausted, further funding may be available.

Motion by Collins to recommend the three amended RFPs to the Board of Commissioners, seconded by Hunt. Motion carried.

Discussion took place.

Motion by Kelly to recommend the final list of RFPs, including these three amendments, to the Board of Commissioners, seconded by Collins. Motion carried.

V. Public Comment

No comment.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Kelly to adjourn at 4:00pm, seconded by Collins. Motion carried.