

Listening Session Notes:

Quite a number of people attended this session. (I did not count them, but appeared about twenty.) Two were running for local offices. One Carver County Commissioner. Some mental health professionals.

A mother shared her story. She said mental illness is not an insurance problem. We need to do better at connecting the dots as a community. Wondered why she did not hear from a teacher or principal when her child's grades were dropping. (Drugs were also involved). Felt there should be security at high school graduations. Teachers, bus drivers, store owners need to learn what a drug-induced (LSD) psychosis looks like. She stated we as a community need to be educated/trained on how to be with the mentally ill and respond to/care for them.

Another guest told of her husband (who has dementia) leaving home to go for a walk and not returning in a reasonable time. When she went out to look for him, a neighbor offered to help. Then another volunteered to look for him as well. Eventually the husband returned home. This is how communities should look: neighbor helping neighbor.

Another guest told of a relative being transported by ambulance 2 1/2 hours away. After a 72-hour hold, the patient was not transported back home, but loaned money for a busride. Police and psychiatrist had not mentioned the existence of a county Mobile Crisis Unit, which may have been helpful in this case.

Question: Does Crisis Team come only if individual is homicidal or suicidal?

Another individual said County Commissioners need to come to our LAC meetings.

"Act on Alzheimers" is a program being implemented in Chanhassen. A gentleman wondered if a similar program, such as "Act on Mental Health," could be developed to recognise people who have a mental illness.

Remember: A person with a mental illness is a PERSON.