



Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Update

October 20, 2026



About Kristin Kraabel

- Bachelor's of Social Work from Mankato State University
- Licensed Social Worker
- Home and Community Based Services Supervisor - Intake, Health Plan - South Country Health Alliance (SCHA), and Over age 65 Programs Elderly Waiver (EW), Alternative Care (AC) and Essential Community Supports (ECS)
- 9 years at Goodhue County in the Home and Community Based Service Unit



About Katie Tang

- Masters of Social Work: University of North Dakota
- Licensed Graduate Social Worker
- Home and Community Based Services Supervisor - Initial Assessors, Under 65 Waiver - Community Alternative Care (CAC), Community Alternatives for Disabled Individuals (CADI), Brain Injury Waiver (BI), Developmental Disabilities (DD) and Adult licensing
- 20 years at Goodhue County in the Home and Community Based Service Unit

South Country Health Alliance (SCHA) clients and billing

Clients

- 646 SCHA members are being served currently
 - 107 elderly waiver clients
 - 539 care coordinated clients
- Increased billing due to no longer having dual under 65 case manager/care coordinator role

Billing

	2023	2024	2025	2026 (current)
SCHA Total	394,435.02	774,996.10	642,045.74	533,262.49
Connector included in SCHA total	119,351.58	131,452.31	140,820.81	149,485.04

South Country Health Alliance (SCHA) combined program demographics

Senior Care Complete

- 72% of SCC members live in the community
 - 68% are female
 - 25% had a hospitalization in the last year
 - Top chronic conditions include: hypertension, hyperlipidemia, arthritis, depression, and chronic kidney disease

AbilityCare

- 88% of AbilityCare Members live in the community
 - 58% are female
 - 14% had a hospitalization in the last year
 - Top chronic conditions include: depression, anxiety disorders, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, fibromyalgia, chronic pain and fatigue



Challenging areas

- State Medical Review Team (SMRT) and MA-LTC (Medical Assistance – Long Term Care) approvals taking extra time requiring to access services
- Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) has involved extensive time to learn and teach individuals accessing the service
- Leaves lasting 3-5 months
- Health Plan enrollment at Department of Human Services (DHS) is backlogged
- Signatures needed before authorization for services delays start of services
- Lack of providers or providers ending their license and no longer serving
- Supervisor approval takes time and delays service start
- Many policy/statute changes

Number of Children on Services (as of 10/1/26)

- Waiver: 62 children
- CFSS Only: 47 children
- Pending: 31 Children



Serving Children with HCBS Services

Increases

- Number of children served
- Complexity of cases
- Placements in HCBS licensed homes
- Time spent collaborating, problem solving and making referrals
- Education and collaboration with Prairie Island Indian Community to better serve their community

Needs/Challenges

- Respite providers
- Support for those with IQ under 70
- Early intervention with autism diagnosis
- Behavior support in the home
- Parenting support and education for families with a child with a disability (physical, emotional, or mental health)
- Challenge-coordination with school and ability to handle behaviors at the school

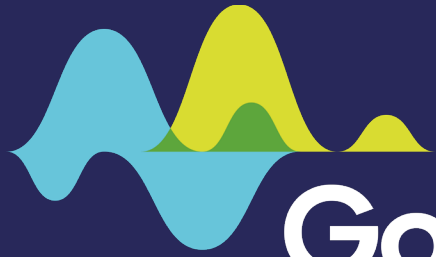
Upcoming HCBS Changes

Need to find \$177.5 million in savings in disability services by 2028/2029 or cost shifts will happen to counties

- Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Advisory subcommittee - Katie Tang is part of this DHS workgroup to find the savings

Waiver Reimagine coming with no date currently

- Change from 4 disability waivers (CADI, BI, CAC, DD) to 2 disability waivers (Community and residential)



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MINNESOTA

**Thank you
Questions**