



## **MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

December 8, 2025

12:00 – 1:30 PM

Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room and Via Zoom

**Voting Members Present-** Erin Taylor, Nicole Madden, Ryan Mattson, Andrea Lower, Lori Christenson, Melaney Swenson, Yvonne Rudman, Eric Szemes, Margaret Kachadurian, Shawna Lockhart, Max Albers, Tom Peluso

**Non-Voting Members Present-** Chad Berg, Rick Gale, Ben Frentsos,

**Voting Members Absent-** Anthea George, Susan Gregory, Steve Nash, Zach Ehrhardt, Amanda Rosenkoetter

**Guests-** Jeff Keller, Rimrock

### **Staff-**

- Call to Order-Erin Taylor called the meeting to order at 12:02PM.
- Roll Call- Nicole Madden took attendance.
- Approval of Minutes: November 2025 minutes –Erin Taylor votes to approve the minutes as distributed after corrections.
- Public Comment- no public comment
- Committee Reports and Updates
  - Strategic Planning Committee- Moving along, no recent meeting.
  - Membership Committee- no updates.
  - Accounting- no updates.
  - Central Service Area Authority- Nicole to follow up on receipt of distribution of \$3200 from CSAA.
  - Gallatin Behavior Health Coalition Update- None.
  - Gallatin County Commission- County looking to re-allocate funding previous provided to Cedar Creek to Rimrock with closure of Cedar Creek and awaiting a response from state on provision of that funding with reimbursement from state. Marijuana tax money is allocated to crisis primarily at this time. Yvonne requests a summary from the county on the different revenue streams that support mental health and substance use as well as a summary of the different grants and such that support these efforts.
  - Media Committee- None
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
  - Cedar Creek/Rimrock Transition- Jeff Keller, CEO Rimrock; Dr Malcolm Horn

- Rimrock looking to expand services across the state to serve needs for substance use and co-occurring conditions. Serving over 3000 people annually with current programming. Goal is to increase access to serve 6000 people by 2028.
- Dr Malcolm Horn- counseling, leadership for clinical team.
- Vision for Rimrock in the community- largest and oldest provider for substance treatment in the state. Malcolm identifies need for build up of mental health in conjunction with substance use treatment/counseling to include case management, counseling, etc. Rimrock provides these mental health services in addition to SUD. Have more than 20 peer support specialists in their organization working alongside the clients. More than 40% of staff are in recover for mental health or substance use representing a role model type service. Offer psychiatric rehab services along with peer support- vocational support, IOP, transportation access, resources connection. Implementing full scale services in Billings with interest in expanding to Bozeman. Hoping to add A-Sam- recovery services, working with treatment courts for adjudication services prior to hearings, peer support, targeted case management and then also day treatment programming in the future.
- Services currently offered for adults only with exception of outpatient services in Billings which are available for youth/adolescents. Family work is also a focus of their programming.
- Treatment court services- Cedar Creek previously providing. Rimrock currently working with court services on contracts and options to offer these services in Bozeman/Gallatin County. Legal and clinical issues go hand in hand. They currently work with 7 treatment courts in Billings and the judges. Malcolm provides clinical oversight for those courts and partners with them on solutions and support. Serving 300+ clients per day through treatment courts with existing services. Focus on both substance use and mental health needs including individual counseling for mental health and group therapies for substance use treatments.
- Offer medication assisted supports- alcohol and substance use disorder medication management, mentor court, and mental health medication management.
- Residential treatment care- will be able to offer to Bozeman through the Billings facility. Provision of 28-day substance treatment with discharge transition to court services and outpatient programming.
- Rick Gale- inquired about Caring Community program and support of veterans for treatment and housing. Rimrock currently has agreement with VA to provide services currently in Billings through treatment court or via referral. Rimrock recognizes need for connection of veterans through their existing support networks and not always aligning with the general population so have processes and pathways to support individual veteran needs. Working with the state and VA to support developing options for supported housing for veterans, possibly creating a campus for veteran substance/mental health services. Running into some barriers between state and VA to move forward but continuing to work towards end result.
- Rick inquires about staffing for rimrock- Rimrock confirms staffing in Bozeman are paid at a higher rate in Bozeman due to cost of living. Balancing staffing practices for Billings and Bozeman. Currently working with the 23 people displaced from Cedar Creek closing. Working to recruit from that program.

- Working with state on required licensure for day treatment, outpatient, etc. Expecting some licenses to start coming through in December and will continue to expand. Working with county on distribution of alcohol tax money to subsidize start up and onboarding of staff and initiation of services now.
- Margaret inquires if other territories or areas of MT being considered beyond Billings and Bozeman. Missoula may be next expansion area. Growth will be considered in conjunction with sustainability and gaps across the state. Rimrock now being ran as a business with scalable, sustainable models that allows for mobility and pivoting for needs.
- Can offer telehealth IOP participation currently across the state while building and expanding physical locations.
- Success is a balance between evidence based clinical practices and sustainable business practices.
- Eric- inquires to plans for brick and mortar location and how LAC can support community awareness and direction for those looking for services. Currently have a location open at 151 Evergreen in Bozeman. There is a landing page for Bozeman at Rimrock.org with resources for referrals. Can also email [mhorn@rimrock.org](mailto:mhorn@rimrock.org) and she can assist with forwarding referrals to the intake dept if needed. Can also send referrals to [connect@rimrock.org](mailto:connect@rimrock.org) for Bozeman specific referrals.
- Eric inquires- is it likely to have residential treatment in Bozeman in the future? And can someone self-refer to Rimrock's programs? Self-referrals always welcome- often don't happen due to disease process of addiction but Rimrock does accept these self-referrals. On-site residential not off the table but not currently planned due to cost and availability of staffing and the logistics to open and operate at this time. Possible future options if partnership with city/county/local resources available. Walk-in appointments or requests also accepted with same day access whenever able.
- Yvonne inquires about resources for school-based and prevention programs for youth/adolescents. Rimrock had previously offered services in the past in Billings and services were stopped due to lack of support from school board. It is not happening currently but interested in future options for this. Yvonne inquired about knowledge of new substances entering the community. Rimrock has awareness and recognizes needs for mechanisms to change narrative around substances, specifically identifying marijuana as a business and impacts to substance access and use, culture in MT, stigma, culture around substances. Long term consequences and awareness of risks of new and existing substances is missing or inadequate. Prevention and education for both youth and adults across they system needed to curb use and create awareness.
- There is currently an open position on LAC for drug/alcohol treatment services if anyone from Rimrock interest in applying.
- Media Team Presentation- Amanda Menasco
  - Review of website updates in order to make it live.
  - Need to determine what process do we follow to populate the news section of the webpage- recommended to share the highlights from the last meeting, formulate

what is shared for discussion on this page, and vote on content with the approval of minutes at each meeting.

- Recommendation to determine the LAC identity and use the website and other efforts to promote the LAC and its mission.
  - Margaret recommends development of sustainable plan to maintain the website and resources.
  - Ryan M motions to publish website for LAC to review, Nicole M seconded. Comments include recommendation to set timeline and date for early in the new year for final review prior to promotion of website across the community. Consider review deadline of January or February meeting. Motion approved by quorum vote.
- Agenda Suggestions- None
  - Announcements-
    - Next Meeting: January 12, 2026, at 12:00PM.
  - Adjournment- Erin Taylor adjourned the meeting.

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**Erin Taylor, Board Chair**