



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 10, 2025

12:00 – 2:00 PM

Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room and Via Zoom

Voting Members Present- Commissioner Jennifer Boyer, Erin Taylor, Ryan Mattson, Andrea Lower, Lori Christenson, Melaney Swenson, Nicole Madden, Anthea George, Yvonne Rudman, Susan Gregory, Tom Peluso, Steve Nash, Margaret Kachadurian, Shawna Lockhart, Zach Ehrhardt

Non-Voting Members Present- Chad Berg, Rick Gale, Bekki McLean, Todd Lester, Raven Yurtal

Voting Members Absent- Jennifer Madgic, Eric Szemes, Lori Shanahan

Guests- Cola Rowley, Kirsten Smith, Marissa Dunn, Courtney Giles, Amanda Rosen-Koetter, Paige Bidaler

Staff- N/A

- Call to Order- Erin Taylor called the meeting to order.
- Roll Call- Jennifer Boyer took attendance.
- Approval of Minutes: January 2025 minutes – Erin Taylor approved the minutes as distributed.
- Public Comment – Ryan Mattson confirmed that the minutes are our record, we are not able to support recordings.
- Committee Reports and Updates
 - Strategic Planning Committee-
 - Membership Committee- 2 members will be applying in the near future. Representing Alcohol and drug services and consumer family. This will leave only one vacancy. Amanda introduced herself as a clinical therapist and has a son with autism.
 - Accounting- no change in the account.
 - Central Service Area Authority –
 - Steve and Zach report CSAA funding for a mini-grant may be delayed due to state funding. The \$1,000 pass through has been agreed upon at last meeting. The second Mini grant for communications will come to the board in March for approval.
 - Fentanyl has been a crisis in MT for a while and now there is a more powerful variety showing up in our community. Community member trainings for Narcan to address this growing concern have traction.
 - Ben Court will be in Helena at the end of February. He focuses on the negative impacts of legalized marijuana.

- Can we share the summary of the CSAA with our board, there is a lot of great information included in the agenda? Recommendation that CSAA add this board directly to their distribution list.
- Gallatin Behavior Health Coalition Update-
 - Youth campus – Bozeman Health match contribution \$550K, \$50K and 10K from individuals recently, 1.5M from foundation proposals look strong, In May we hope to have 50K from 20 individuals to add \$1M.
 - We are looking to not require a statement of crisis and need if they are being received at an ER to enter the youth services.
 - A lot of unknowns regarding federal funding, the SAMPSA monies are a little uncertain.
 - Crisis diversion contracting is moving forward but has been slowed down due to state administration.
 - Strategic planning on March 5 at the Detention Center. Focus on youth in the survey and upstream work around community education and awareness. Also working with West Yellowstone and the gaps with the remote community.
- Gallatin County Commission – n/a
- Unfinished Business-
 - Strategic Plan – Nicole moved to approve the draft LAC strategic plan, Ryan seconded,
 - Discussion: use consistent terminology of mental health / behavioral health. Keeping mental health terminology is consistent with our title and how we are identified and directed in our work. (Behavioral health includes substance and other behaviors like eating disorders). Should we use brain health? In the near-term use mental health with a goal of investigating the most appropriate terminology in the next 12-18 months, recognition that words matter and we can move to brain health (includes more biological base like TBI) over time. We should focus on the role and resources we are focused on and align the correct terminology.
 - VOTE: keep mental health terminology in our document – ALL IN FAVOR – passed.
 - Clubhouse Proposal -Raven has been putting a proposal together for a block grant but joining a package with HRDC with a drop-in center and a club house model in a different location. The proposal is in draft form with a budget.
 - CSAA Grants Update – see above.
- New Business
 - Virtual Tour of Connections' Kirkland, Washington Crisis Receiving Center- Paige Bichler, VP, Clinical Operations. This is a different facility than was offered on a virtual tour in Harrisburg PA a few weeks ago. Missoula's center just closed (was

operating with \$3M and it was unsustainable). This type of facility is being developed and sustained in communities and is a good example of what we can strive for. This is a cost effective alternative to ERs and jails when people are in emergency. The model is a national best practices. 5 communities across the King County. Walk-in emergency services or referrals for stabilization and proactive discharge. 16 beds for extended needs and outpatient recovery services. First responders and hospitals and crisis response teams have their own entrance, admittance takes less than 10 minutes. Intake is quick with as few people as possible so the patient doesn't have to repeat answers. 60% are discharged within 24 hours and 90% are followed up within 7 days of discharge. Team station is private but has clear visibility and promotes collaboration of the team members. Staff are color coded with scrubs. Group sessions are led by peers multiple times a day. Calm rooms have photography, sensory walls, adjustable lights. Crisis stabilization provides additional care and time, average length of stay is 4-5 days. Virtual courtroom allows for hearings and meetings with legal representation. Seclusion and restraint are last resort but are available if de-escalation fails. Outpatient walk-in and urgent care services, a variety of services, medication management, and connecting to support programs. There are also spaces to meet with family.

- What is the partnership with Veterans? We work with multiple stakeholders and we build the partnerships so we can refer folks to the best support systems.
- What does reimbursement look like for crisis stabilization and receiving? We have needed to work to get higher reimbursements based on the level of care we provide. From county, state and payers.
- How many physicians are on staff? Medical director and psychiatrist and 3 NP providers.
- Funding was state with 5 cooperating counties and a mill levy by King County. Connections also worked to get reimbursement rates at a level that can provide sustainability.
- We work with NAMI and LAC type organizations to seamlessly connect the services in our facility and outside.
- 30,000 individuals per year are served for Phoenix / Tucson
- Harrisburg and Chantilly are smaller communities that are able to function.
- MT veterans do have access to Sheridan WY but it is a long way away.

- Agenda Suggestions – update from L'spree, Roots Family Collaborative update and robust resource guide.
- Announcements – Gallatin Valley Veterans Gathering for veterans, kids and families, overview of services, Veterans Court, nonprofits – last Friday of the month meetings.
 - Wear Red on February 12th for women's heart issues.
 - Governors Challenge Group and Summit in Billings on February 14, 2025.
- Adjournment- Erin Taylor adjourned the meeting at 1:40pm.
- Next Meeting is Monday March 10 at 12 pm.

Erin Taylor, Board Chair