



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

June 9, 2025

12:00 – 2:00 PM

Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room and Via Zoom

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

Non-Voting Members Present- Rick Gale, Bekki McLean, Todd Lester

Voting Members Absent- Jennifer Madgic, Andrea Lower, Eric Szemes

Guests- Cola Rowley, Kirsten Smith, Caitlin Avey, Suffer out Loud, Marissa & Davia (FPGV), Amy & Molly-Montana Public Health Institute, Tracy Rassley (AFSP)

Staff

- Call to Order- Erin Taylor called the meeting to order.
- Roll Call- Nicole Madden took attendance.
- Approval of Minutes: May 2025 minutes – Erin Taylor approved the minutes as distributed.
- Public Comment-
- Committee Reports and Updates
 - Strategic Planning Committee-
 - Membership Committee- Getting closer to fill alcohol/drug representative membership position, looking for someone of a younger age group to provide additional perspective from different generations. Margaret has person interested in LAC involvement. Anthea confirmed ability for participation in non-voting membership as well for those interested.
 - Accounting-
 - Central Service Area Authority- Many upcoming trainings and events across the state for our LAC to consider sending representation. Nicole to send out a list of these events to the LAC with links for additional information
 - Gallatin Behavior Health Coalition Update- Crisis diversion grant challenges with layers of funding and gaps to support mobile crisis. County submitted proposal to state to support funding for crisis facility to utilize \$1.75 million from crisis diversion grant to secure the existing warming center as a future site for crisis stabilization services. There is an outstanding debt of \$1.4 million on that building currently. If approved, would pay off debt and use remaining money to beautify site and provide additional building upgrades/repairs. Continued challenges with negligible reimbursement rates to sustain crisis stabilization/receiving in communities. Concern about loss of this building resource for future use for crisis care. Other services could be provided in that space in the spirit of crisis until clinical crisis receiving could be sustained. These

services include DIC and possibly others. Aware and WMMHC have merged into one entity. Would like future presence of Aware in the community for youth services and crisis care but not sure what future will look like. Looking at community partnerships for long term sustainment of crisis care. Lighthouse Ranch presentation/open house on Thursday 6/5/2025 to increase awareness on the youth campus project and fundraising needs. Looking at funding sources through YCCF, City of Bozeman, and other donor opportunities upcoming. Considering an idea with Help Center for use of old Hope House building for some additional pathways for youth/kids, respite services, other community-based services for youth. Heart grant for the detention center in a questionable place for long term. Looking at creative solutions in partnerships to support the detention center with staffing, program support, etc. CCBHC- 4 organizations supported with a planning grant across Montana to work on CCBHC, none covering Gallatin Valley. Aware, WMMHC, Eastern, and Many Rivers received grants. AOT/Community Commitment- currently 3 potential participants on return from MSH. Working through due process procedures between CAO, judges, and public defenders. Margaret K shared an article from Bozeman Chronicle and creation of awareness and advocacy for youth services. Article from May 29 covers concerns with gaps in care, lack of community resources, burnout and struggles in school system, and other concerns. Schools are overwhelmed with limited state funding to support additional programs, staffing, and resources. Margaret identifies opportunities for LAC to spread awareness and reduce stigma for youth mental health services and engage LAC to support the youth campus project. Melaney S added comment about Intermountain providing services in Gallatin Valley with challenges in finding funds to support work in schools for staffing/training. Intermountain working to expand school services but are struggling with start up funding to support hiring and training of staff. Yvonne expressed questions around use of funding to support the youth campus vs other sources of support in the county.

- Gallatin County Commission- Questions have arrived in budget session around funding for mobile crisis. The county is committed to support mobile crisis with current funding levels through October 2025 to allow state some additional time to complete work around reimbursement rates and such. Additional funding dedicated in a mental health fund category with undetermined allocation. It will not be moved out of mental health funding yet but not currently directed at this time to any specific projects. Emergency detention through Bozeman Health under consideration for some funding support through this funding category. Commissioner Boyer brought up themes of inclusivity and encouragement of accessing care and support were frequently brought up across graduation activities to support students and new graduates.

- Unfinished Business

- Strategic Planning Committee: Communications Project- Strategic Planning committee (Steve, Erin, Anthea, and Nicole met with 2 candidates for a professional communication project specialist. Amanda Menasco chosen to partner/collaborate with a media subcommittee of the LAC to build a marketing campaign with awareness, stigma reduction, and advertising. Strategic Planning committee would like to move to develop a media subcommittee to work with Amanda and develop a marketing campaign. Amanda expresses excitement to join our group to partner on creating a community platform with emphasis on awareness and stigma.

- New Business

- Ryan Mattson ~ Gallatin Mobile Crisis- Funding/Mobile Crisis Operations: Finding that state is not going to be funding mobile crisis in the way expected was new information going into the summer. Ryan expresses concerns around reality that mobile crisis may not be continuing to operate without some additional support by end of the year. He emphasizes gratitude and support of the county's support for mobile crisis both fiscally and operationally. Mobile currently providing 12/7/365, 10a-10p coverage with mental health professional, paraprofessionals across the community since July 2022. Collaborative workflows in place with 988/Help Center, 911, and law enforcement. Mobile looking to add peer support specialists if able to recruit but utilizing paraprofessionals currently. No age restrictions with access to this team- able to work with youth and adults of all ages. Goal is to keep people in the community safely and avoid unnecessary higher levels of care when possible, create connections for correct levels of care. Have processes in place to provide hand-off at hospital and other locations when needed. Ryan shared data from June 2024-April 2025: 87% of interactions have remained in community which is above national average. 559 unique individuals served in this time frame. Mobile does not charge individuals for care- they bill insurance when possible and write off the rest of the services. Benefits of team's efforts include reduction in law enforcement time, jail diversion, reduction in hospital utilization if higher level of care not needed, reduction in travel times to MSH with community resources. Not mathematically possible to operate on fee for service even if team ran at greater than 100% clinical time. Proposed rate increases with the state do not negate the need for community supports to sustain but allow for a more appropriate balance. Some services provided, like rounding, are not billable services beyond certain time period but provided by mobile team. Rounding program works upstream to eliminate causes of concern (basic needs not met, lack of resource, etc). Working with state to identify and define additional services to account for non-billable services that could be billed with redefinition and identification.
- Agenda Suggestions- Creation of media subcommittee;
- Announcements- Rick Gale- American Legion hosted a fundraiser and raised money to support women and first responders in stress response and resources to support wellness through the Alongside Project.
- Adjournment- Erin Taylor adjourned the meeting
- Next Meeting is Monday July 14 at 12 pm.

Erin Taylor, Board Chair