



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 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, Anthea George, Eric Szemes, Susan Gregory, Steve Nash, Lori Shanahan, Margaret Kachadurian, Shawna Lockhart, Zach Ehrhardt

Non-Voting Members Present- Rick Gale, Ben Frentsos, Raven Yurtal

Voting Members Absent- Jennifer Madgic, Andrea Lower, Lori Christenson, Melaney Swenson, Nicole Madden, Yvonne Rudman, Tom Peluso

Guests- Kirsten Smith, Rachel Caldwell, Courtney Giles, Edward S.

Staff- N/A

- Call to Order- Erin Taylor called the meeting to order.
- Roll Call- Jennifer Boyer took attendance.
- Approval of Minutes: February 2025 minutes – Erin Taylor approved the minutes as distributed.
- Public Comment –
 - Lori: shared more information on the Clubhouse model and raising public awareness.
 - Ryan shared that AOT staff member has been hired, Caitlin Avery
 - Thank you to Steve Nash for the social, it was well attended
- Committee Reports and Updates
 - Strategic Planning Committee- Thank you for approval it is on the website.
 - Membership Committee- **Amanda Rosenkoetter** (clinical psychologist with an adult son on the spectrum so I have a good understanding from a family and professional perspective) is on the agenda for approval tomorrow and we have received additional interest. We have filled many of our positions – thank you Anthea!
 - Accounting- same balance, we received \$1,000
 - Central Service Area Authority-
 - Gallatin Behavior Health Coalition Update- Block grant that is mental health and one that is for substance abuse, the mental health block grant could support a clubhouse model. The substance abuse block grant can support the drop in services for HRDC at \$150K. The prevention specialists also get the substance abuse block grant (out of Butte).
 - Strategic planning session last week Priorities to sustain the programs we currently have – looking at mobile crisis and AOT program and crisis stabilization.

- LAC having elements in the Coalition Strategic Plan – outlining the work that the LAC is leading and moving forward – great collaboration.
 - Crisis diversion grant – 2.3 M over 3 years. Contracts are getting signed for ongoing support for SOAR (social security navigation) – 4 community based care coordinators (HRDC, HELP, Bozeman Health), CIT Sargeant.
 - Consistent fundraising \$500K, 150K, and some foundations are evolving and we have several grant applications in.
- Gallatin County Commission- SB 435 72 hour hold – floor vote all in favor.
- Unfinished Business
 - Clubhouse Proposal-
 - CSAA Grants Update- received our annual distribution of \$1,000. We submitted an application for a minigrant for \$8,000.
 - Raven attended a meeting that offered an orientation for community block grants.
- New Business
 - Salons and Saloons- **May is the goal but we need help!**
 - Mental Health vs. Brain Health-
 - Brain health removes stigma and focuses on the organ rather than the negative connotations of illness or mental state. It is not about flaws that are in the control of the individual. The brain has physiological changes that can be identified and therefore targeted in treatment. The use of brain health can be a way to educate the community on the preventative actions we can take and understanding of our brains and how we can influence its' health. It is similar to the distinction between unhoused and homeless.
 - There is a larger conversation about how services are grouped together and are assessed. The larger umbrella of Brain Health can include Alzheimer Disease for example. It works well with the role of education of the LAC.
 - WHO definition [Brain health](#) – can include the social determinants of health as well and neurodiversity.
 - Broad umbrella is a good approach and can include seizures or tumors as well. Not sure if changing the words will eliminate the stigma, we need to address the root causes and misunderstanding of brain health / mental health.
 - Helps the individual struggling – my body is working against me and I need support and medical treatment. Alzheimer = disease while bipolar = crazy.
 - Concern about funding resources?
 - Can we transition by using brain/mental health?
 - I don't like mental ILLNESS – I use mental health “concern” or “condition”
 - Language is constantly evolving and changing and adapting. [Center for Mindfulness](#) has a vision for mindfulness being on par with physical fitness and hygiene. [Center for Healthy Minds](#).

- We can just make the decision to change the language and be more inclusive in our language.
- Using an inclusive term is important for community outreach. We overlap with other organizations in the community, and we have some unique roles. I am not too worried about impacts to funding, we can also work closely with other groups.
- I am hearing brain health more and more and hearing the use elsewhere. It is a learning curve but ultimately less stigma and that is the best outcome for individuals.
- We should use the change in terms as an opportunity for educating people why this is important.
- I support the term and there are different generational responses – younger generations have a much easier time pursuing counseling and working to mental well-being. There are also regional differences to approaches to services and stigma.
- Salons and saloons and other events could be used to incorporate and introduce the new terminology.
- Learning curve for Veterans – I like the term Brain Health and include in our mission.
- The medical model is where doctors and insurance are deciding how to categorize conditions. The MT VA has been working on the stigma associated with brain health / PTSD and other conditions. I like the idea of brain health but fear about diluting our engagement with the community – will it be confusing for the community?
- A transition is very important. Mental Health is Brain Health. There are very distinct conditions that may seem like they are not at all related so would this be confusing for folks?
- Focus on Brain Health as a key education message.
- It is important that we all share the same language so if will the partners and other agencies can support and collaborate using as well.

- **NEXT STEPS – CONTINUE TO EDUCATE YOURSELF AND THINK ABOUT THE TERM. CAN EVERYONE SUBMIT A SUMMARY FOR THE NEXT MEETING – DUE APRIL 7TH**

- Agenda Suggestions- Brain Health, Salons and Saloons
- Announcements- Donations for the Bozeman Health Gala contact Lori.
- Adjournment- _Erin Taylor_ adjourned the meeting at 1:26pm.
- Next Meeting is Monday April 14 at 12 pm.

Erin Taylor, Board Chair