



## MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 13, 2024

12:00 ~ 1:30 PM

Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room and Via Zoom

### IN ATTENDANCE:

**Voting Members Present**- Erin Taylor, Ryan Mattson, Lori Christenson, Melaney Swenson (Zoom), Nicole Madden, Yvonne Rudman, Eric Szemes (Via Zoom), Tom Peluso (Zoom), Steve Nash

**Non-Voting Members Present**- Rick Gale

**Voting Members Absent**- Commissioner Zach Brown, Jennifer Madgic, Melaney Swenson, Anthea George, Susan Gregory, Andrea Lower, Roper Green

**Guests**- Kirsten Smith, Tracy Rassley, Gary Popiel, Margaret Kachadurian

**Staff**- Derek Vissage

- Call to order – Erin Taylor welcomed the group.
- Roll call – Derek Vissage took attendance.
- Approval of the minutes: April 2024 minutes- Erin Taylor approved the minutes as distributed.
- Public Comment ~ none
- Committee Reports and Updates.
  - Strategic Planning Committee- Erin Taylor and Nicole Madden had no updates.
  - Membership Committee – Anthea George had no updates.
  - Accounting – Tom said that as of today, the balance is \$2614.60.
- Central Service Area Authority- Eric Szemes updated the group. Last CSAA board meeting has been focused on renewing contracts with the states budgeting for it. Budget includes disbursements of grants that LAC received. Discussion with various LACs amongst 12 counties or tribal authorities about the agency and the definition being a global advisory council and are by statute a watchdog for all mental health services in the county. Some LACs are feeling that they do not have the opportunity to provide that kind of feedback. Gallatin County's LAC did amazing action of providing educational experiences.

Erin Taylor asked if there are any LACs in the area that are doing a good job of advertising that we could model after? Szemes expressed that there are roadblocks to offering feedback LACs don't always feel like they have a voice.

- Gallatin Behavioral Health Coalition Update  
Kirsten Smith not present- a few grants in process pending July. Dry creek property for youth campus is under contract. Bought for youth services in our community.
- Unfinished business
  - Salons and Saloons debrief- It was shared that the Committee has not met for a debrief.  
Overall, everyone agrees that successful collaboration and funding from CSA. The presentations by health centers and police departments were very helpful. Audience was around 50 people.  
Yvonne Rudman, Anthea George, Ellie Martin Committee has not met yet for a debrief.  
Successful collaboration and funding from CSA. Presentations by health centers and police departments were very helpful.  
Eric Szemes expressed that he thought that the education component of the Salons and Saloons was the best part, but it could be improved upon. Of the 50 attendees, approximately 25 were from the same organization. There were no educational programs on veterans' mental health concerns.  
It was agreed that Gallatin County MHLAC needed business cards or other modes of information to hand out to interested persons. The 7-4-1 text line along with the 9-8-8 crisis help line should be included in these informational handouts.  
Yvonne Rudman expressed that she would like the community to come together to provide feedback on how we can do better.  
Todd Lester remarked that the response from Belgrade Liquor Store and Cats Paw were enthusiastic about this training and materials. Also expressed that we should follow-up with the organizations that did not show up. The manager of Great Clips requested more concise literature/QR codes to spread the word.
- New business
  - Opioid Abatement – Commissioner Zach Brown not in attendance so this topic was tabled until next meeting.
  - Bozeman Health inpatient update – Nicole Madden  
Shared screen on Zoom- Re: Adult Inpatient Behavioral Health Unit  
In 2023-2024 most work was focused on recruitment of staffing. Grant permitting, design phases and construction initiation. Will have three full time inpatient psychiatrists working this summer. Additional psychiatrist support starting mid-summer. Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner starting today. Interviewed Psychiatrist today and another Psychiatrist Nurse Practitioner last week.  
1360 mental health crisis were helped by department last year. Nicole remarked that 25% of those seeking behavioral health services are enrolled in Medicaid.

Inpatient behavioral health unit is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Madison Wing. 14 beds- a combination of dual occupancy rooms and single occupancy rooms.

Goal is to add additional therapies and social work. Nicole is working on flexing staff with various roles to help cover demands.

On Nicole's screen, she walked us through floor plan renderings of 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Madison Wing. Nicole elaborated that there is a distinct need of the ability to provide multi-modal therapies not only including mental health care, but dialysis and chemotherapy simultaneously.

This will be a 12 to 14-month construction project. Construction began approximately 2 weeks ago. Tentative timeline to be completed is mid-summer of 2025.

Rick Gale expressed concern over the lack of care for after-hours veteran community mental health care. Crucial conversations are hopefully coming within the next few months to help figure out care for veterans.

Yvonne commented that since most of the rooms are double occupancy, what measures the hospital is taking to ensure safety when placing people together. IE: students with seniors, considering gender, etc.

Nicole said that if they get to the point where the 14 available beds are not enough to handle the demand, they would hopefully be able to shift around things in the facility processing and utilize the other half of the wing/floor. There is a small outpatient behavioral health clinic on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at entrance 7. This space has the capacity to hold 10-12 offices, and thus could look at having outpatient therapies in that space.

Steve Nash asked about the funding for this plan. Nicole said that between Bozeman Health Board of Directors partnered with Bozeman Health Foundation, they hope to have the operational funding. Having support from Medicaid and Medicare as well as health insurances in place will be crucial to providing the care that patients need. This is going to be a huge collaborative effort between many people and organizations to make this all happen.

Susan Gregory asked where people can send money to help this project. Nicole said that Bozeman Health Foundation is available to help in contributing in ways that are impactful.

Nicole Swenson asked what services will be available for children? Nicole expressed that there are several options in the area; however, the facility is solely focused on adults at this time.

Susan Gregory inquired about patients that have substance abuse disorders. Nicole replied to say that this facility will not be specifically a detox/substance abuse center. But if someone comes in actively withdrawing from a substance, there are processes in place to help them through the initial phases of detoxification. Oftentimes, patients are not able to be evaluated until they have reached a level of sobriety. The goal would then be to stabilize them and figure out a treatment plan to help them from there.

Tom Peluso mentioned that the services that this facility will be offering are hospital-based services rather than medication management/therapy. Nicole answered by saying that the patients come to this facility in a large variety of ways, and their goal would be to identify where patients are in their journey of

mental health care, and what they will need moving forward. The key is to create care pathways and continue to collaborate with coalition partners.

- Announcements – No Announcements
- Adjournment – The agenda is complete and there is no more business. No motion needed.
- Next Meeting is June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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**Erin Taylor, Board Chair**