



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 10, 2025

12:00 – 2:00 PM

Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room and Via Zoom

Voting Members Present- Jennifer Boyer, Erin Taylor, Ryan Mattson, Lori Christenson, Melaney Swenson, Nicole Madden, Yvonne Rudman, Eric Szemes, Susan Gregory, Margaret Kachadurian, Shawna Lockhart, Amanda Rosenkoetter, Max Albers

Non-Voting Members Present- Rick Gale, Bekki McLean

Voting Members Absent- Jennifer Madgic, Andrea Lower, Anthea George, Tom Peluso, Steve Nash, Lori Shanahan

Guests- Jim Doar (County Administrator)

Staff

- Call to Order- 12:04 Erin Taylor called the meeting to order.
- Roll Call- Nicole Madden took attendance.
- Approval of Minutes: September 2025 minutes –ET and attending members vote to approve the minutes as distributed after corrections.
- Public Comment-
 - Jodi Hausen- disability advocate, writer/editor, previous Chronicle reporter, historically wrote a series on mental health in Gallatin County. Entering a year long fellowship, hoping to publish stories on mental health in our community and looking to connect with the group on topics.
 - Welcome to Max Albers- new voting member of LAC holding consumer/family of consume position.
- Committee Reports and Updates
 - Strategic Planning Committee- none
 - Membership Committee- none
 - Accounting- no updates today
 - Central Service Area Authority- Erin and Nicole completed the annual report for the Gallatin LAC and submitted to the CSAA. CSAA has allocated up to \$3200 per active LAC in the CSAA. Erin and Nicole completed funds requested to have this money dispersed to the Gallatin LAC by the deadline.
 - Gallatin Behavior Health Coalition Update- 2 grants pending to support youth services across the community in partnership with the school districts. Kirsten staying on in her position, contracted.
 - Gallatin County Commission- no updates
 - Media Committee- updates to be provided in new business agenda items.

- Unfinished Business
 - New Member Expectations- Steve Nash & Anthea George- absent- no updates
- New Business
 - The roles of the County and the LAC- Jennifer Boyer- memo sent to re-establish role of the county in terms of LAC functionality and core work. New resolutions passed across the state aligning how the counties interact with various committees, mostly in terms of offering meeting space, appointing new members, term limits. Looking to move toward a model that mimics how the county supports other committees and group and align with current code and resolutions. County looking to step back from current administrative role of the LAC and allow this to be managed within the LAC. The advisory council provides input to “the department” in the development and management of mental health services. County is a part but “the department” refers to the state through DPHHS. Meet on regular basis with MHAC. Packet with specific details being sent by Jennifer Boyer since missed on pre-meeting emails with Derek’s absence. Jim D confirmed that there is not statute for LAC being advisory to the county but is advisory to the state.
 - Question from Eric S- how does this change impact relationship and interactions with the Gallatin Behavioral Health Coalition- Jennifer B indicates her view is that there should remain a connecting collaboration with GBHC especially related to creating opportunity for awareness/education, resource connection, etc. LAC reports and provides advisory input to the state by way of CSAA.
 - Consider posting links to Montana code related to LAC on the webpage.
 - Will need to assign our own zoom link and monthly meeting invites, agendas/minutes
 - Media Team Presentation- Amanda Menasco- shared draft of website with re-organization of previous website and updates in information. Has its own URL which will be shared when site goes live following approval. Reviewed home page, about, resources, news, events, and contact pages. Amanda will need bio and pictures of each LAC member. Some pages still in build stage. Meetings information page holds existing minutes and future agenda’s, archives, etc. Will be setting up google analytics, advertising opportunities. There is a comments page on the website that can create discussion across the community and interact- this is another way to answer questions, engage community interaction, and review community comments and input. Contact page- basic information with plan to add generic contact and volunteer forms for people to submit to participate or get additional information via contact with LAC members.
 - Margaret K recommends adding some language creating a “friendliness” and introduction to different resources as a theme to connect individuals via how the information is communicated. Amanda mentioned adding narrative explaining what interaction with a service or entity would look like, what to expect.
 - Any ideas for additional items, changes to webpage, etc. can be sent to Erin T to share with the media committee and Amanda as a whole.
 - Margaret K identifies concerns about ongoing costs to maintain website and page and wanted to bring awareness of this from a budget perspective.
 - Media Council- Erin, Todd, Margaret, Amanda,

- New accounts for social media for twitter, Instagram, facebook, etc. Will be closing existing pages
 - New pages provide opportunity for LAC to communicate and create awareness around behavioral health resources and growth across the community, demonstrate support for projects, etc New opportunity to collaborate with the GBHC.
 - Website possibly live December 2025.
- Agenda Suggestions-
 - GBHC Contract and Criteria for RFP
- Announcements-
 - Rick Gale:
 - American Legion hosting community breakfast 11/11/2025 at 7 am, at 11am there will be a service at Veterans Memorial, also at Belgrade Special Events Center- all students, school staff, community invited to honor veterans. Breakfast served at 8 am put on by the culinary class. Middle and high school choirs singing with the military choir.
 - Gallatin Valley Veterans Service Provider Meeting- meets monthly. Heard about Operations Juliet- coming to Bozeman to work with combat women veterans, approx. 9000 women combat vets in the state of MT.
 - Margaret K: MT Mindfulness Project providing family mindfulness from 10-1130 the next 3 Saturdays through December 6. Held at Hope Lutheran. Find info and register at MTMindfulness.org
 - Ryan M- Mobile Crisis: state has indicated plan to fund remaining amount of operating capital needed to fund through end of fiscal year in June 2026 to keep mobile crisis program open and running.
 - Eric Szemes: group of community counselors and providers meet monthly- have a private Facebook page. At last meeting mentioned one of primary concerns- substance use disorder and providing sober activities, how to learn about medication interactions with substances, and maternal/perinatal care, LGBTQ/gender issues, college stress, politics and environmental insecurity, economic insecurities. This group also talked about state wide data base that isn't working well. Discussed
- Adjournment- Erin Taylor adjourned the meeting
- Next Meeting is **Monday, December 8, 2025**, at 12:00PM in the Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room.

Erin Taylor, Board Chair