



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 9th, 2024

12:00 ~ 1:30 PM

Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room and Via Zoom

In Attendance:

Voting Members Present- County Commissioner Jennifer Boyer, Erin Taylor, Ryan Mattson, Andrea Lower, Lori Christenson, Melaney Swenson, Nicole Madden, Anthea George, Susan Gregory, Tom Peluso, Steve Nash, Lori Shanahan, Margaret Kachadurian, Kirsten Smith

Non-Voting Members Present- Chad Berg, Rick Gale, Todd Lester

Voting Members Absent- Jennifer Madgic, Roper Green, Yvonne Rudman, Eric Szemes

Guests- Cola Rowley, Lawrence Rhone, Jennifer Whitfield, Jessica Gilbert

Staff- Derek Vissage

- Call to Order – Erin Taylor called the meeting to order.
- Roll Call – Derek Vissage took attendance.
- Approval of Minutes: August 2024 minutes- Erin Taylor approved the minutes as distributed.
- Public Comment
 - none
- Committee Reports and Updates
 - Strategic Planning Committee
 - Nicole Madden: will bring back draft next month.
 - Membership Committee
 - The group welcomed Lori Shanahan and Margaret Kachadurian. Lori and Margaret both shared a bit about themselves and their reasonings for joining the LAC.
 - Accounting
 - Tom Peluso said \$2236.60 is the current balance.
 - Central Service Area Authority
 - Nothing to report at this time.

Tom outlined how LAC is represented at the conference in Helena. Also outlined the summit that the service area authority attends. Referred to the Many Rivers handout and went through that. Outlined that the cost

of services often exceeded the compensation, and how this has been detrimental to various organizations. Tom outlined a new service model with fees. Tom then finished up by talking about the gaps in services.

Erin wondered if we should have a representative from Many Rivers to come to talk to the LAC. There will be a meeting in Havre at the end of September and Tom will distribute more information to the group regarding this.

Kirsten said that we have talked about the feasibility of other statewide behavioral health organizations coming to Gallatin County. This has been an ongoing thought process.

Spoke about attendance, lack of agendas, and how to better get awareness of LAC.

- Gallatin Behavior Health Coalition Update

- Went over goals of the Coalition. Awareness Committee conversations about what part the LAC assumes, will go over the strategic plan. Crisis diversion grant award amount was announced. Sum was around \$2M to go towards case management, tenancy support services, etc. This amount was $\frac{1}{2}$ of what was asked. Also, Kirsten mentioned that the Coalition closed on the YBGR last week. Two pledges of support at this point. Kirsten outlined the goals of the YBGR in detail.

Private practitioner forum coming on September 27th.

Press conference is October 2nd at the youth campus. HRDC just finished the landing page. Steve Nash congratulated Kirsten and her team for the hard work.

- Gallatin County Commission

- Commissioner Jennifer Boyer introduced herself. She will be sitting in for Commissioner Brown through December 2024.

- Unfinished Business

- N/A

- New Business

- Chair and Vice Chair Elections – Erin read bylaws of chair and vice chair.

- Erin Taylor stated that he was willing to assume the Chair position for the Mental Health Local Advisory Council. **Steve Nash mentioned that he is in favor of Erin being the Chair, Nicole Madden Seconded. All in favor of Erin Taylor being elected as chair. Passed Unanimously.**

- Ryan Mattson stated that he is willing to assume the Vice-Chair position for the Mental Health Local Advisory Council. **Steve Nash and Nicole Madden both nominated Ryan Mattson as Vice Chair. All in favor of Ryan Mattson being elected as Vice Chair. Passed Unanimously.**

- Meeting Minutes

- Erin Taylor read bylaws of meeting minutes. Nicole Madden, Lori Christensen and Commissioner Jennifer Boyer all volunteered to take minutes and take roll call for upcoming meetings.
- Erin Taylor asked if there were any questions or issues with LAC staff taking minutes and roll call. There were none. **Lori Christensen consented; Nicole Madden seconded. Unanimously all in favor of LAC members taking minutes and roll call.**
- Behavior Health Advisory Council- Informational- Jessica Gilbert
 - Jessica Gilbert sits on Eastern Service Area Authority. Lawrence Rhone provided insight for the Behavioral Health Advisory Council. Lawrence shared screen. Began with sharing the website samhsa.gov/grants/blockgrants. Lawrence detailed what the mental health block grant is and the standards therein.
 - Jessica shared her screen regarding the Montana Behavioral Health Continuum of Care. Lawrence narrated and detailed the input of funding requesting and the goals of the BHC. Jessica detailed the difference services of the subcommittees such as the youth and family services, crisis services, peer support and recovery services, veteran's services and tribal support and services. Jessica detailed the services provided by these subcommittees and the services that these committees support.
 - Lawrence emphasized that the funding opportunities of these block grants are to support evidence-based programming in the future. Looking for programs in specific prevention-based programs which emphasize resilience and prevention. Lawrence said the block grant could be a strong tool for augmentation for the new campus.
 - Erin asked what's Lawrence's influence on the house bill 872? Had the opportunity to testify to their support. Lawrence detailed the entire process.
 - Jessica detailed the MAP process and how the steering committee is using community health assessments to formulate a strategic plan and then will make recommendations to the Local LACs. Jessica will be presenting on the September 26th in Havre.
 - Tom Peluso highlighted the differences between the Local Advisory Council and the Service Area Authorities.
- Letter to Legislature
 - Will table this letter and will wait until next month to work it in with the Strategic Plan.
- Announcements
 - Upcoming Meeting Date Changes- **October 7th** Community Room and **November 4th** Location TBD
 - Steve Nash discussed taking the \$700 that was allocated for his trip towards another project since he was not able to attend.

- Adjournment – adjourned at 1:31PM

Erin Taylor, Board Chair