



## MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

April 10, 2023

12:00 ~ 1:00 PM

Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room and Via Zoom

### IN ATTENDANCE:

**Voting Members Present**- Geary Zale, Tom Peluso, Linda Gabel, Zach Brown, I-Ho Pomeroy, Erin Taylor, Lori Christenson, Melaney Swenson, Anthea George, John Kudrna, Ryan Mattson, Yvonne Rudman, Eric Szemes

**Non-Voting Members Present**- Ellie Martin, Edward Szczypinski, Rebecca Adams, Rick Gale, Rowen Schuler, Paige Bichler

**Voting Members Absent**- Susan Gregory, Dezri Rochin, Andrea Lower, Nicole Madden, Roper Green, Kelley Wathne

**Guests**- Kirsten Smith- BHC, Deputy County Administrator Cola Rowley, Kit Davis- SW Montana Prevention/Butte Cares, Inc

**Staff**- Mindy Karl

- **Call to Order**- Erin Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting
- **Roll Call**- Mindy Karl took attendance
- **Approval of Minutes**: March 2023  
Erin Taylor approved the minutes as corrected with attendance updated
- **Public Comment**- no public comment
- **Officer and Committee Reports**

**Strategic Planning Committee**- Linda Gabel shared she has so far received 10 surveys but has not had a chance to go over them thoroughly. She did look at the priorities of the ones she has received back. She believes the first order of business is to have our own house in order. There are currently 20 members with one opening and there should be more surveys received. She would like to meet with the strategic planning committee before the next May meeting.

Rebecca Adams asked about non-voting members being allowed to vote on the survey. Linda said the LAC wants to engage voting members only at this time. Anthea George would like to hear from the non-voting members as well. Her vote is to encourage the non-voting members to get their surveys in. Eric Szemes reinforced Anthea's suggestion that all members are equal and that all members, voting or non-voting should be allowed to vote and have their surveys collected.

Erin Taylor mentioned if you haven't filled out the survey you should not be able to have a voice in this meeting. Please have the survey completed by next Monday. Eric wanted to add the information shared at the BHC meetings to the LAC agendas on a regular basis and would like to make a motion.

Eric Szemes would like to make a motion that every single month include some report about cooperation and distinction between the LAC and BHC and how it's relevant to the LAC every single month because there are issues that are timely that just took place 5 days ago. Erin Taylor asked if anyone would like to second the motion. Motion failed

Erin wanted to make it clear to the group that he wants to really focus on the strategic plan for the LAC so they can start breaking up into smaller committees or groups to discuss topics more informally.

**Membership Committee**~ one vacancy open because of Perrin Lundgren's resignation

- **New Business**

**Informational: Connections Health Solutions Update from Paige Bichler and Ryan Mattson-**  
Update on the crisis stabilization facility.

Back in September County awarded the funds. Started demolition process and then got permitting beginning of March. At that time, they had gathered updated bids from the contractors and the cost had come in significantly higher. There is now a large funding gap for crisis response center. Connections has been having conversations with the state and county regarding additional funding. They applied for a SAMHSA grant but did not receive it. They remain committed to sustainable care for the community. After looking at their current funding they have decided to pause on construction. They remain fully committed to mobile crisis and crisis response for the community.

Erin opened it up for questions.

Yvonne Rudman is thankful for the transparency from Connections. She had questions about who provided the oversight for the "great outcomes". Yvonne's primary concern is more with crisis stabilization unit and what type of staffing will they have.

Commissioner Brown shared that there are many federal and state layers of regulations currently in place. It is not the LAC's job to do the regulations

Kirsten Smith shared that these concerns are part of a larger conversation that is ongoing throughout the state.

Rick Gale wanted to know if there is any collaboration with the mobile response team and Bozeman Health.

Ryan Mattson added that there is a lot more to share. More than 10 minutes this meeting would allow and is more than happy to answer any questions at a later time.

Commissioner Brown said with the legislative cuts, the county does not have the funds to help fill in the funding gaps.

- **Announcements**

Rick~ tomorrow is the Veteran's Treatment Court Graduation at 9:45 am at The Bozeman Public Safety Center

Yvonne~ April 27<sup>th</sup> is MSU VP for Research Community Outreach for Mental Health Care

Tom~ next month is Mental Health Awareness Month. Putting on a presentation for family and friends. 5 or 6 places the LAC should be filling. Suicide Prevention or some other mental health issue. Reach out to him if you'd like to present.

Eric~ would like to provide an example of how BHC information could be shared. At their meeting in March there was a proposal that Western Mental Health might be providing

residential care. Also, end of March, there was an MSU sponsored event for providers. May be important for the LAC to have some members attend those meetings.

- **Adjournment**
- **Erin Taylor- agenda has been completed and meeting is adjourned.**

**Next Meeting: May 8<sup>th</sup> , 2023**

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**Erin Taylor, Board Chair**