



**MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes – December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Voting Members Present:** Erin Taylor, Andrea Lower, Linda Gabel, Lori Christenson, Anna Waller on behalf of Perrin Lundgren, Tom Peluso, Commissioner Zach Brown, Melaney Swenson, Nicole Madden, Anthea George

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Ellie Martin, Rick Gale, John Kudrna, Bekki McLean

**Voting Members Absent:** I-Ho Pomeroy, Dezri Rochin, Geary Zale, Susan Gregory

**Guests:** Kirsten Smith- BHC, William Green- CHP, Jeremy Hoscheid, Cola Rowley- Deputy County Administrator Gallatin County, Denise Fisher- Guest, Eric Szemes- Guest

**Staff:** Harlee Lynch

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**Welcome and Introductions:** Erin Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and made introductions.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- LAC Integration with the Behavioral Health Coalition.

Erin Taylor and Kirsten Smith wanted to open a discussion regarding Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC) and Behavioral Health Coalition (BHC) integration. Erin shared a document which detailed the mission and goals of the Behavioral Health Coalition versus those of the Mental Health Local Advisory Council. There is statute that defines this group, Andrea believes we should investigate that further.

Kirsten Smith shared Goal 4 of the BHC, she talked about that goal in further detail. This goal is an area that has not had much work done on it. She is hoping this is an area that the LAC can jump in on.

Commissioner Brown gave some background on the Commissions role with the MHLAC and the potential role of helping with the BHC.

Anthea George shared her comments, she said having a loved one with Mental Health has made her more aware of where the gaps are with Mental Health services in this community. Anthea wondered who makes decisions on these services in our community.

Tom Peluso shared some thoughts, he believes the hospital is doing what they can right now. He thinks the BHC is vital to what the LAC is doing, they have created a lot of data. Tom believes we need to create a workgroup and that the BHC is a part of, that would allow Consumers/Family of Consumers to be more at the table.

Linda shared her thoughts on both groups. After the last LAC meeting, she did a deep dive into the LAC and the group is supposed to be doing lots of different things that we are not quite meeting right now. She shared her thoughts on what this group should be doing, the first being to develop a Strategic Plan.

**Linda Gabel moves that the MHLAC develop a workgroup with six members, that coordinates with the BHC, that looks at the work this group has done in the past and focuses on developing a Strategic Plan with a mission, goals, and objectives. Tom Peluso seconds the motion. Motion carried.**

Please contact Linda Gabel to join the workgroup. Her email is [lindagabel08@gmail.com](mailto:lindagabel08@gmail.com).

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Open Positions
  - Three Consumer/Family Positions, Consumer Position, Alcohol & Drug Services, Adult Provider, Community Clinic

John Kudrna and William Green will be appointed as Voting Members of the LAC at the January 10<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting. John Kudrna will fill a Consumer/Family Position and William Green will fill the Community Clinic Position.

- Approval of Minutes: October and November.

**Commissioner Brown moves to approve minutes from October and November. Linda Gabel seconds the motion. Motion carried.**

- Reports~ No reports submitted
- Public Comment/Short Announcements or Updates (1-2 minutes)
  - Tom will be requesting the cost of the Resource Guides be paid in full and will pay the \$121 reimbursement amount to the Commission Office from the November LAC Legislative Luncheon.
  - Eric Szemes believes the January LAC meeting should be postponed; he also shared some additional comments. Denise Fisher also shared some comments regarding these committees, she is confused what the role of this group is.
  - Rick Gale shared that 11 Vietnam Veterans just got back from a trip to DC. This trip was made possible by an anonymous donor.
- Parking Garage Items

**Next Meeting: January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Account Balance Currently: \$6,800.52 at last check**