



## **MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

December 11, 2023

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room and Via Zoom

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Voting Members Present-** Commissioner Brown, Erin Taylor, Ryan Mattson, Lori Christenson, Anthea George, Yvonne Rudman, Susan Gregory, Tom Peluso

**Non-Voting Members Present-** Rick Gale, Bekki McLean, Ben Frentsos

**Voting Members Absent-** Jennifer Madgic, Andrea Lower, Melaney Swenson, Nicole Madden, John Kudrna, Roper Green, Eric Szemes

**Guests-** Brianne Rogers- Bozeman Health, Steve Nash, Kirsten Smith, Kiera Pattison, Lori Reynolds, Kit Davis

**Staff-** Mindy Karl

- Call to Order- Erin Taylor welcomed the group.
- Roll Call- Mindy Karl took attendance.
- Approval of Minutes: November 2023 minutes- Erin Taylor approved the minutes as distributed.
- Officer and Committee Reports
  - Strategic Planning Committee- Nicole is absent, so moved to next meeting.
  - Outreach Committee- To be covered in New Business.
  - Membership Committee- Anthea shared that Steve Nash is attending for the second time. Commissioner Brown said the LAC would make a formal recommendation to the Commission and they will formally appoint Mr. Nash to the MHLAC.
  - Accounting- No change from the previous meeting.
  - Central Service Area Authority- Lori Reynolds said she spoke with Eric Szemes last night. CSAA update- they are working on a lot of stuff. New Youth Team Challenge for students (SAMPSA) This was part of the information sent out by the CSAA.
- Unfinished Business
  - CSAA Grant- Anthea shared there was a short timeline and a small chunk of money available. The pieces did not come together in time. The idea is to hire someone part-time to be the communication vehicle for the group. That did not happen. The desire for information coming into the LAC is still needed. Erin Taylor asked if the grant money will be available at a later time. Lori Reynolds said there are funds available, and they would have to apply for a mini grant.

- Bozeman Health Emergency Detention Research- Kiera Pattison chief nurse and officer at Bozeman Health. Updates- opened psyche services unit (PES Unit) about a year ago. Patients have been responsive. Continue to refine their processes getting patients integrated quickly and able to receive treatment. 14 beds and always room for expansion when the need arises. Working with the county to make sure they have the ability to keep the patients instead of transporting them to Warm Springs.
- New Business
  - Boys and Girls Ranch Site Visit Report- Erin said it was a great tour that lasted about 2 hours. Mostly subsidized through Medicaid. Erin said this is something that is desperately needed in this community.
 

Anthea said it started with the idea that we CAN have this in our community. The Boys and Girls Ranch would partner with us on running something similar.

Kirsten Smith- the Behavior Health Coalition has identified the lack of youth services. The former Boot Strap Ranch is something that would work. 33 acres with the campus now, as it sits, with additional acreage. \$4.2 million is what they are offering to the group. There is staff housing capacity on site as well. Kirsten is now talking to donors to try and raise money for the purchase. They would need additional money for operations. Kirsten and Anthea will be going to the Big Sky Youth Empowerment Holiday Party to talk with people about this opportunity. The owner and operator would be the Boys and Girls Ranch. At this time, focusing on securing the funds for purchase and then be a partner in the everyday.

Anthea said the money is doable. She shared when they visited the Boys and Girls Ranch, they were pointing out entire buildings that were donated. We just need to find the right people who have that infinity and want to help.
  - GBHC Awareness Committee Collaboration with the LAC
 

Erin said the group needs to get this information out to the community and we have these two groups that can join forces. Talked about how to use the lessons Big Sky is doing. Train up the connectors here in Bozeman and grow the regional network of these connector. Ellie Martin is working with Kirsten as a sub-contractor to help with BHC.

Anthea and Kirsten suggested an interactive website, another collaboration with the BHC. Anthea said we would start with a brainstorming conversation around this idea. We would need to bring more people to the table that have lived experiences. Get these people together and ask them “what did you need when you were lost”. Anthea said it must be the voices of these people to understand what is needed.

Erin asked what the next steps are- Feedback is requested by Anthea and Kirsten.

Yvonne suggested a community event title “Salons and Saloons” to bring these people together.

Kirsten said there may be a way to funnel all the websites together.

Commissioner Brown said it would be beneficial to get this information out to these groups, letting them know what is available and what is being talked about.

Erin said this event would also be a great recruitment opportunity for this group.

Kirsten said they could approach the “Salons and Saloons” participants and say, we know who your connectors are, and we are going to train you as a navigator. We will cover the cost for you to become one.

Kirsten distributed a handout of resources.

Tom said there is a lot of information that has already been done and is available. Identifying what our needs are, we need to spend some time on this. Years ago, we identified the needs of kids, and it’s still needed. Tom suggested Jason DeShaw, he did a great job at a NAMI fundraiser. Tom said \$5000 to hire Jason DeShaw.

Anthea asked how the LAC work collaboratively with the BHC on this event.

Awareness and Engagement planning is what Kirsten had envisioned the groups working collaboratively. Anthea said this event would be a great fit.

Anthea said it would be great for the LAC to have a paid person help them, such as Ellie helps the BAC. Commissioner Brown agreed, Ellie Martin would be a great person to work with.

- Announcements

Commissioner Brown said Mobile Crisis has added to the January agenda.

Merger of Many Rivers Home Health is one of the newer CBCC. Formerly the Center for Mental Health. Western Montana Health Center is in talks to merge.

DPHHS has been saying all year there is an RFP coming requesting for more drop-in centers. Lori Reynolds said they were told the RFPs would be coming out in January or February.

Kit Davis shared that Ben Court, a national speaker from Colorado on marijuana is coming a week in April and a week in May. He would love input on where to have it and who to invite. Yvonne suggested something when the students are still in session, April would be great.

- Adjournment- Erin Taylor adjourned the meeting.
- Next Meeting is January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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**Erin Taylor, Board Chair**