



GALLATIN COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

LAC Minutes – July 2026

Mental Health Local Advisory Council
July 13, 2026

Call to order: Erin Taylor called the meeting to order on 7/13/26 at 12:08 pm.

Roll call:

Voting Members: Erin Taylor, Ryan Mattson, Jennifer Boyer, Malcolm Horn, Andrea Lower, Lori Christenson, Nicole Madden, Yvonne Rudman, Eric Szemes, Susan Gregory, Margaret Kachadurian, Shawna Lockhart, Zach Ehrhardt, Alexis Freydenfelt,

Absent: Ryan Mattson, Andrea Lower, Melaney Swenson, Eric Szemes, Tom Peluso, Lori Shanahan, Amanda Rosenkoetter,

Non-Voting Members: Rick Gale, Bekki McLean, Ben Frentsos,

Absent: Todd Lester, Chad Berg

Guests: Kenly Hayes- Help Center,

Approval of the minutes: Pending review by team. Minutes not received for early send out prior to meeting.

Public Comment: none

Committee reports and Updates

Strategic Planning Committee

Membership Committee: have open positions for consumer and 2 new members coming on board- Lisa and Alexis Freydenfelt

Accounting: Balance on LAC account is \$8,611.60.

Central Service Area Authority: state currently has a proposal drafted to support the discontinuation of CSAA and create a direct line from LAC's to BHAC.

Gallatin Behavioral Health Coalition

Gallatin County Commission:

- Grant Updates:
 - SAMHSA STREETS Team Grant: city applying for funding for multidisciplinary approach to provide mental health care in the community bringing care community to those who need access but can't/wont access in a traditional location.
 - Mobile Crisis 4-year grant- Gallatin County applying with support from Kirsten Smith and Connections. This funding would provide funding to support mobile crisis moving to a 24-hour service for next 4 years as a bridge until CCBHC or other services in place. This grant also increases/stabilizes reimbursement rates for mobile crisis services.
 - Suicide Prevention Grant: County Health Dept applying for funding to support formation of task force to create strategic plan for suicide prevention efforts in Gallatin County. Other components include lethal means reduction, training, outreach. Grant submitted early July. There will be 5 awardees across the nation for this grant application. Letters of support received for grant application by hospital, Connections, community leaders, and others. Award could be up to \$400k annually for 4 years.

Media Committee: Amanda presented on website updates including getting approved minutes into the home page and news page. Social media posts to share information on site and refer others to learn more. Social media posts about meetings. Will be tracking data analytics on numbers access website and social media going forward. Wants to expand local resources page to highlight Help Center and others that have expanded access to resources.

Unfinished business

None

New business

Help Center – Kenley Hayes: Resource Management- Shared powerpoint presentation on Help Center resources.

- Resources:
 - 988/211/586-3333
 - Follow up program
 - Walk-In Crisis Counseling
 - Telecare

- Intern Counseling Program- master level students completing internship. Can work with individuals without insurance or other sources of therapy care
 - Postvention support
 - Mental Health Directory
- Resources and call center support are provided across 13 counties-
- Individual specific in terms of duration and types of services provided. Walk-in available for crisis counseling and suicide assessments (not mental health evaluations)
- MT 211 Website [Montana 211](#)
- Help Center 211 [Montana 211 — Help Center, Inc.](#)
- Bright App- internal mental health directory/database maintained by Help Center and others to maintain mental health database for providers.
- 99.95% of Help Center's resources across 13 counties have been verified and updated in the past year in the data base. Working to keep a very accurate database.
- Questions:
 - Do you have data on how many calls received by Help Center involve substance use? Help center does have this data and they track various demographics and data points as a requirement for 988.
 - What is the long-term sustainability plan for Help Center operations? Help Center has been operating since 1971 in Gallatin County, 55 years with core program being the call center. They do grant writing/funding, fundraising, have a healthy donor base, and other sources to keep their operations sustainable. Culture and volunteer opportunities with staff are strong.
 - Provide services across 13 counties, are you able to staff for volumes and need? track data around busy times of week to adjust staffing to provide consistent services based on call volume statistics and needs.
 - Do you offer resources for bilingual or Spanish speaking individuals? Yes, they do try to track resources that offer translation services or have bilingual staffing.
 - What qualifications do you require for your volunteers? Interview process with a robust training for volunteers including crisis line, suicide intervention skills, and observations training. Volunteers come from various backgrounds and skills but are all trained via help center training programs.
 - What does it take to be on the resource list in terms of sliding scale or options for access? Inclusion/exclusion criteria list is on the website but can be for or non-profit but need to have opportunities to serve the greater population with options like sliding scale, reduced cost services, or other opportunities.
 - How do you handle reports/complaints for referrals to places that don't provide the services or "do their job"? Apologize and recognize the

concern and then Help Center will provide additional options, if available.

Strategic Planning Committee:

- Strategic Planning Exercise: Input on priority for work to be done with the next strategic plan:
 - Each member gets 4 votes for Top priorities that are felt to be most important AND are willing to contribute effort towards the goal.
 - Categories:
 - Core Work: attend meetings, line up presenters,
 - Promote/share resources
 - Community Networking: website, social media,
 - Organize/host events
 - Legislative outreach, education
 - Maintain LAC membership and Engagement
 - Organize/Sponsor training events with partners
 - Cultivate & Research Funding to support services
 - Other?

Votes by attendees for top categories: **Core Work, Community Networking, Legislative Outreach/Education**, Maintain membership/engagement (1 vote), Organize/Sponsor training events (2 votes)

***If unable to attend meeting on 7/13 or unable to vote, an online poll will be available to vote

- Recommendation and draft proposal to change bylaws related to electing officers and the timelines/term limits associated with Chair and Vice Chair roles. Motions and discussion to occur in August meeting related to proposed bylaw changes.

Malcom Horn introduced proposed changes to the bylaws for the August meeting:

Current:

Section 1. Officers. A Chair and Vice Chair will be elected by a majority of the members to serve a two (2) year term, and may be re-elected to a second term. Election of these two (2) positions will take place every even numbered year at the regular August Meeting.

Proposed:

Section 1. Officers. The Council shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair by majority vote of the voting members. Each officer shall be elected separately. Officers shall serve a two (2) year term beginning upon their election and may be re-elected for additional terms without limitation. Elections shall be held upon the expiration of an officer's term or whenever a vacancy occurs. An officer elected to fill a vacancy shall begin a new two (2) year term upon election.

Agenda Suggestions

Announcements

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by Erin T at 1324 on 7/13/2026