



# GALLATIN COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

## **LAC Minutes – June 2026**

Mental Health Local Advisory Council  
June 8, 2026

Call to order

Roll call

Present: Susan Gregory, Erin Taylor, Ryan Mattson, Andrea Lower, Lori Christenson, Yvonne Rudman,

Absent: Melaney Swenson, Nicole Madden, Anthea George, Eric Szemes, Tom Peluso

Approval of the minutes

Public Comment

### **Committee reports and Updates**

Strategic Planning Committee

New SP met to discuss objectives and tasks in the current plan. Dr. Horn provided the update for the committee.

1<sup>st</sup> Overall objective: overall awareness and increase awareness: efforts are connected

Measure: tracking for the social media need from Amanda Menasco: Not yet implemented; Action: Amanda to work on this and share back.

Recommend continuing updates and share-outs with Kirsten and Ruthi and the Gallatin BHC

Strategy 5: ongoing making good progress.

2<sup>nd</sup> Objective: Membership of LAC

Operating subcommittees and succession planning: progress but not accomplished. Ad hoc committees in the future and running with that objecting and bringing it back to the group.

Succession Planning: recruitment of the whole-body including Chair and Vice-Chair, bylaw change or someone else steps in—timeline is September 30 so need action on this. Not accomplished.

3<sup>rd</sup> Objective: Education opportunities.

Discussed exploring training and that there are events on the website, we have made steps and have more to do.

One guest lecture on a topic each month: occurring

Solicit application for grant funding and opportunities and hosting a mental health conference

Yvonne spoke of a recent opportunity to provide input and partner with the community. How do we share this information with the community as a whole, can be something we have on our website.

Commissioner Boyer: How do we right size the strategic plan activities and actions that match and utilize our capacity. It's a long list of activities so how do we focus.

Yvonne had an idea to pick a theme and really focus on that for the future.

## **Membership Committee**

We have individuals' terms expiring. Most will renew, expect all but one to renew.

## **Accounting**

Central Service Area Authority

BAC focusing on the upcoming legislative session, state rule changes, and Medicaid changes.

## **Gallatin Behavioral Health Coalition**

Clubhouse: Ruthi is moving a subcommittee forward for the Clubhouse with individuals with lived experience. One space looking at is the old warming center (old skating rink). Contingent on BAJ grant. Trying to align

national standards so adults are the focus. Warming Center has been paid down with the promise to have crisis services in this space.

Johanna presented the communications work and public health campaign for school-based phone use, Johanna has an intern.

Legislative gathering at the Lighthouse Ranch and additional gatherings in August and September to coordinate with several local agencies.

### **Gallatin County Commission**

MACO resolution to ask for clarification and new legislation for commitment laws/detention centers. The request going to MACO is to address statutes to allow for new standards so they can receive the support needed versus going to a detention center.

Community Awareness: Ballot CI-134, short story is that this ballot initiative will pull back property tax valuation and cap the total. It is important to know for this group that means that if passed, this would put a lot of pressure on local governments. The initiative also constrained by mill levy.

### **Media Committee**

Amanda provided updates on website: Updated website information with mental health in the schools and updated “featured” non-profit. This also goes on the “News” page. Added new options on the about page, so its easier to find information. Reminder there is a form where you can add to have events added.

Send out social links on the agenda for future reference. Grown our mailing list and social following.

### **Unfinished business**

### **New business**

Caitlyn Avey: Director of Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program. County awarded SAMHSA dollars in year two of the four-year program.

AOT has served 10 individuals through the commitment program. Individuals who meet the criteria for commitment, AOT becomes an option. Enter through discharge from state hospital (ordered to higher level of care) and upon

discharge for the remainder of the 90-day program works with AOT manager. Or can be directly ordered to AOT. Partners with LE, hospital staff, county attorney and office of public defender are providing legal support. Management team meets monthly to troubleshoot and a steering committee that meets quarterly would appreciate anyone who are consumers or those with lived experiences to join the committee. See a high percentage of individuals who are volunteering to stay in contact with Sally Browning (Connections). People coming to court are either being dismissed or coming to the AOT or state hospital.

Question: If they need more than 90 days, what happens?

Someone can continue to have a provider.

Questions: Prevention crime reduction perspective data available?  
Still relatively new

Question: What are the barriers? Barriers this group can help with?

Biggest barrier with someone not complaint. We have a court order and have to go through a lengthy process. Voluntarily people stay after 90 days, sustainable funding and option for extending the commitment. Other challenges are substance use and being able to determine if this is mental health, substance use caused, or co-occurring. Another challenge for the long-term sustainability is this best within the county or in a clinic setting or a crisis receiving setting. Who is appropriate to serve and can we support this individual. Getting agreement between public defense and county attorney to meet commitment criteria. Another barrier is that some rights are lost when someone is committed and the stigma associated with this, there is some hesitancy to use this as a tool. Anything that requires a court order is going to be barrier. How can we engage people further upstream, when we don't have to engage the court, that's the time to engage AOT.

Shawna Lockhart: One of biggest issues with AOT and commitment are the lack of services for this person.

Wellness Recovery A Program: Extremely valuable for those incarcerated and there will be two people trained in this program in Gallatin County.

Erin Taylor: From LE perspective, we have familiar faces that have 2 plus contacts with LE.

Julie Henry Fresh Start Program Updates at the Detention Center

A series of classes and opportunities available for individuals at the detention center inmates. Current recidivism rate is 14%, go through the Fresh Start program compared to state rate which is much higher.

Challenges: We are running into challenges with chemical dependency or addiction services for those out of incarceration, pricing can be expensive and out of reach for many.

Comment: Rimrock funding may change when we go to sliding scale fee.

Question: Goal 189 funds, Kaitlyn can connect you but can be used to support. Individuals do not need to be on Medicaid.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (Malcolm Horn)

Over 500 clinics across 46 states, crisis services must be available 24/7. We don't know how the state will address the crisis services and mobile service 24/7.

Four-year federal October 2026, Montana is 1 of 10 selected. Rimrock, Many Rivers, Eastern Montana, Western Montana in Missoula. Each have their satellite areas.

## Agenda Suggestions

Yvonne: The YMCA to discuss their upcoming needs.

## Announcements

## Adjournment