

## MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 11, 2016 - MINUTES

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**In attendance: Members present:** Shirley Kaufman, Dr. Donna Kelsch, Deborah McAtee, Renee McLendon, Tom Peluso, Lori Reynolds, Susan Wordal, Jan Bjork, KC McLaughlin, Matt Kelley, and Commissioner Joe Skinner

**Members absent:** Carol Townsend, Sgt. Jim Anderson, Vickie Groeneweg, Shelly Johnson, and Anna Saverud

**Advocacy Members present:** Ken Bell, Ellie Martin, Jaime Grundner, Michelle Jermunson, Rick Gale and Rebecca Adams

**Staff:** Glenda Noyes  
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### **Welcome and Introductions**

**Public Comment:** Mr. Gale reported that Project Homeless Connect, now Community Connect, will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed.

**Approval of Minutes December 14, 2015:** Unavailable for approval at this time.

**NAMI Basics:** Ms. McLendon stated that she is going to the public schools promoting mental health, distributing the Resource Guide and providing input on the NAMI Family Basics class. Family Basics is offered every six weeks and thus far six families have joined. This class helps families with early intervention. The group made many suggestions for other places to spread the word: Parent liaisons at the various schools, Thrive (Ms. McLendon is already working with YDI, Thrive and Aware), Event Coordinator at MSU, OPI, Marilyn King at Bozeman School District, Parents University (BSD), SEPTA, PLUCK, Alta Care, etc.. Mr. Peluso stated that much of the problem here in Bozeman is access to the school system. The program *Parents and Teachers as Allies* is a good start to addressing this. This is a five person team and there is a one hour presentation for teachers to help them sensitize to behaviors that may be symptoms of mental illness. It is difficult to get a forum with teachers.

Ms. Martin stated that MBI, Montana Behavior Initiative is a peer model to address the needs of children. It is broken into three tiers: Tier 1 is approximately 75-80% of children and is those that can abide within universal expectations. Tier 2 is approximately 15-10% of children and is those need targeted intervention, those with more behavioral issues but are able to function with the assistance of school resources such as the school counselor, psychologist, etc. Tier 3 is approximately 5-10% of children and is the children

that require intensive intervention. Each school is at a different point of implementation of the program. Ms. McLendon stated that progress is being made. She also noted that Parents and Teachers as Allies has been approved for CEUs for teachers, but the problem is getting it on the agenda for trainings. Mr. Kelley stated that Bozeman Public Schools has a safety grant but the biggest hurdle is dovetailing with what they are already doing. Laura St. John is the contact for that work. Commissioner Skinner suggested that the LAC write a letter of support for Ms. McLendon to use in her outreach. Ms. Martin stated that YDI offers Mental Health First Aid for kids and the Mental Health Center offers it for adults. She suggested that Ms. McLendon pick a date for training and offer it/invite various agencies. Dr. Kelsch and Ms. Martin offered to assist Ms. McLendon in her efforts. NAMI Basics offers an education about mental health issues that their children have been diagnosed with - the brain, how it works, what to expect, how to talk to their children, what a 504 or IEP Plan is, how doctors and teachers can assist, etc. This helps remove the fear factor and is an evidence based practice. The next class starts on February 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30, location to be determined. Chair Wordal asked what other mechanisms have been used for getting the word out. Ms. McLendon stated that she has presented on the Jacobus radio program on 1450AM on Saturday mornings. Ms. Martin suggested that Ms. McLendon send a blurb to Glenda for distribution to the LAC and everyone can then forward it to their respective contacts. Ms. Reynolds offered to help Ms. McLendon create a flyer for distribution as well. Mr. Peluso noted that the NAMI Smarts Program also teaches people how to advocate for themselves in an effective way.

**Individual Program Updates: What is on tap for 2016 for stakeholder organizations:**

**Montana Peer Network:** Ms. Jermunson stated that they get referrals from the Sheriff, Police Department, Mental Health Center and word of mouth. They received 48 referrals in the first month of their program. She is going to the Sergeant's meeting next month to present there as well.

**AMDD:** Mr. Bell reported that SAA's and LAC's need to be working on their priorities for the next legislative session. The SAA's are asking the LAC's for their top priorities in order to discuss them at the SAA Summit and then take what is learned at the summit forward to the legislature. Some of the things on the table are the jail system and how people with mental illness navigate that system. Mr. Bell stated that they are also talking about Medicaid expansion, the Marketplace, MHSP, etc. The State sent out a "cheat sheet" to the Mental Health Centers to help with this, but Ms. Grundner stated that it isn't very helpful. She also noted that there is a navigator from Community Health Partners is coming to the Mental Health Center to train staff and help people enroll with Medicaid.

Montana Family Wrap Around: Ms. McLaughlin stated that MFWA has a grant from Youth Probation to match the County grant. She is also working with the Bozeman School District as part of the trauma informed program and has met with Belgrade Youth Forum about additional funding. Ms. McLaughlin also noted that Job Service has been great to work with helping kids that are still in school to find employment. She is also involved in a big project on intervention with elementary kids. Ms. Bjork asked about further discussions with the City of Bozeman on funding. Ms. McLaughlin stated that she has met with Chief Crawford who is supportive but has to work on the funding piece from their budget. At this time, the kids still get served but MFWA staff just doesn't bill for it.

ADSGC: Mr. Gale stated that ADSGC continues to sponsor and host ongoing workshops each month for parents.

District Courts: Ms. Bjork stated that the biggest issue faced by the judges is overcrowding at Warm Springs. They are hopeful that the taking over of the RYO facility will help this.

Health Department: The Health Department continues to work with community groups on the Project Launch Grant to try and identify kids with possible social and/or emotional problems and connect them with services early. The Health Department operates a home visitation program and works with Child Care Connections. United Way is the coordinator of the grant program and the Health Department serves as the fiscal agent.

Mental Health Center: Ms. Martin stated that they are hiring two clinicians with early childhood mental health connections. One will provide intensive consultation with teachers, parents and possibly children - not direct services but a work force to address needs. The other will be a behavioral health clinician in pediatric care. Early childhood expertise is hard to find and hire for. They will also do trainings in the community focused on 0-8 years of age. Ms. Adams asked how the MHC is advertising for these positions and Ms. Martin stated that they are advertising in the newspaper, list serves, Craig's List, websites, etc. Ms. Grundner stated that Gallatin County will have another CIT Academy in February. The MHC continues to have an APRN in the Detention Center 6 hours a week. "As the integration of behavioral health clinicians into primary care continues to grow, the US is facing a staffing crisis. The number of training programs turning out new behavioral health professionals who have the skills to work in primary care is woefully inadequate." (University of Massachusetts Medical School [UMASS] website) WMMHC seeks to remedy this inadequacy for at risk populations in western and south central Montana by providing 11 WMMHC directors and an executive management team including the company CEO, COO and HR Director with behavioral health training provided by the National Council. Ms. Grundner also reported that the foundational training will lay ground work to

them implement a model of integrated care within the community of Livingston, MT. Here strong partnerships exist between the LMHC, CHP and Livingston Memorial Hospital, and will also partner with the County Health Department to further the integration of services.

NAMI, etc.: Mr. Peluso stated that Medicaid is broken. Provider rates is a vital issue. Mental Health Centers and providers will go broke if this isn't addressed. This will be a priority at the SAA Summit. Western Montana Mental Health is very concerned.

Other: Mr. Peluso announced the CSAA will hold their monthly meeting at the Burns Center via teleconference, 10:00AM - 12:30PM.

**Next Meeting Agenda - January 11<sup>th</sup>**