



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

June 12, 2023

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room and Via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members Present- Geary Zale, Tom Peluso, Commission Brown, I-Ho Pomeroy, Andrea Lower, Erin Taylor, Lori Christenson, Melaney Swenson, Nicole Madden, Anthea George, John Kudrna, Ryan Mattson, Roper Green, Kelley Wathne, Eric Szemes

Non-Voting Members Present- Ellie Martin, Rick Gale, Rowen Schuler

Voting Members Absent- Susan Gregory, Dezri Rochin, Yvonne Rudman

Guests- Kirsten Smith, Kit Davis- SW Montana Prevention, Deputy County Administrator Cola Rowley, Lori Reynolds, Ben Frentsos- Greater Gallatin United Way, Sophia Fortunato- Health Department

Staff- Mindy Karl

- **Call to Order-** Erin Taylor welcomed the group to the meeting.
- **Roll Call-** Mindy Karl took attendance.
- **Approval of Minutes:** May 2023
Erin Taylor approved the minutes as distributed
- **Public Comment-** Rick Gale displayed Challenge Coins from the MT 988 project at MSU. Coins designed by MSU graphic design students and veterans. Permanent display at MSU.
- **Officer and Committee Reports**

Strategic Planning Committee- moved to **Unfinished Business**

Outreach Committee- Nicole Madden is going to connect with Whitney to update additional ideas and information online. Working to get more info for social media.

Membership Committee- Anthea George has been in discussion with issues related to membership. She is going to take ideas to strategic planning committee.

Accounting- Tom Peluso reported the LAC balance is \$1,856.47 as of May 2023.

- **Unfinished Business- Strategic Planning update** Linda has stepped down as chair of planning committee as well as vice chair. Anthea and Nicole have offered up a few ideas. Nicole and Erin will co-chair the planning committee. Erin would like to bring it to a vote.

Anthea George- at this turn in the road, maybe wait to see if there are additional people interested in getting.

Ryan Mattson moves to have Erin Taylor and Nicole Madden takeover as co-chairs of the strategic planning group.

Susan Gregory seconds the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.

Erin asked the group if anyone else is interested, please reach out because there are 3 various sub committees for the strategic planning group.

Erin shared Linda's strategic plan document with the group.

Nicole said there were 2 main objectives- foundational functionality for the group and connecting with local groups to build up their network. She said our role as LAC is education and advocacy in the community and to partner well with other groups doing similar work.

Anthea said some of the members are people who work with those in need but a lot of the passion comes from the people in the group that have loved ones who suffer from mental health problems.

Commissioner Brown thought that fit well in the second strategy, connecting with local groups to build up their network.

- **New Business- Vice Chair Opening**

Erin said with Linda's departure there is an opening. If anyone is interested, now is the time. We are without a vice chair, and it will be ongoing until someone steps up. It is in our bylaws to have a co-chair.

Commissioner Brown said he is available to give support but did not think it would be appropriate for him to be co-chair.

Central Service Area Authority- Lori Reynolds shared that they are having an in-person meeting and they are requesting 2 members from each county's LAC. It will be a central location, possibly Lewistown, September 28-29.

Eric Szemes volunteered to attend.

Nicole said it would be a way to connect with others that are doing similar things throughout the state.

- **Announcements**

- Erin Taylor has asked Kristina Powell in to talk about Hope House campus sale. She is happy to come to the next meeting.
- Commissioner Brown shared that last week, the county had budget meetings, hearing requests, and making hard decisions. Unique situation is that the county had not spent any of their mental health funds. Those funds had previously funded the Western Health Services. Took that unspent money, about \$250,000, from FY23 to help support the Help Center, Family Promise and HRDC Warming Center.
- Nicole- thank you for the good news from the county and to provide additional funds to those groups. Regardless of what happens at the state level, we are already seeing positives within our community with Mobile Crisis.
- Ryan said the whole goal is to alleviate all systems with the Mobile Crisis Service.
- It was suggested that Mobile Crisis be added to an upcoming meeting agenda.

- Adjournment

Erin Taylor thanked Tom for making it to the meeting in person and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: July 10, 2023

Erin Taylor, Board Chair