



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – June 11th 2018

Voting Members Present: Nancy Filbin, Susan Gregory, Deborah McAtee, Tom Peluso, Lori Reynolds, Michael Foust, Vickie Groeneweg, Commissioner Joe Skinner, Commissioner I Ho Pomeroy, Chelsea Pengra, Chelsey Voegelé, Andrea Lower, Katelyn McAree

Non-Voting Members present: Rebecca Adams, Danica Jamison, Edward Sypinski, Betsy Asserson, Jessica Seekins, Rowen Schuler, Jim Korth, Jenna Rhoads, Denise Albrecht, Cyndi Schoep, Jason Smith, Molly Basta, Colleen Tuccillo

Voting Members Absent: Shirley Kaufmann, Dr. Donna Kelsch, Renee McClendon, Betty Stroock, Shelly Johnson, Matt Kelley, Breanna Hume

Staff: Stephene Kamerman

Chair McAtee called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes for April 9th: Ms. Filbin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Pengra seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

- a. Ms. Asserson expressed appreciation for the Kognito Flyer that went out, stating that it is very helpful and useful.
- b. Ms. Jamison stated that the Beaverhead County Behavioral Health Summit will be held September 13 & 14. She encouraged a group from our LAC to attend as the Beaverhead County LAC is hosting.
- c. Mr. Sypinski stated that an Elevating Behavioral Health Meeting workgroup meeting, Awareness and Education, will be held today at 3:30 in the Wheatgrass room at Bozeman Health.

Announcements:

- a. Commissioner Pomeroy encouraged everyone to please consider putting extra thought into suicide prevention and awareness.
- b. Chair McAtee and Mr. Foust reported on the EECl: Forward Focus workgroup. One project involves provide training opportunities, much like CIT is for Law Enforcement, for crisis providers. They are looking for 1-2 private providers who would be interested in being part of a focus group to discuss what information would be helpful.
- c. Ms. Reynolds announced that NAMI will be hosting another Friends and Family Seminar in July, but a specific date is not identified as of yet.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Chair McAtee requested feedback regarding Director Hogan's response letter to the LAC. Ms. Jamison noted that DPHHS seemed very open to suggestions on how to improve the process. Ms. Asserson believes that there may be a miscommunication regarding the LAC working on a Medicaid plan instead of requesting information. Discussion continued regarding the rules involved with receiving available federal funds versus the resources needed, which often make the funds unsustainable. Mr. Peluso encouraged further attention in the Medicaid Reimbursement rates provided, which are minimal. Ms. Asserson will receive further comments from the group for compilation and communication for DPHHS to continue this conversation. Ms. Filbin made great attempts to have a representative available via conference call for today's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Mr. Smith reported on the efforts of Elevating Behavioral Health (EBH), noting that a number of diverse stakeholders were brought together for the May 24 Community Conversation. The group worked together to reduce barriers and will continue work toward solutions for ongoing issues. Alternative solutions from other communities were contacted, but came full circle as they were hoping for information from the EBH group as well. The workgroups are still working independently, referring back to the steering committee for collaborative progress.
- b. The LAC has a Facebook Page called Sharing Stories that needs someone to administer. Ms. Basta agreed to assist the LAC with the Facebook page, possibly considering changing the name.
- c. Chair McAtee requested additional support for the Legislative and Children Committees. It is becoming apparent that the Legislative Committee needs to be a year-round, active committee. Mr. Peluso stated that his prior commitments are consuming more time than he anticipated and requested an alternative chair for the committee. Several individuals are willing to contribute, but cannot commit to chairing the committee. Mr. Peluso will remain chair. Ms. Voegelé will chair the Children Committee, requesting that any other members interested please contact her via email.
- d. Chair McAtee requested feedback regarding a potential LAC website, citing that the biggest hurdle is the continued administration of the site. Gallatin County hosts a page for the LAC. Discussion continued regarding where citizens will turn to for information. Mr. Peluso requested that this subject be tabled for future discussion as there are many other priorities that should be addressed first, such as workforce retention, Medicaid reimbursements, communication gaps, etc. Ms. Reynolds stated that she would be interested in maintaining a website for the LAC, but would need some financial support.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: July 9, 2018