



## MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2021

### IN ATTENDANCE:

**Voting Members Present:** Breanna Hume, Joe Skinner, Geary Zeal, Shirley Kauffman, Andrea Lower, Geary Zale, Russ McKenna, Linda Gabel, I Ho Pomeroy, Michael Foust, Molly Basta, Perrin Lundgren, Shirley Kaufman, Susan Gregory, Tom Peluso.

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Gary Popiel-NAMI, Bekki McLean, Betsy Asserson, Danica Jamison, Melissa Helton, Rebecca Adams, Rowen Schuler, Lori Reynolds-NAMI, Lynn Sawyer-NAMI, Michael Gearity-NAMI

**Voting Members Absent:** Jay Getten, Erin Taylor, Robyn Carr and Maureen Womack

**Staff:** Jessica Dixon

~~~~~  
**Welcome and Introductions:** Breanna Hume welcomed everyone to the meeting. First in person meeting since COVID.

**Approval of Minutes for:** August 16, 2021 Minutes

**Committee Reports:**

### NEW BUSINESS

- NOTHING NOTED

### Old Business

- Open Position –
  - CHP Position- Jay Getten Welcome!
  - Official Welcome to Robyn Carr who is representing ADSGC
  - Consumer/Family position- Russ McKenna Welcome!
  - Children's Services position, Consumer/Family position, Health Department position vacancies currently
  - Update from Erin on possible Detention Center voting position, it is needed still/wanted from the community including the GCSO
- Resource Guide
  - Progress update** – Perrin to present on current happenings for feedback and discussion. She has reached out to the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, but hasn't heard back. Staples sent her to the national branch and it was a large amount of money. Montana 211 website, could have referral possibilities that can help not just the county but the entire state. The website is mobile. Montana211.org is the website. Shirley says that NAMI has a wonderful sight that does the same thing, so do we need to replicate this. Perrin thinks that having both is very helpful, as it hits everything you need online. Gary P says that

the NAMI website has everything and spent a lot of effort updated their website daily. It is also a national website, not just local. How do we encourage the usage of these websites versus printing a resource guide? Tom Peluso has already taken action on printing these for years. We aren't printing them only for people that are in crisis. They are delivered to the schools, every family in Gallatin County should get one of these. We have already passed this and ordered that they be printed, and we have been working on this for two years, let's get on with this. Breanna wanted to clarify that we are thinking about changing the way we do things. Shirley Kaufman agrees with Tom, we should still print it. The chronicle will print it for cost since we are a non-profit. We are accountable for the money that we reserved for the printing. Lori agrees, we need those words out so they know they can check the websites. CSAA has a deadline at the end of September. We can accept new grants and apply them for next year. We only had one grant sent out in 2021 and it was approved. Gallatin County didn't ask for much this year, so we are only getting \$2400 instead of \$6400. Susan Gregory thinks that we should do both as well. Highlight both of them. Is the real issue money or is there questions about how many to print. The resource guide is up to date right now, but it changes so much and so quickly that once we print them. Betsy commented about using a QR code on the print out that takes them to the regularly updated website. Rebecca Adams agrees that having something in hand is so important, having a written resource guide. Maybe we do it every 2 years instead of every year. Danica also thinks it is worth printing, if there is a way to get 60k out quickly and fresh, that would be ideal. But to emphasize on having those websites big and bold at the top in case they lose this piece of paper. Also she is working on a Greater Gallatin Way and we can look into doing a quarterly newsletter that keeps it more up to date. We could add the QR codes to that too. And have a pdf to the resource guide. Lynn Sawyer has used the resource guide with her classes, she had a crisis not too long ago and she did not go to the resource guide, she went directly to the help center. She suggests that money for next year on a magnet or something like that for people when they are in crisis. Shirley asked about the medical cards. Andrea has those and she can distribute them. And has anyone asked the schools for copies, because she knows that they could do copies at cost as well. Perrin will reach out to them. She will also look into the QR codes, it would have to change the design, and so it would take longer to get them printed. Breanna asked if Perrin and Danica can look into that this week and see if it is feasible or not and if it isn't then we can try to add them later.

## **Reports** – No reports submitted

**Public Comment-** NAMI walk was this weekend, it is the main fundraiser to raise funds. Lori handed out a NAMI document. Michael Gearity made a statement about how NAMI has helped his family after losing a son to mental illness. He was not aware of it when he was going through it with his son before he died, the hospital didn't say anything. He didn't find out about NAMI and what it does for people until it was too late. His son was 34 years old, if there are ways to get the message out to people before it is too late. Lynn made a statement of her own experiences with mental illness. The one thing that she was allowed to attend was the NAMI peer to peer group. It saved her life. She is so thankful that she saw the ad in the paper for it. Gary had two daughters that experienced mental health for 16-18 years. He lost them both. One to suicide and one was in a car accident with his wife. What he was most pissed off about is that he wasn't

aware that these resources existed when he needed them. His main goal is to get inpatient psych beds at the hospital. He requests that everyone in this meeting direct an email to ask them to approve on September 30<sup>th</sup> to approve the inpatient psych beds. Any extra push would help dramatically.

Commissioner Skinner asked to put Cola Rowley on next month's agenda on what Gallatin County is planning on doing for our part of the solution of this county.

I Ho wanted to add that she agrees that we need to get this rolling for the inpatient psych beds. She experienced the same with a family member, and it needs to happen.

Danica wanted to reiterate that LAC make a donation to NAMI.

**Shirley Kaufman makes the motion that we make a donation to NAMI based on what we need for the resource guide and whatever is left over. I Ho Pomeroy seconds. All in favor say aye. Aye. Motion passed.**

**Short Announcements or Updates -**

Meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting: October 18, 2021**

**Account Balance Currently: \$6948.18 at last check-in**