



**MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2020**

Voting Members Present: Susan Gregory, Shirley Kaufman, Molly Basta, Tom Peluso, Michael Foust, Vickie Groeneweg, Shelly Johnson, Matt Kelley, Joe Skinner, I Ho Pomeroy, Chelsey Pengra, Andrea Lower, Branna Hume, Dani Stack, Perrin Lundgren

Voting Members Absent: Lori Reynolds, Hannah Wilson, Cyndi Schoep, Dezei Rochin, Geary Zale, Amanda Fahlstrom

Non-Voting Members Present: Kevin Bueling, Susan Lang, Maureen Womack, Rebecca Adams, Rick Gale, Danica Jamison, Bekki McLean

Welcome and Introductions: Ms. Hume called the meeting to order, and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes for October 21, November 18, December 16, 2019, and January 27, 2020: Ms. Kaufman moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Pengra seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- None at this time

Public Comment:

- Mr. Bueling with the Man Therapy Campaign gave an update, and is asking for a community engagement sign-up sheet.
- Mr. Gale reported that the DEA released their drug program to target meth distribution in major cities.
- Mr. Peluso moved to table the rest of the business agenda until after the presentation to allow for enough time for the presentation from Ms. Hansen. There was no second.
- Ms. Jamison reported that the legislative luncheon will be held on Friday, May 22, 2020, over the lunch hour at the Fork and Spoon Café. Ms. Basta will represent the LAC at this meeting. Seeking input from lobbying groups on LAC issues. May need help from a committee.

New Business:

- **Printing for Resource Guides 2020:** Ms. Kaufman announced that Ms. Hansen's department at the Addictive and Mental Disorders Division of DPHHS will print these for no cost. Updates should be made before the requested 17,000 are printed. This will take 2-3 weeks to produce. Ms. Basta moved to table this discussion. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion. All voted aye. Discussion was moved to the March agenda.
- Jamie Hansen, Manager for Addictive and Mental Disorders Division of DPHHS presented her program, and referenced the attachments that were included in the packets. Service area authorities are being worked with to improve communications. The state team works together very well, and wants to help cut costs in funding to improve services. There are three programs in the state for focusing on children,

and would like to grow into adult services. There will be a supportive employment conference on May 18th, 2020. Ms. Hansen encouraged anyone interested to please attend. This program helps people with serious mental health issues get into housing, or stay in current housing until something else comes along to keep them off the streets. This is also building relationships with the state hospital to prevent homelessness. Service Area Authority is having meetings with state discharge officers to help people with mental health issues who leaving the state. Funding is available for these. Jamie will be a soft hand off for these people. Mr. Gale asked if Ms. Hansen was talking to HRDC about the warming center. Survey was completed at a GGHAC meeting to address mental health issues with people who stay at the warming center. Bozeman Open Door provides resources at the library and was launched last month. Veterans are allowed to use these services, and providers can determined what program would benefit veterans better. Please share any of this information that would be beneficial to others. Susan Gregory will provide information on the open door program in the library. There is grant money available. Mental Health Block Grant can hold more programs. And RFP will be coming out for supportive employment in the spring. Drop-in centers are also coming in under this program. NAMI is one if their contractors. Ms. Hansen is working on meeting with the affiliates and how we can use the state services that are available. Commissioner Skinner commented that the PATH program interfaces with VA PATH Services. If there is an opportunity for funding these programs, please let her know and she can make adjustments on when programs can be started. PATH is very different and not under the mental health block grant. There is a \$300,000 per year match from state, SAMHSA and the general fund for the PATH program and are both underutilized. Grant money can be used to hire a case manager, would require the contract to have two case managers. Those monies can cover staffing, housing, whatever needs the individual has. This is done as a person first approach. Ms. Gregory asked about a homeless individual in the Bozeman area, and how this could help with getting him home to his family. Mental Health Block Grant covers anything over \$300,000, but not housing. Without the PATH funding, general funds could be used to cover across the state. Mental Health Block Grant is \$1.25 million. Ms. Hume asked how the emergency team could connect individuals to the PATH program. Ms. Hansen suggested using the resource guide brochures that were passed out. Western Montana Mental Health does not have a PATH representative. Mr. Gale mentioned that veterans have a clinic in Bozeman, and that 11% of the homeless in Bozeman are veterans. Ms. Hansen noticed the sharing of resources could be higher in this area. Ms. Lundgren asked how the 2-1-1 website would help with this information. Ms. Hanson said this is something we will be sharing this soon after the state updates the site. Ms. Jamison asked how an individual gets help in Gallatin County, and how we can help connect people in our community to this program. Having a PATH provider in Bozeman would be the best, but for now a phone call would be the best way to start. The grant covers travel, so the PATH provider could come here. Mr. Foust explained that we do share this information between centers, and we can find out the best way to share with everyone involved in these programs. Funding is not being spent due to a lack of awareness of the programs, but is not rolled over per fiscal year. People who need these resources are looking for something that stands out. There is an opportunity for the funding to grow based on need. PATH works with other programs, but and does not follow individuals. It takes up to 65-180 days for someone to be approved for social security, PATH would provide housing during the gap. Ms. Hansen would like to discuss having a PATH provider in Bozeman. Funding should be in place before starting any program. SOAR trainees will get a stipend to work with individuals to complete their applications. First Episode Psychosis is currently at the Billings Clinic doing outreach with Bozeman and seven other counties including Gallatin County. First Episode Psychosis target age range is 15-25 for treatment and working with the PATH team if they are homeless. Ms. Jamison stated that there is immediate response and resources, but not long term, or supporting parents and children of patients. Ms. Hansen is available for any questions, and will share any information that she is able.

Reports:

- NO COMMITTEES MET-Ms. Hume asked for minutes from any committee meeting.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2020