



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2020

Voting Members Present: Susan Gregory, Shirley Kaufman, Michael Foust, Vickie Groeneweg, Shelly Johnson, I Ho Pomeroy, Andrea Lower, Branna Hume, Cyndi Schoep, Dani Stack, Geary Zale, Perrin Lundgren

Voting Members Absent: Molly Basta, Tom Peluso, Matt Kelley, Joe Skinner, Chelsey Pengra, Dezel Rochin, Amanda Fahlstrom

Non-Voting Members Present: Rick Gale, Danica Jamison, Betsy Asserson, Rowen Schuler, Vivienne Riseley, Desiree Reece, Angela Feliciano

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

Approval of Minutes for February 24, 2020 meeting: Ms. Johnson moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Stack seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- **Printing Resource Guides:** DPHHS can print these in batches. Please let them know how many are needed, and they will provide them as they are printed. Ms. Johnson asked for a quarterly batch of 3000. Ms. Lundgren asked when we would see resource guides printed, and if they would include the new updates with COVID-19 shelter in place regulations. Ms. Feliciano suggested an insert that can be included with this new information. Ms. Schoep added that this is ever changing information, and must be considered before distribution. The state may reopen in the near future. Ms. Jamison suggested having a small group to gather the information and send to United Way. Ms. Feliciano will help with this. Ms. Lundgren asked if specific resources will be updated, or have a brief statement inserted. Ms. Jamison said that this small group should edit this response before it is sent out. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.
- **Legislative luncheon** will be postponed to a yet to be determined date. There is nothing to plan for at this time.

New Business:

- Two positions are open for the Gallatin LAC. Hannah Wilson is no longer with community health partners, and one consumer/family position. Ms. Hume described the requirements for each position, and to contact her with any questions. There is a potential new position for a representative from the Detention Center. This is being discussed with the Commission and County Attorney.

Reports:

- Education and Awareness is no longer active. Please let Ms. Hume know if there is any interest to restart this committee.
- Ms. Jamison pointed out that there are new programs in the community which may be covering these needs. COAD group is a good resource for members, and she will email the information to anyone who is interested. Ms. Hume said this could be used as a general overview.
- Ms. Johnson said that the Co-Occurring Disorders has been trying to meet.
- Mr. Gale said the first issue of CTC (Communities That Care) including a fact sheet was sent out, and he read the new mission statement.

Public Comment:

- Ms. Jamison said that direct anyone who needs help to call 2-1-1 at the Help Center. Financial assistance can be found on the DPHHS website, or the Southwest Montana COVID Emergency Response Fund for COVID type needs. Nearly \$300,000 has been raised so far, and donations can be made on the United Way website. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please use this time and go volunteermt.org to check out opportunities for volunteering.
- Ms. Feliciano has three spots for Spanish speaking people to help translate online therapy sessions. Ms. Risely can connect people needing therapy on line. Ms. Lundgren said that there is an increase of all service calls ranging from mental services, emotional support, and community resources. The increase in anxiety, stress, and isolation are all normal responses to this situation, and can be relieved by answering this with financial solutions or what acute resources are needed. The crisis response support could be financial, or stress relief can result in overall stress and anxiety reduction.
- The Bozeman Commission will meet tonight at 6pm, to discuss funding for the year round warming center with the \$300,000 funds that were raised.
- Ms. Johnson added that liquor stores are essential, and drinking has increased. PPT loan was received to keep the current staff.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2020