



## **MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Meeting Minutes – September 21, 2020**

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Voting Members Present:** Susan Gregory, Shirley Kaufman, Molly Basta, Tom Peluso, Michael Foust, Shelly Johnson, Joe Skinner, Brea Hume, Cyndi Schoep, Dani Stack, Geary Zale, Perrin Lundgren

**Non-Voting Members present:** Rebecca Adams, Betsy Asserson, Jessica Ruiz, Rowen Schuler, Bekki McLean

**Voting Members Absent:** Vickie Groeneweg, Matt Kelley, I Ho Pomeroy, Chelsey Pengra, Andrea Lower, Dezei Rochin, Amanda Fahlstrom

**Staff:** Sarah Gracey

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**Welcome and Introductions:** Ms. Hume called the meeting to order, and started introductions.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Approval of Minutes for August 17, 2020:** Commissioner Skinner moved to approve the August 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 minutes. Ms. Schoep seconded. All voted. Motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

CHP and Consumer/Family of Consumer is still needing to be filled. Ms. Hume clarified the details of these positions. The additional LAC position for the Detention Center will be added to the October agenda for discussion and decision.

Resource Guide: Ms. Johnson and Ms. Lundgren are working on the resource guide. Drafts were sent out, but due to busy schedules the response was delayed. Ms. Jamison was going to review the final draft before printing. Translation with the \$500 from Geary Zale is still in progress. Ms. Jamison will need to be consulted to discover where this is at in the process. Ms. Johnson can cover the progress that Ms. Lundgren has done.

Provider List for AMDD: Mr. Peluso requested that the LAC ask the community for gaps in services, to determine where work needed to be done. He believes the whole LAC should be working on this. Ms. Hume reminded him that he and Chelsea Pengra were to gather a list of questions to ask the community. Mr. Peluso recommended the AMDD website [mt.gov/amdd](http://mt.gov/amdd) to find the list of providers to get started. Some of these parties have withdrawn, making this information outdated. The resource guide is important to get out. The CSAA should be sharing information with all of the LAC's. Ms. Hume will check with Ms. Pengra to form a committee for this project.

## NEW BUSINESS

Continued Support Surrounding the Bridger Foothills Fire: Ms. Lundgren said calls for this have been routed through 2-1-1, and now most people have been connected to the resources they need. Immediate resources and necessary communication was provided to help everyone.

Ms. Kaufman said there was an article in the chronicle on how they are working through this. The Bozeman Deaconess Hospital and the Red Cross are now taking this over. Ms. Basta has shared this information on the MHLAC Facebook page.

No committees have met. Ms. Hume will email Ed Sypinski for information on Communities that Care.

Mr. Foust asked that any agenda items to discuss with legislators be sent to him, so these can be discussed in the virtual October 19, 2020 meeting.

Ms. Gregory announced the concerns about day shelter during the winter months. The Bozeman Public Library is in Phase 2, with no public seating. This role at the library will be discussed with the City of Bozeman and the Warming Center to find an alternative to day shelter for homeless. Ms. Lundgren suggested working with GGHAC. Mr. Peluso said AMDD has financed a program to provide services for homeless and mentally ill, but that program may not be operating in Gallatin County, but may have funds available. Please contact Jami Hansen with AMDD to see if funds are available. This could lift some of the load off of Gallatin County. Ms. Kaufman also suggested opening the Warming Center during the day. COVID spread is still a concern with this type of shelter. Grant money is on a timeline. Commissioner Skinner asked where the money is, and whose responsibility it is to use it. This money is with AMDD, and it's their job to shepherd it. The LAC does not have responsibility for any of the money. Western has a contract, but shut down the Drop In Center because of COVID. Mr. Foust said the funds are not being received for services not provided. We may need to reapply for these funds. Mr. Foust said Urgent Care is set up for in-person treatments and has funding without having a grant. This takes pressure off needing a drop-in status, and to provide the care they need. Commissioner Skinner asked what the plan is for when COVID is over, will the drop in and urgent care still be open? Will Western Montana Health have a plan and a facility? Mr. Foust said yes, and would like to have both. If he uses all his resources now he has about a year to run both. Rebecca Adams asked about the showers at the Day Center on Industrial Drive for use for the homeless

population. Ms. Basta asked about the Warming Center and winter use during COVID. So far, there are no plans until COVID plans are more worked out. This would be a good conversation for the LAC on how to use services. Ms. Lundgren said the day showers are closed but are making plans to reopen in November for nightly stays. They are offering showers at the Rodeway Inn. Ms. Lundgren will reply to the email with the minutes that Ms. Hume sent out with the minutes. This is available on the Help Center website and on the 2-1-1 website. Mr. Peluso said there are unused funds for the PATH program. This is run through AMDD, and we could access these funds if the Mental Health Center could contract the Warming Center to spend day time. This could be discussed with Jami Hansen. Mr. Peluso will call Ms. Hansen to suggest this. Ms. Kaufman said money through the CSAA could be distributed, and the Fork and Spoon could be opened during the day with the proper funding. She will contact Love, INC. regarding this. Ms. Hume will reach out to the HRDC to have staff present to discuss what they are planning for the winter and homelessness.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting: October 19, 2020**