



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes – September 19th, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members Present: Andrea Lower, Bekki McLean, Dezri Rochin, Erin Taylor, Geary Zale, Linda Gabel, Lori Christenson, Susan Gregory, Tom Peluso, Commissioner Zach Brown, Melaney Swenson, Nicole Madden

Non-Voting Members Present: Ellie Martin, Justin Giese, Rebecca Adams, Rick Gale, Rowen Schuler, Sophia Fortunado- Health Department, Jeremy Hoscheid- Guest

Voting Members Absent: Perrin Lundgren

Staff: Harlee Lynch

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**Welcome and Introductions:** Commissioner Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and made introductions.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discussion about Planning for CCBHC Legislation

The Behavioral Health Coalition had a presentation last month from NAMI and Mary Windecker about CCBHC legislation coming out of the Child and Family Services Interim Committee. This will be formally introduced and considered by the 2023 Legislature. The group would like to invite someone to come speak about what CCBHC's are and what will happen if the legislation adopts them. Commissioner Brown would like to have Legislators and Mary Windecker attend this meeting in November to discuss these policies. Tom will forward an email to the group which talks more about CCBHC for members to look over if they would like.

- LAC Social Media Management

This will need to be a further discussion regarding what kind of social media presence this group wants to have. Social media presence will be helpful with the rollout of the Resource Guide. Ellie's group at GGUW will be rolling out things about the Mental Health Education and Awareness Campaign and Healthy Coping Campaign. Dezri and Nicole are interested in helping with this. Dezri will take the lead on that, Harlee will email her out the account information. Tom suggested that the CSAA website be a resource on the Resource Guide, [centralsaamontana.org](http://centralsaamontana.org).

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **VOTE:** Mini-grant application for GGUW/GBHC, request of \$4,000 for Mental Health Education and Awareness Campaign: Healthy

Linda and Ellie gave some background on this. Ellie stated this promotion is to give ideas, tips, tricks, and strategies for navigating stress and tolerating the challenges we have all been facing over the last few years. Tom said that the LAC budget is stressed right now due to the upcoming Resource Guide printing so he is not sure the group can

come up with the whole \$4,000 Mini Grant ask. Commissioner Brown suggests that we move forward with the grant application and use the rest of the available funds to print off the Resource Guides.

**Linda Gable moves that the group approve the grant from GBHC, Nicole Madden seconds the motion. Motion carried.**

- Resource Guide

- Tom suggested 26,000 copies in his conversation with BDC, alignment on order size seems valuable
- Tom contacted BDC and is waiting on a final cost estimate for printing
- LAC needs to approve final version (funding was apparently approved in a previous meeting, although I do not have specifics as to when)

Tom says that the group approved a budget for the Resource Guide of \$6,000. Tom believes the Resource Guides should be the first priority. Harlee will be working to finish the updates needed and then next month there can be further discussion about printing costs.

- Nominations for Chair, discussion on navigating no current nominations

- Willingness to serve as Vice Chair

Nicole Madden started, she is a very new member and doesn't feel equipped with the background and knowledge to serve in the capacity needed. Commissioner Brown thinks all the group needs is someone that is willing to work on agendas, run the email, and collaborate with outside agencies. Then he and Harlee would support anyone who was willing to jump in. Erin stated he read the Toolkit that Tom sent out and that it helped enlighten him on what the group should be doing. He believes a consumer/family person would be the best fit for chair of this group. Everyone feels like a two-year term is a big step right now. Linda thinks it's helpful for all members to review the Toolkit as it defines the Chair and Vice Chair duties and the duties this group should be performing. Sophia Fortunado suggested the possibility of two Co-Chairs along with a Vice Chair. Tom mentioned having a representative from the LAC to sit on the CSAA work group. Harlee will send out the Toolkit for everyone to review.

- Round table Planning for upcoming months

Everyone would like to have more outside groups and agencies come to these meetings to present and collaborate. Commissioner Brown will work on inviting Connections to come and speak at our next meeting.

- Open Positions

- Four Consumer/Family Positions, Consumer Position, Alcohol & Drug Services, Adult Provider, Community Clinic

Commissioner Brown asked the group to send anyone our way that fits the open voting member positions, the Commission Office can help get them an application.

- Approval of Minutes: July, August

**Tom moves to approve minutes from July and August. Linda seconds the Motion.  
Motion carried.**

- Reports- No reports submitted
- Public Comment/Short Announcements or Updates (1-2 minutes)
  - Rick Gale stated the American Legion has launched a national campaign called Be the One which is focused on reducing veteran suicide, he spoke further on this topic. Next month they will be doing a buddy check at every post.
  - Jeremy Hoscheid spoke about the Board of Visitors. They are an independent board of inquiry and review consumer-oriented oversight of the State Mental Health Systems, including the State Hospital. They do inspections of facilities, type up those findings, and post them to their website.
  - The County will be making a decision at tomorrow's Public Meeting regarding a Mental Health Service Provider who the County will partner with to provide certain services. The next step if this provider meets our needs is to negotiate a contract.

**Next Meeting: October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Account Balance Currently: \$9,300.20**