



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes – October 17th, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members Present: Andrea Lower, Bekki McLean, Erin Taylor, Lori Christenson, Perrin Lundgren, Susan Gregory, Tom Peluso, Commissioner Zach Brown, Melaney Swenson

Non-Voting Members Present: Ellie Martin, Rick Gale, Rowen Schuler, John Kudrna, Jeremy Hoscheid- Guest, Paige Bichler- Connections, Cola Rowley- Gallatin County

Voting Members Absent: Dezri Rochin, Geary Zale, Linda Gabel, Nicole Madden

Staff: Harlee Lynch

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

○ Connections Presentation

Paige Bichler is here from Connections to give the group a brief Presentation. She started by going over a PowerPoint Presentation and giving some background on herself.

In September of 2021 she visited the Tucson Crisis Receiving Center, which was a great opportunity to see the work Connections was doing in Arizona. She joined the Connections team in July of this year to bring some additional resources into our community and figure out how their model can work in our community.

She shared more about what Connections is, they operate two of the largest Crisis Receiving Centers in the nation. She spoke about their core service lines and explained those in further detail.

Connections is currently helping build a Mobile Crisis team which will provide 12 hours a day seven days a week of care with a least restrictive care model. The end goal is to provide a 24/7 care model. They are working with the stakeholders in the community to ensure their procedures integrate with their current practices. They will also be able to provide services to children.

The Mobile Crisis team will work together with Law Enforcement and Dispatch to dispatch the Mobile Crisis Response Team in mental health crisis situations. Perrin shared that 988 is a good resource to call as they are also working with the Mobile Crisis Team.

Rick Gale asked about veteran services, specifically through the Travis Atkins Clinic for veterans. Paige is interested in working with him further to provide veteran services.

John Kudrna asked about staffing in the Big Sky area. They are set up to respond to all of Gallatin County, but they are still working out the details of this, so they can respond in a timely manner.

Ellie Martin wanted to clarify that Connections is not coming into the community to compete with other services, there is a value to having many different options in the community.

They are currently working with the County to negotiate a contract. Commissioner Brown gave a quick history of how we arrived here with Mental Health services in the County.

- Planning Discussion for November Meeting – Legislative Education Forum on CCBHC Legislation

Commissioner Brown talked about the LAC hosting a post-election legislative forum regarding CCBHC Legislation for our November Meeting. The Behavioral Health Coalition received a presentation on this topic in August by some key members. He would like this to be a co-learning opportunity for everyone to learn with us about what the CCBHC model looks like and what that conversation might look like in the Legislature. Commissioner Brown would like this conversation to stay focused on education of the legal framework of CCBHC.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Resource Guide

All the edits have been completed for the Resource Guide. Tom is working with the Chronicle to print hard copies. There will also be basic distribution through the newspaper on a Sunday edition. Generally, the price is 12c a piece for the quantity being ordered and 33c for any additional copies after that. He named some of the places that will be receiving hard copies right away.

- Nomination for Chair
  - Willingness to serve as Vice Chair

Commissioner Brown is still holding the Interim Chair position. Erin Taylor has expressed interest in becoming the next Chair of the LAC. He then spoke about some of his goals as Chair. He still believes the Chair position should ultimately be held by a Consumer/Family member and he will work on recruiting for those open positions. He will also work with Tom on the Central Service Authority to have a better connection with them.

**Susan Gregory moves to nominate Sgt. Erin Taylor from the Sheriff's Office as our Chair of the MHLAC. Andrea Lower seconds the Motion. Motion carried.**

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

- Approval of Minutes: September

**Tom Peluso moves to accept the minutes as printed. Lori Christenson seconds the Motion. Motion carried.**

- Reports- No reports submitted
- Public Comment/Short Announcements or Updates (1-2 minutes)
  - Tom Peluso sent out info on the Central Service Area Authority and CCBHC's.
  - Rick Gale spoke about a potential claim against the VA which may impact Veterans and their benefits.
  - Ellie Martin talked about Run for Your Life. It will be a Halloween themed Fun Run at the end of this month. It will also be the debut of the Awareness Campaign, the moto is "Are you in?".
- Parking Garage Items

**Next Meeting: November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

**Account Balance Currently: \$9,300.20**