



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 13, 2023

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room and Via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members Present- Andres Lower, Erin Taylor, Lori Christenson, Melaney Swenson, Anthea George, Ryan Mattson, Roper Green, Yvonne Rudman, Eric Szemes, Tom Peluso

Non-Voting Members Present- Rick Gale, Bekki McLean, Ben Frentsos

Voting Members Absent- Commissioner Brown, Jennifer Madgic, Nicole Madden, John Kudrna, Susan Gregory

Guests- Lori Reynolds, Kirsten Smith, Steve Nash, Kassie Fjare

Staff- Mindy Karl

- Call to Order- Erin Taylor welcomed the group.
- Roll Call- Mindy Karl took attendance.
- Approval of Minutes: September 2023 minutes- Erin Taylor approved the minutes as distributed.
- Officer and Committee Reports
 - Strategic Planning Committee has revised the bylaws and really cleaned up membership.
 - Outreach Committee- Erin said Nicole is trying to hand that off to another member.
 - Membership Committee- Anthea welcomed Steve Nash as a guest. He has a desire to be a voting member in a consumer/family member position. One of the changes in the bylaws is that someone who wants to be a voting member needs to attend two meetings prior to being elected. Anthea is in the process of doing that with Steve Nash. There are no term limits for non-voting members, but they must go through the same process as a voting member.
 - Accounting- Tom Peluso reported the number has not changed.
- Unfinished Business
 - Rick Gale to be voted in as a non-voting member. He is a representative for Veterans' Alliance and has been a member since the beginning of the LAC. He wishes to be re-elected as a non-voting member.

Eric Taylor moved to reinvite Rick Gale to be a non-voting member of the LAC. Roper Green seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.

- Gallatin Mental Health Center Campus- Questions or Comments

Erin had reached out to Christina in hopes that it would generate some questions. Christina is not in attendance.

Anthea would like to hear updates since the last meeting was 2 months ago. Kirsten Smith shared the Help Center continues to pursue the purchase of the Gallatin Mental Health Campus. They are hopeful for a closing at the end of the year.

Handout shared.

Rick Gale said he had an opportunity to Answer the Call at the Help Center. Veterans were invited to go for a tour on the campus. Some calls were coming in as they were visiting. The veteran's group will help, and they are on board.

Eric said it's evident there are many subsections that are not being addressed, such as alcohol treatment services. He suggested the LAC follow up with that and see if it is something that is still needed.

- Bozeman Health Emergency Detention Research- Nicole Madden, Bozeman Health- Nicole Madden was not in attendance. Item skipped.
- Central Service Area Authority- Representative from LAC, Lori Reynolds

Lori is the administrative assistant for the organization. She shared some history on the organization and how the authority works. They are able to give every LAC \$2400, to help with community projects, trainings, etc. The LAC should brainstorm as a group how the money would be used.

Membership for CSAA, elected through LAC. They want to hear what the needs are here, in this LAC and its community.

Anthea moved for the group to explore a mini grant from CSAA, specifically to hire someone who can coordinate and offer timely information that is relevant to our county and state. Ryan Mattson seconded the motion. Discussion- Eric said Anthea has done a good job bringing structure to motions. He pointed out this grant is due in 12 days (November 25th). He is not sure her motion is responsive enough at this time. He suggested a subcommittee to just be CSAA and upward liaisons, in addition to a separate grant committee. Ryan thinks the biggest piece is the initial investigation for the grant. It is also to pursue additional opportunities. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.

Anthea moved to have Eric Szemes as the representative for CSAA from LAC. Lori Christenson seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.

- AmeriCorps VISTA- Lori Christenson

Update on VISTA- as mentioned a few months ago, recruiting a VISTA for help with LAC. Found out 2 weeks ago, the funding at the national level was severely reduced. It affected many states, including Montana. No longer eligible. Going forward, using the same organization, they are looking at other opportunities. More information to come.

- New Business

- Youth Campus Update- Kirsten Smith

Kirsten shared her screen-A community vision for a safe place for young people to heal and thrive. Former Boot Strap Ranch is for sale. Excited for this as a possible place for these services. Possible fundraising effort to raise money for this purchase. Right now, Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation is meeting today to discuss if they want to help fund the purchase. 33 acres. They have gotten sellers to lower the price. \$4.25 million.

- Extending LAC Meetings to 1.5 Hours

Eric moved to extend the monthly meetings to 1.5 hours. Lori seconded the motion. Anthea commented, if we're moving into real business, things we need preparation to discuss, yes, she supports. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.

- Announcements- on Friday MT PBS spotlight on 988

- Adjournment

Erin Taylor- meeting is adjourned- 1:06 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 11th, 2023

Erin Taylor, Board Chair