



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members Present: Brea Hume – Chair, Joe Skinner, Andrea Lower, Cyndi Schoep, Michael Foust, Perrin Lundgren, Shirley Kaufman, Susan Gregory, Maureen Womack

Non-Voting Members Present: Bekki McLean, Betsy Asserson, Edward Sypinski, Rowen Schuler, Linda Gabel (Community Member)

Voting Members Absent: Amanda Fahlstrom, Chelsey Pengra, Dani Stack, Dezei Rochin, Geary Zale, I Ho Pomeroy, Matt Kelley, Molly Basta, Shelly Johnson

Staff: Pamela Lammey

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**Welcome and Introductions:** Brea Hume welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes for:** January 11, 2021 and February 22, 2021

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **NEW BUSINESS**

Shirley Kaufman – Grants

Shirley Kaufman moves to accept January 11<sup>th</sup> and February 22, 2021 Minutes. Cyndi Schoep seconds the Motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.

Maureen Womack – questions – strategic plan? Brea explained about movements in the Community.

Joe Skinner thinks the LAC really needs to start identifying a project. Gaps in services – identify. Start to identify the gaps in services and work towards something from start to completion. We do work on the pamphlet, but we can do more than that. The Hope House was built because the LAC. It would be nice to have a big project.

Shirley Kaufman – agrees. We need to work on everything as a group. She would like together as a group like a wheel and put our spokes in place.

Brea Hume thinks everyone is working in their own spaces and the group is less collaborative. She would like to see the group collaborate more.

Shirley Kaufman sends out a lot information regarding information coming out of Helena and Billings.

Brea Hume asked if this time for meetings works for everyone. Everyone agreed that this time works for everyone.

Susan Gregory – Do we have any role to play in trying to increase mental health beds at the hospital. Is that part of our charge? Bree said that can be an advocacy role we can play. It would be interesting to hear what the community members are saying.

Susan Gregory – thinks we need to start thinking about it and it doesn't need to be advisory but more of a community involvement.

Michael Foust – Western – He thinks it is important to look at the whole picture. There is a narrow version of fact. From an LAC perspective – we need to have all the facts before we make a decision or comment. We need to work on our language. We aren't shipping people off to the state hospital. We have between 50-70 individuals – Emergency Detention that come into Western's care. Half of them go back in to the community.

How do we get up river far enough to keep babies out of the river and if they flow down the river how do we get them out asked Michael Foust.

We should respond looking at all the facts. Susan Gregory thinks we need to educate everyone. She wants to learn more. How can we help increase the crisis mental health services in Bozeman.

Hope House is not safe, can we make it more safe – yes. In a locked inpatient facility increase the risk of being attacked or harmed. Bozeman Health won't be accepting just Gallatin residents. We are going to create a layer in the community.

Maureen Womack wants to add to Michael's comments – she wants to make sure we have services after they are discharged. So we don't have a revolving door. Support individuals at all levels of care and she doesn't want to create a revolving door.

Susan Gregory's questions – where are the gaps and what are they and what can we do to help. Maureen Womack said the biggest gap is recruiting people. Mental Health Professionals are hard to get and Bozeman isn't ideal to move too because it is so expensive.

Michael Foust – we can build something but can we employ them.

Two clients per a week but a PAC team can have 200. Co-responders, positive youth development programs, those are things we can work on first. We have a crisis facility and let's upgrade that building. If LAC wants to get behind something – we should be getting behind the PAC team.

Shirley Kaufman thinks the Hope House would qualify for grant money. A lot of grant money is for uninsured said Michael Foust. The money is connected to drug and suicide. Michael Foust says there are rules for the grants money – it is for uninsured folks.

Andrea Lower – Mary Collins from the State could do a presentation to find out where are gaps are at. Maureen Womack says we have already done that. Andrea Lower could reach out to Mary Collins to have a presentation at next month's meeting. Michael Foust says we have done that and we could present what we have.

Brea Hume thought Michael Foust and Maureen Womack could work on this together. Commissioner Skinner thinks that is part of the problem because the LAC doesn't know what they are working on. If we knew what everyone was working on we could see where the gaps are at. They will present something to share with the group.

Michael Foust – we have to make a decision between an emergency system and a crisis system. We need a crisis matrix. How do we move towards a crisis system and move away from the

emergency system. Commissioner Skinner will be excited to see what the next steps are to help the system. Michael Foust said we are excited too.

Maureen Womack says we need to be very measured and have complete information to share. Michael Foust wants to make sure we have lasting services. Commissioner Skinner likes the genuine conversation. Tomorrow the Hope House and ED will reopen. Staffing and safety are so important. There are 8 voluntary clients and 2 ED clients.

Bozeman Health is in the process of redesigning their Emergency Services and they will have 3 beds for medical detox. Michael Foust said that bringing on Maureen Womack has been incredible. They have made strides in a year. Michael Foust wants to be clear and appreciates the question.

Cyndi Schoep likes that there is a direction and would like to focus on the crisis side of things instead of emergency.

Brea Hume asked Perrin Lundgren about the Help Center. They are working on building toward organizations – Bright App – Bozeman Help Center App – mental health providers search not just Gallatin County but the whole state. Perrin Lundgren is working on getting participants involved in the whole State.

Brea Hume asked for marketing and PR stuff regarding the program that Perrin Lundgren is working on.

Two open positions – Consumer Family Position and Community Health Partner. Maureen Womack will be a voting member for the Consumer Family Position. Edward Sypinski knows someone and he is going to reach out.

Tom Peluso – there is a resource on NAMIMT.org. Published all the counties and all of the known resources in the county by provider. AMDD.MT.GOV is also publishing it. We should be accounting for what we have already done. He would encourage a couple of folks to get involved in his weekly working group.

Looks for an email – Friday morning – Resource Guide  
Send comments to Brea Hume.

Meeting adjourned.