



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2017

Voting Members Present: Deborah McAtee, Joe Skinner, Andrea Lower, Shirley Kaufman, Matt Kelley, Chelsey Pengra, Tom Peluso, Chelsey Voegele, Nancy Filbin, Lori Reynolds, Tonya Horn, Donna Kelsch

Non-Voting Members present: Pierre Martineau, Ellie Martin, Edward Sypinski, Robert McCormack, Katy Fritz, Molly Basta, Jim Stordahl, Kiera Pattison, Natalie McGillen, Betsy Asserson, Rebecca Adams, Rick Gale, Sara Savage, Teresa Gault, Breanna Hume

Voting Members Absent: Anna Saverud, Betty Stroock, Carol Townsend, Renee McLendon, Katelyn McAree, Shelly Johnson, Susan Gregory, Susan Wordal, Vickie Groeneweg

Staff: Sarah Gracey

Public: Cyndy Andrus

Welcome and Introductions: Ms. McAtee welcomed everyone. Ms. Lower introduced herself and gave a brief description of her employment history with the Gallatin County Detention Center, Pretrial Program, and Mental Health Diversion Program (Jail Diversion). Ms. Horn will be leaving the LAC on June 15, 2017.

Public Comment: Mr. Sypinski inquired about the status of a mini grant application that Alcohol and Drug Services submitted. Mr. Stordahl asked about the status of the Hope House. Ms. McGillen stated that Michael Faust has been hired as the new Executive Director of Western Montana Mental Health, and Shannon Maroney is the new Clinical Director. Hope House voluntary commitment is open, and the emergency detention side will be opening soon. Commissioner Skinner informed Ms. McGillen that the Commission is aware of the WMMH budget requests, but may not be able to fund the entire amount.

Approval of Minutes for May 8, 2017: Ms. Filbin made a motion to approve the May 8 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Kaufman seconded the motion. Ms. McAtee added the spelling correction of Vickie Groeneweg's name. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports: Ms. Reynolds and Ms. Filbin reviewed the mini-grant request from Alcohol and Drug Services to purchase 40 copies of guides on how to identify illegal street drugs and their effects. These guides are illustrated, and would be provided to community leaders. Mr. Gale stated that this is the best monthly publication to provide information on opioids and methamphetamines. Mr. Peluso requested \$100 worth of copies for NAMI. Ms. Pattison requested a copy for the hospital. Ms. McAtee pointed out that this brochure is drug-related and does not directly address mental health issues, and asked how the requestor would tie these issues together. Ms. Filbin stated that Mr. Sypinski made the connection in his written request. Ms. Martin explained that addiction is a mental health issue. Ms. Filbin and Ms. Reynolds recommended that the LAC fund the mini-grant request. Mr. Peluso made a motion that the LAC accept the mini-grant. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Sypinski will supply a link to the publication to anyone who provides an email address.

Ms. Filbin reported that the Job Service would like copies of the resource guide to be available for the public. The Community Café was not interested in placemats with the resource guide

information, since they are focusing on being a community gathering place rather than a social service. They did request copies of the resource guide to be available to the public.

Ms. Horn reported that the Homeless and Mental Health subcommittee is up and running, and the Housing First coordinator will be applying to head up this committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. McAtee explained the CSAA survey responses, and that funding requests have a very important deadline. Mr. Peluso explained that the CSAA received funds from the legislature to spend on projects and systems, and excess funds are to be distributed between the active LACs. Ms. Kaufman expressed appreciation for Ms. McAtee's hard work on this survey.

Funding was requested for several projects. One is planning for a strategic plan involving the entire community, so that we know what resources are needed if we want to tackle it. The strategic plan is the stepping stone to a bigger plan. Mr. Peluso pointed out that the hospital and MSU should be involved. HRDC is finishing up their community needs assessment and strategic plan at the end of this summer. Other items work to increase awareness on mental health issues: talking to legislators between sessions to get a better connection; focusing on school administrators, PACs, and service groups; and printing and distributing resource guides to a wider range of venues.

Mr. Peluso suggested adding \$1,000 for Mental Health Awareness Month presentations and \$2000 mental health first aid classes. NAMI and Western Montana Mental Health currently pay for these, and the MHLAC should be involved. Mr. Peluso made a motion to present this document as amended and add Mental Health Awareness Month for \$1,000, and Mental Health First Aid for \$2,000. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion. Ms. Kelsch questioned if the MHLAC should prioritize this list. Mr. Peluso notes that the CSAA will likely grant a set amount which the LAC can prioritize as it sees fit. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kaufman stated that the Help Center's 211 number is having problems. United Way is looking into this issue, but has not responded with any information.

Ms. Reynolds reported that the remaining amount of mini-grant funds is \$1,987.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Savage presented the Cost of Homelessness to our Community, and passed out a flier with the study information. There are currently 60 Gallatin County residents who are chronically homeless. This is defined as individuals who have been homeless for one year, or four times in three years. Of these individuals, eight were interviewed for this survey. The average cost of services for a homeless person is \$28,305 annually. Many of these costs are un-reimbursed or paid with taxpayer dollars. Many homeless people are faced with challenges that prevent them from obtaining housing. Two survey participants were able to find housing during this study, and saw an 87% reduction in services costs and a 73% reduction in health services within three months of getting housing. Ms. Savage explained that the Housing First Alternatives could provide a \$16,000 savings per individual per year. These figures are real costs associated with services averaged between the eight participants.

Ms. McAtee reminded the Council that the bylaws will be reviewed at the next meeting, and those with term expirations need to turn in applications for reappointment.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: July 10, 2017