



## MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2017

### IN ATTENDANCE:

**Voting Members Present:** Anna Saverud, Carol Townsend, Chelsey Pengra, Chelsey Voegele, Commissioner Joe Skinner, Lori Reynolds, Nancy Filbin, Susan Gregory, Tom Peluso, Tonya Horn, and Deborah McAtee

**Advocacy Members present:** Rick Gale, Edward Sypinski, Katy Fritz, Ken Bell, Molly Basta, and Sarah Webb

**Staff:** Sarah Gracey

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**Introductions:** Ms. Pengra introduced herself and informed the Council of her background as the Law Enforcement Representative.

**Announcements:** Jan Bjork has resigned from the LAC, and the board vacancy is being advertised in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle.

- Ken Bell reported that AMDD is waiting for a new budget; they are currently on a hiring freeze and travel restriction.
- Tom Peluso stated that the CSAA Annual Congress will be held in Helena on May 13<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 3pm. There is \$3,000 in funds to distribute at the end of June for a possible mini grant, and will be responding to project requests.

### Public Comment:

- Rick Gale spoke about a press release for Veterans of America. Veterans with Other Than Honorable Discharges will now have access to VA mental health services. Mr. Gale handed out announcements for the Bitter Pill art exhibition to showcase artwork sharing personal stories and views regarding prescription drug abuse, addiction, and recovery which will be held at the Bozeman Elks Lodge from March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Mr. Peluso announced that NAMI-Bozeman and Gallatin Mental Health Center are offering a 10-week course in A.C.E. (Adverse Childhood Experiences). Mr. Sypinski and Mr. Gale are both trained in ACEs. Mr. Peluso will email the information about this course.

**Approval of Minutes February 13, 2017:** Nancy Filbin made a motion to approve the February 13th meeting minutes as presented. Carol Townsend seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports:** The Mini-grants Committee has roughly \$2,000 in grant funds to distribute. A meeting will be held to discuss increasing the size of the grants, and will change the website information as needed.

Tonya Horn is looking for members for the Homeless and Mental Health Committee. Contact her if you are interested.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Update Other Resources:** Mr. Peluso corrected the contact information for NAMI to the state website. Rick Gale suggested adding the Vietnam Veterans of America Southwest Montana. Other suggested additions were the Warm Line and southwestmtpostpartem.com

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Horn reported on the high population of homeless with mental illness, and gave examples of resources for those in need. Maggie Sizemore passed out a packet of information and reviewed key findings in the HRDC Community Needs Assessment Survey. A follow-up meeting will be held in May. Ms. Horn spoke on the Point in Time Survey, which is a snapshot of homelessness in communities across the nation on one night (January 26, 2017). She gave an update of the Warming Center's seasonal dates of operation, and the involvement of GGHAC (Greater Gallatin Homeless Action Coalition) with local families and individual emergency housing needs. Exit plans are being developed with residents to determine future housing plans. Surveys were conducted to gather statistics of the number of emergency room visits among homeless. Housing is the key to keeping these numbers low.

Mr. Peluso suggested having the report sent to the Central Service Area Authority. Mr. Gale suggested printing a place mat for the Community Café with all mental health resources available.

Ms. Gregory is working with the local Salvation Army office to address hygiene and behavioral issues with the homeless who arrive at the Public Library from the Warming Center. The Salvation Army offers a daily breakfast as well as job training with year round shelter.

Mr. Sypinski reported the months of March and April see an increase in suicide due to lack of housing.

**Next Meeting: April 3, 2017**