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Lewis and Clark County

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The LAC distributed the funds to the local Drop In Center, Our Place. Our Place, until recently, has not been a recipient of the DPHHS Recovery Funds. Our Places' operations have ran on a shoe string and the staff work hard to garner donated monies to enhance the operational support that Lewis and Clark County provides. These funds were used specifically for the provision of a community fundraiser, a community garage sale and items for members (coffee, activities and arts).

The two fundraisers provided staff and community members with an opportunity to "get to know" the Drop In Center as well as what the service offers (e.g. groups, linkage, advocacy and support). Both of these fundraisers ended up adding additional monies to the Our Place Foundation account. This account is accessed to pay for items that are over and above the normal operational expenses (e.g. arts and crafts, food, coffee, outings and rug cleaning services).

If the LAC were to receive funds again this year we would consider distributing those funds across three services or operations: the Crisis response Team, Journey Home, our new crisis stabilization center and/or the Drop In Center. All of these programs are underfunded and in need of fiscal support.

The Lewis and Clark met 12 times this past year. We have 21 board member and average 18 board participants a meeting. We are proud of the commitment shown to the LAC meetings by both board members and community stakeholders.

Our three top priorities have been:

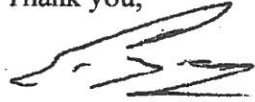
- Continues Crisis Response Team sustainability and support,
- Sustainability and development of the Drop In Center, Our Place, and
- The development and opening of a crisis stabilization center with secured bed access..

Our top three challenges are:

- Funding;
- Sustainable and consistent State support for programming determined to be essential to the community;
- Consumer representation on the Board.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity the funds have given us to enhance and support our Drop In Center.

Thank you,



Eric Bryson, CAO
Lewis & Clark County

Cc: Jodi Daly – Western Montana Mental Health
Lewis and Clark County LAC