

# Cascade County Mental Health Local Advisory Council Minutes



Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
Zoom Virtual meeting  
3:00 pm -5:00 pm



**Members Present** Jennifer Whitfield, Shawn Matsko, Greg Tilton, Josh Harris, Susie McIntyre, Ginny Carnes, Linda Daggett, Amanda Walker

**Guests Present** Bert Sanders- Deputy Sheriff and Crisis Intervention Co-Facilitator at the County, recommended by Josh Harris to serve on the LAC in his place.

**Call to Order** The meeting was called order by Jennifer Whitfield, Chair, at 3:04 PM. Both Bert and Amanda were especially welcomed.

**Approval of the Minutes from January 2021** The January 4, 2021 Minutes were approved as presented.

**Finance Report from January 2021** Shawn Matsko presented the Financial Report. There were no expenditures this month so the balance stands at \$7,251.67.

**New Business** Jennifer Whitfield

**No Commissioner Appointed** A Commissioner to replace Jane Weber has not yet been appointed by the County Commission.

## New Committee Members

- It was ascertained that Amanda Walker has received approval as a new member for the LAC. She fills the Provider position. Amanda is in private practice, but works with many community mental health services, varied clients.
- Bert Sanders will be presented to the County Commission for approval and is Josh's recommendation to replace him. Josh is bowing out as he has other pressing priorities at this time.
- There is still an opening for Benefis representative on the LAC.

**Executive Committee Meeting** Jennifer reported that she has not been able to convene the Executive Committee as of yet, but will get that done presently with more to report at the next meeting.

## Strategic Plan

- The Executive Committee will revisit the Plan and report at the next meeting with recommendations.
- Jennifer reported there is progress on one aspect of the Plan- the Resource Guide. It has been reformatted and updated, ready to print. Printing costs are covered by the \$4,000 grant received earlier aside from our regular budget.

### Montana Peer Support Network Website Request

- The MT Peer Network has requested a link to our website on their website in order to share information.
- Jennifer will research the current status of our website and Facebook page.
- *Ginny made a motion to link our website on the Montana Peer Network site and John seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

## **Representative Reports**

### Crisis Services

Crisis Steering Committee/Crisis Response Team Jennifer presented the Data Report for the Cascade County Crisis Response Team.

- There were 11 calls during January 2021
- 64% were diverted from the ER, 90% diverted from jail for an overall rate of 59% overall since inception.
- It was noted that the CRT is accomplishing what it was designed for, diverting the mentally ill from both jail and the ER.

Crisis Intervention Training Josh deferred to Robert (Bert) Sanders for the report since he works more closely with the Crisis Response Team.

- The Sheriff's office CRT Academy is being held in March. Ginny will be one of the presenters. There are 11 officers so far that have signed up with the promise of more.
- 50% of the training slots are reserved for law enforcement including County and the City Police expressing interest. Once they meet the 50% threshold, the other slots can be given to others interested.
- Bert will send information about the training information to Susie (the Library Association has expressed interest in this type of training), and Greg.

Suicide Prevention Committee Greg Tilton reported.

- Several key members of the Committee are interested in re-convening the group via Zoom after an hiatus due to the pandemic.
- Progress made by the Committee was noted: "Silos" that existed previously are lessened now; there is better collective action.
- Shawn expressed concern about the possibility of increased suicides due to the continued pandemic. Perhaps Facebook might be an avenue as part of the Strategic Plan.
- John noted that Peter Tyler from Great Falls Emergency Services is working with the Center for Mental Health, Alluvion, and law enforcement to avert suicides locally.

### CSAA report

- Ginny encouraged LAC members to be on the Central Service Area Authority (CSAA). People need to apply to the Board to be members, but meetings are open to the public.
- Greg: The CSAA is meeting virtually and are considering morning meetings and/or weekly meetings rather than monthly.
- Jennifer: It is a good chance to meet LACs from other counties and includes State representatives and Ombudsmen.

**Community Reports/Announcements from Board Members**

Library Susie

- Susie is working with Peter Tyler from Great Falls Emergency Services regularly.
- There is a \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for COVID-related projects/expenses and encouraged members to investigate if their group qualifies.

Center for Mental Health Jennifer reported they are working on developing the Integrative Care/medical side of behavioral health treatment.

Amanda Amanda suggested several mental health community people that may be interested in LAC and willing to participate either as members or regular attenders. She will follow up with a few.

**Public Comment** There was no public comment.

**Adjourn** The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM by Jennifer Whitfield, Chair. Next meeting March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

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Jennifer Whitfield, Chair

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Date