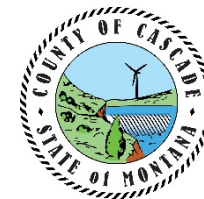




Cascade County Mental Health Local Advisory Council Minutes



Monday, March 6th, 2023
Zoom Virtual meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88465507144?pwd=L1pCL2g2OEVvSzZlCM1M2Qkp2b1ZiQT09>

1:30-3:00pm

Return to: Linda Daggett 415 6th Ave. S. Great Falls, MT 59405

Members Present Jennifer Whitfield, Shawn Matsko, Ginny Carnes, Randy Lynes, Susie McIntyre, Linda Daggett, Greg Tilton, Commissioner Rae Grulkowski

Guests Present None

Call to Order The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Whitfield, Chair, at 1:30 PM.

Public Comment There was no public comment.

Minutes and Finance Report from February 2023 The Minutes and Finance report were approved. One minor correction to the Minutes was noted. Jennifer provided a brief explanation of reading the Budget Report. The Budget report details how the budgeted items are being spent, but does not give an accounting of how much there is left in the total account. Jennifer will contact the financial officer to get that information going forward.

New Business

Board Membership: Jennifer reported:

- Alluvion- Cassidy Bloomgren has submitted her application to the County Commission, but Commissioner Grulkowski has not seen it yet. Jennifer will send an email to both to find out where that is.
- Legal – An application has not been submitted yet. Cassidy was going to follow up with the County Attorney's office.
- Benefis – Kevin is still interested in being on the Council, but has not yet attended. Jennifer will re-contact him.
- Provider - Megan Farmer fills this position, but has not regularly attended.

Mini-Grants: Jennifer reported:

- Jennifer has received 2 applications for our \$1,000 mini-grants. She has sent the submitted applications to the Council members, one from United Way and one from Partners for Prevention.
- United Way is proposing a *Self Care and Zen Den* at Paris Gibson Education Center and Great Falls High. This is a student- led project facilitated by Marla Houser, Youth Leadership and Success Community Coordinator who has been hired by UW and GFPS as outgrowth of fostering student ownership roles in responding to their own wellness and that of their peers
- Partners for Prevention and Community Collaborations for Health and Wellness -No more Violence Week are proposing wellness activities hosted by experts in their fields as part of No More Violence Week. These activities would be art, journaling, yoga, mindfulness, music and is part of the intentional focus on the need to address emotional and behavioral needs beyond a single week of events.
- Each proposal was read in its entirety and there was some discussion and questions.
- Motion: Randy made a motion to approve both applications and Ginny seconded the motion. Motion passed. Susie McIntyre abstained.

Continued Business

Strategic Plan – Jennifer reported that it continues to be a work in progress.

Work Group Update - Randy reported that Ginny and Greg met with him to find some pertinent websites that could be linked on the LAC part of the County Website. Randy emailed them to Jennifer and she will pass them to the County Webmaster for their approval. The recommendation from the Work Group is to post the NAMI website and other supportive organizations on our website as well.

Website/Facebook – Jennifer and Ginny are working on getting access to Facebook page and Jennifer being added to administrator. She and Ginny will continue to work on access and posting. When operational, Susie suggested they post local activities such as No More Violence Week.

Representative Reports

North Central MT – Crisis Intervention Collaborative (NCMT-CIC) In Captain Schaffer and Cassidy Bloomgren's absence, there was no report.

Central Service Area Authority (CSAA) Report - Jennifer reported:

- They met and considered the budget. There are no major changes to the budget this year.
- There was a presentation from Elizabeth Campoy and Lacey Conzelman on individual placement and support for employees with mental health issues. Part of the presentation was about autistic individuals and their barriers to employment. Jennifer will send the power point. This is not in our area yet.
- Hallie Holly reported on the State opioid situation.
- The county and city are receiving part of an opioid settlement. Commissioner Grulkowski reported that the County did receive this funding and will be meeting soon on planning for this.
- Jen has been forwarding the legislative updates. A Request for Proposal (RFP) is out for assistance with a first psychotic episode and no one has picked that up yet.
- There is a workforce shortage in the field right now, and the workforce cannot devote the time needed to apply for grants.
- Empath units (ER for behavioral health) have limited staff.
- Crisis stabilization is in crisis in Montana right now mainly due to the rate of reimbursement. The rate does not cover the cost of service.
- Guidelines did provide a rate study, but the State decreased the rate of reimbursement at the last legislative session.
- They are now poised to approve a rate increase.

MT Peer Network Report - Ginny reported:

- Family Peer support is gaining ground.
- MT Peer Support is advocating for a tiered system of credentialing and licensing for Peers.
- Ginny has resigned as an officer.

Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC) Report - Jennifer reported:

- BHAC is, on the statewide level, an advisory group that gives recommendations to the State, especially the legislature. This is much how the LACs fit that role on the local level.
- The BHAC right now is recommending attention to the State-wide Crisis Stabilization situation.
- Western Montana Mental Health is closing 3 crisis facilities and Jennifer is writing a letter of recommendation to the state calling for their attention to the current crisis stabilization crisis. The system is falling apart.
- Jim Haney resigned from the BHAC after the last meeting.

Healthy Lives/Vibrant Futures- Susie had nothing to report at this time.

National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) - Randy reported:

- Family to Family Class starts March 14th.
- NAMI-con, a week of webcasts on a wide range of topics, is being planned.

North Central Independent Living (NCILS)/Library/Provider Project – Susie reported

- The project is successfully serving the purpose of crisis intervention at the Library. James and Josh do not provide therapy or counseling, but do assist those in crisis get to the resources they need and divert them from the ER or jail.
- The city has approved that a levy can be voted on June 6th. This will determine if this project is able to continue.
- The levy is essential to the library being able to fully function as a strong community resource.

Community Reports/Announcements from Board Members

No reports.

Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM by Jennifer Whitfield, Chair. Next meeting April 3rd, 2023 @ 1:30-3:00PM via Zoom.

Jennifer Whitfield, Chair

Date