



# Cascade County Mental Health Local Advisory Council Minutes



Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
Zoom Virtual meeting

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

1:30-3:00pm

Send to: Linda Daggett 415 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. S, Great Falls 59405

**Members Present** Jennifer Whitfield, Randy Lynes, Shawn Matsko, Capt. John Schafer, Susie McIntyre, Tom Osborn, Capt. Landon Kotesky, Ginny Carnes, Commissioner Rae Grulkowsky, Greg Tilton, Linda Daggett

**Guests Present** Phoebe Marcinek

**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Whitfield at 1:34 PM. Welcome and introductions were made.

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

**Minutes from April 2023** Motion to approve the April Minutes as made by Randy and seconded by Susie. Minutes were approved as presented.

**Finance Report from March & April 2023 (pending)** Jennifer reported that the Finance Report is unavailable from the County. The Finance Office Manager, Bonnie, has been out but is returning this month.

## **New Business**

**Board Membership:** Jennifer reported

- Alluvion – Cassidy Blomgren has submitted her application, but it has not yet been approved at the County Commission.
- Legal – Phoebe Marcinek from the County Attorney’s Office is planning to submit her application.
- Provider- Jennifer did contact Megan Farmer via email to ask if she was still interested , but there was no response. Jennifer will post the vacancy on the Great Falls Counselor Association website.
- Greg suggested we include rural youth (FFA Future Farmers of America) or someone from the college. Jen will reach out to public schools youth groups re: interest.
- Including different positions on the Council would require a Bylaws change. Jennifer will revisit that possibility.

**Mini-Grants: are in process (update)** Jennifer notified the applicants of the delay in receiving the funding for the Grants due to Bonnie being out of the office at the County.

**Application to CSAA for more funds**

- Greg made a Jennifer is prepared to submit a grant application to the Central Service Area Authority (CSAA) requesting \$12,000. Greg made a motion to submit the application for \$12,000 to CSAA and Randy seconded the motion. Motion passed. Jennifer will submit it this week.
- It was suggested we do the Mini-Grants quarterly.

Lifestyles Montana Magazine Articles Greg reported:

- Greg met with Hope Good of Lifestyles Magazine and she offered to do a series of articles (August, September October) about how LACs and the statewide network are working in Montana. They have a writer if we provide the framework.
- Council members were asked to submit ideas to Jennifer for the article and setting focus. Randy and Greg meet to work on getting the framework submitted.
- The goal of these articles is information and recruitment.

**Continued Business**

Strategic Plan – Continues to be a work in progress, Jennifer keeps on agenda as reference to goals.

- Behavioral Health First Aid- Under her report, Susie asked if we could support Behavioral Health First Aid and the consensus of the Council was it was a good idea and fit our goals. There is a Behavioral Health First Aid trainer at Many Rivers.

Work Group Update Randy, Ginny, Greg reported that the focus is on additional membership and participation. They are working to post information on the County website.

Website/Facebook

- Jennifer reported that she and Ginny worked on getting control of the Facebook page and they were unable to. They are meeting with Jane Wilson to refresh the page and propose it at the June meeting.
- Randy reminded that the links to mental health resources that were proposed are not yet on the website and requested that be done soon.

**Representative Reports**

North Central MT – Crisis Intervention Collaborative (NCMT-CIC) Captain Schaffer reported.

- Mobile Response Team is averaging 2 calls a day, seeing more activity downtown.
- Mental Health Court now has 2 people, one is in 2<sup>nd</sup> week and another just returned from the Montana Chemical Dependency Center (MCDC).

Central Service Area Authority CSAA Report Greg reported:

- They had excellent presentations on the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) and Rocky Boy Healing Circle.
- They are planning a 2023 Youth Conference, discussed youth diversity in CSAA.
- Have been looking at legislative bills as they are going through.
- There will be a State Summit in Lewistown in September.

MT Peer Network Report Ginny reported:

- The Recovery Conference is May 9<sup>th</sup> in Helena.
- Ginny encouraged reading the book Healthy Minds Healthy Bodies, a book Jim Haney is recommending. She has extra copies if interested.
- Ginny sits on the Peer Network Board as a provider, not as LAC representative.

Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC) Report Jennifer reported:

- The report is regularly provided in email to the Council.
- Planning to bring together the Western, Central, and Eastern SAA this summer and want to host an annual get-together.
- Looking to work on WRAP Training.
- They are nominating new officers, seated in July.

Healthy Lives/Vibrant Futures Susie reported:

- They met last week, are working on the goal of Access to Care, getting more new mothers referred to behavioral health.
- Working with the Chamber of Commerce to recruit more providers from the Universities and Colleges. Our community is short on providers to meet the need.
- There is a pilot plan with Great Falls schools to screen and identify at-risk youth who need a hand-off plan transitioning from high school to community. If this works, it will be expanded to outlying areas.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Randy reported:

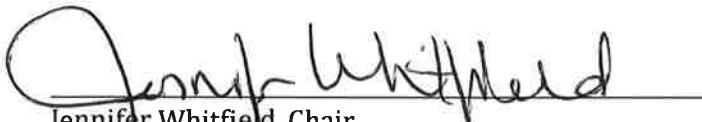
- They are winding up the Family to Family class.
- Following a student suicide of a fellow student, 2 girls at CMR High did follow-up with support to peers by starting *The Home Project*. Facebook likes point to the success of the project. They may request mini-grant funding for their project.


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

- James is continuing to provide support to both patrons and staff at the Library.
- The levy would provide permanent funding for this position but there has been some push-back from the community.
- There has been an uptick in behaviors at the Library, but not as much as last Spring.

Community Reports/Announcements from Board Members No reports.

Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 2:50. Next meeting June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 1:30-3:00PM via Zoom.

  
Jennifer Whitfield, Chair

  
Date