

# Cascade County Mental Health Local Advisory Council Minutes



Monday, November 1, 2021  
Zoom Virtual meeting  
1:30-3:00 p.m.

Return to: L. Daggett 415 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Great Falls MT 59405

**Members Present** Jennifer Whitfield, Captain John Schaffer, Shawn Matsko, Ginny Carnes, Susie McIntyre, Greg Tilton, Commissioner Don Ryan, Linda Daggett, Tom Osborn, Dusti Zimmer, Randy Lynes

**Members Absent** Amanda Walker, Kevin Evenson, Capt. Scott Van Dyken

**Approval of the Minutes from September 2021** The October meeting minutes were approved.

**Finance Report from September 2021** Our LAC received a check from Central Service Area authority (CSAA) grant process in the amount of \$3,200. The brings our balance to \$10,451.67.

## **New Business**

Review Board Composition/New Members-

Welcome Randy Lynes (family/consumer) and Dusti Zimmer (Alluvion representative) were approved by the Count Commission and welcomed as members.

Pending Legal Representative Joseph Cik has not submitted his application yet, so the legal position is still pending.

Executive Committee Elections Jennifer reported that the By-laws call for 1-year terms for officers and terms expired in July. There were extraordinary circumstances due to the sudden resignation of our former Chairwoman and the COVID pandemic this year. All officers are willing to continue to serve: Jennifer as Chair, Captain Schaffer as Vice Chair, Shawn as Secretary/Treasurer (Linda assisting). Dusti made a motion to move forward with the current Executive Committee even though it is not congruent with the By-laws, and to revisit this in June and July of 2022. Shawn seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Suicide Prevention Community Event Jennifer shared that Karl Rosston, State Suicide Prevention Coordinator, is available to come to Great Falls in 2022. She called for suggestions for what he could focus on. The Library is willing to provide venue in September.

- Greg suggested focusing on how to better connect community partners. Tom suggested inviting Matt Furlong from CSAA as part of this.
- Having a panel was suggested.
- Susie suggested we have a daytime session for providers and evening for consumers and community.
- Since it is election time, we could have candidates share views on support of behavioral health initiatives.
- Ginny suggested we reach out to outlying communities to include them.
- Jennifer encouraged members to email her with further suggestions.

## **Continued Business**

Strategic Plan- Jennifer reported that the response to her email request to prioritize goals showed that goal #1 Convene and Collaborate was overall the choice. Action Steps we have completed a) Resource Guide, b) Hosting informational sessions and c) Review Community Needs Assessment (CHNA), and i) including a separate behavioral health needs assessment. Susie will take our most current priorities to the next Health Lives, Vibrant Futures for alignment with other community stakeholders.

- As follow up to these Steps: Susie reported that the Healthy Lives Vibrant Futures is holding a symposium in January and requested our LAC contribute information.
- Randy is working on an expanded resource guide for NAMI (National Alliance for Mentally Ill) modeled on one from Missoula giving more comprehensive information. He will share with Jennifer when he gets more details about this.
- Susie suggested that a QR code on the resource guides and any other paper information with a link to the website or Facebook page is helpful to many users.
- Jennifer can reprint the Resource Guide as needed and will collaborate with Captain Schaffer and Commissioner Ryan to get QR code and connect to websites. More distribution sites were discussed including schools and outlying area schools.

Prioritizing further Action Steps:

- Step d) *Identify stakeholders providing resources and services* is being done by Alluvion through the Charter Project – NCMT-CIC (North Central Montana – Crisis Intervention Collaborative). We receive monthly information from the NCMT-CIC and the LAC is open to assisting with that however we can.
- Step e) *Collaborate with stakeholder to ensure gaps are identified, covered and reduction of overlap.* Susie noted that there is a gap in ability to get people into care and she requested we go on record as confirming that this is a gap in service.

Website/Facebook:

Website Jennifer will get updates to Commissioner Ryan for the County website.

Facebook

- Jennifer reported that Amanda Walker confirmed with Vernon Bishop that he does not have administrative rights to the page. It may be advisable to start over with the Page, but it was agreed that Facebook presence is important.
- Greg shared that some have difficulty using technology to access crisis services and this is concerning. Locally, Captain Schaffer reported, the 911 dispatch center routes emergency call and they are working on mental health calls work in the routing system.

## **Representative Reports**

Crisis Intervention Charter Project-

Mobile Response Team

- Dusti reported that there is halt on the data piece workgroup. It has been challenging to report data in a meaningful way to the varied partners and clients. They are going back to partners and patients with questions.
- They continue to be busy doing both day and night calls. The goal is to hire two full-time clinicians for continuity.
- As partners they have three external providers but having more is especially important.
- They plan to bring on Peer Support Specialists in year 2.
- Susie inquired about whether the unhoused are included in the data. Dusti explained that data goes somewhere else.
- Dusti is working on plans to include Voices of Hope. It was suggested that this inclusion was important.

Mental Health Court Captain Schaffer reported:

- Mental Health Court is up and running with a maximum of eight, they have 3-4 in the pipeline.
- Any provider or agency can apply if they know of individuals who could use this service.
- There were 24 Mobile Response Team calls last month.
- They are getting a Mental Health Care Coordinator through grant.
- The goal of the Court is to get a treatment plan going for someone at the misdemeanor level to avert a more serious crime.

No other reports provided. Meeting time ran out. Jennifer requested reports via email by Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, for the minutes.

NAMI Randy reported:

- Just wrapping up or 8 week Family to Family class
- Also working on a Resource Guide that will be more directed to the individual or the individual's family when they encounter a Mental Crisis. It will have the resources available for them in Cascade County and a brief description of what that resource offers.
- Awarded a grant from NAMI Montana that was part of a grant awarded to them by the Department of Addictive and Mental Health Disorders on the Federal level. We are currently looking into getting our own office/meeting space.

Suicide Prevention Team Greg reported:

- Has not recently held a Zoom meeting. As past chairman I continue to network with Steve Lynch, most recent chair person, and to network with Joining Community Forces, the Vet Center, Vets for Vets, University of Providence, Fishers of Men, and several other past committee attendees.
- While no recent meetings of the Committee proper have occurred, the Committee has created outreach and network whose members all include Suicide Prevention and Wellness Development as part of their goals.
- Much of the group has developed or net worked into other organizations.
- Reconvening of members is expected to take place with this quarter and to consider how we work going forward.

Central Services Area Authority Greg reported:

- Subcommittee continues to meet each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. with eyes on gathering and developing more participants from counties within our service area.
- Monthly congress occurs last Friday of the month 10am-12pm.
- Most recently grants focusing on innovation as offered by Columbia University have been discussed and considered.
- Growing interest is developing on improving communication with other counties and Helena. It is hoped that increased effectiveness of the Central Services Area Authority will work to shape improvement of mental health outcomes within all counties included in the CSAA.

No other reports provided via email follow-up.

**Community Reports/Announcements:**

Dusti thanked the Council for election to serve and is looking forward to getting caught up to speed on the current workings of the CCMHLAC.

**Call for Adjournment** Since our meeting time was at an end, Jennifer requested the remaining reports be submitted to her and Linda so they can be included in the minutes. It was suggested that we either lengthen the meeting time or be available for an interim meeting to progress on the Strategic Plan. Jennifer will poll the group to see if that is feasible. It was also suggested we adopt a Consent Agenda format to expedite the agenda each time.

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

**Adjourn** The meeting was adjourned by Jennifer Whitfield, Chair, at 3:00 pm.

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Jennifer Whitfield, Chair

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Date