



# Cascade County Mental Health Local Advisory Council Minutes



**Monday, February 7, 2022**  
**Zoom Virtual meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86265196743?pwd=Z3dyRU9qY29ZeG5jWXZZNDV4V09jZz09>

**1:30-3:00pm**

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

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

**Guests Present** Lea Wetzel- Montana Peer Support Network, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women  
Hanna Van Every- GFPD Occupational Therapy student

**Meeting Convened** Jennifer Whitfield, Chair convened the meeting at 1:35 PM

**Public Comment** Jennifer, Chair, called for any public comment; there was none.

**Minutes from January 2022 Meeting** The minutes were approved as emailed.

**Finance Report from January 2022** There is a balance of \$10,451.67. Jennifer reported that the January report had a mistaken deposit of \$500 and she notified Mary Embleton, County Finance Dept, and it will be removed, and February financials will be updated.

## **New Business**

**Mini-Grant Form Discussion**- Jennifer presented a draft Mini-Grant application and called for comment. It is to be distributed to local community partners to apply for LAC funding of projects supporting mental health. The Council had the following suggestions:

- The grants could be a set amount like \$500 or a larger sum for longer-term projects. (Examples could be books, school mental health project), or larger, longer term project.
- Set up some criteria for awarding grants based on our mission and strategic plan. Resource for this could be CSAA mini-grant application.
- Include a scoring tool to determine standard for eligibility.
- Jennifer will revise the form, send it to the Council members for further comment, and give it to Commissioner Ryan to take to the County Commission for approval.
- The Council agreed that the mini-grant was an effective way to get both the money and out name out.

## **NAMI Resource Guide**

- Randy supplied copies of the Guide from Missoula via email. He is still adapting it to our community and looking at providing digital copy as well.
- Susie suggested he contact Jackie and Voices of Hope for the 211 number information.

## **Continued Business**

**Strategic Plan** Jennifer had provided list of goals via email and the Council reviewed. The top goals to address: 1) Convene and Collaborate 2) Sustainability 3) Communication and Marketing

- As part of goal 1, Tom announced a new \$103,000 federal Health and Human Services grant from the Administration on Community Living through North Central Independent Living (NCILS).
- The grant aims to expand public health workforce and sunsets in 2024.
- The funds can be contracted out to community organizations impacted by COVID-19 and mental health issues. The Library would qualify since COVID has big mental health impact on clientele.
- Shawn made a motion to allow the LAC to back Tom (NCILS) to sign an Assurance to apply for the grant. Capt. Schaffer seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Assurance needs to be signed by February 11<sup>th</sup> and the grant awarded in March.
- As part of goal 1 and 2, Randy requested the LAC collaborate with NAMI to recruit volunteers and participate in the NAMI walk in the fall. The LAC agreed to be supportive of this and asked Randy to send information that could be distributed on various email list serves and through each organization to expand the reach of NAMI in our community.

Website - Jennifer has not submitted to the County administrator of the LAC website, Bonnie Fogerty, to update and review the website. She asked for support and requested Susie's assistance. Susie agreed to help.

Facebook - Kevin Evensen was not in attendance, so no report on progress on potential providers of maintenance.

### **Representative Reports**

North Central MT - Crisis Intervention Collaborative (NCMT-CIC) Dusti reported:

- There has been pause on CIC progress due to the COVID impacts on Alluvion.
- They are working toward reviving weekly staffing for community youth. Staffing would include those involved in care of a youth (i.e., Detention Center, counselors, school).
- The purpose would be to develop the most effective/appropriate course of action and level of care for each youth on individual basis.
- CIT training is being set for April.

Mobile Response Team- Captain Schaffer reported they are working on streamlining dispatch calls to develop the proper response strategy; when and if to send law enforcement, counselor, or just talk.

Mental Health Court- Capt. Schaffer reported the individual in court is doing very well and they are in line for new candidates.

Suicide Prevention Committee- No report

CSAA - Jennifer reported:

- She is now a voting member of Central Service Area Authority (CSAA) Board and of the Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC).
- CSAA is planning for Congress in the fall, how to best support the State Hospital, Mental Health First Aid classes, and the mini-grant process.
- Jennifer will forward the minutes to the Council.

MT Peer Network Report- Ginny reported with input from Lea:

- There have been a few uncertified Peer Supporters working in the State prison and this was referred to the Board.
- The Family Committee, Vets Committee, and Justice Committee are working.
- There is a criminal justice training in March
- Trauma-informed workshop is being planned to include all interested parties, not just Peers. Cultural proficiency training is in March/April.

- Peer 101 training is offered every 6 weeks.
- Workforce Training is 100 hours of apprenticeship for those readying to enter the workplace.

BHAC Report- Jennifer reported:

- Met last week, finalized the membership structure and members voted in.
- The role of the Council is to get information and recommendations to the State legislative body.
- The Council is open to all, not just members, contact Jennifer if interested.

Healthy Lives/Vibrant Futures- Susie and Dusti reported:

- The symposium went very well and Dusti encouraged members to get link. It highlighted useful resources.
- Dusti will send link to Jennifer to distribute to the Council.

National Association for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) - Randy reported that the Family and Friends class is cancelled for the Spring.

### **Community Reports/Announcements from Board Members**

Ginny- Encouraged the members to contact Lea with any questions about Indigenous information or activities.

Center for Mental Health - Jennifer reported that there are not major changes at the Center.

**Adjourn** The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 PM by Jennifer Whitfield. Next meeting March 7<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00-2:30PM via Zoom.

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Jennifer Whitfield, Chair

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Date