

Cascade County Mental Health Local Advisory Council Agenda



Monday, March 1st, 2021
Zoom Virtual meeting
1:30-3:00pm



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

Members Present: Jennifer Whitfield, Shawn Matsko, Don Ryan, John Schaffer, Greg Tilton, Tom Osborn, Trista Besich, Susie McIntyre, Ginny Carnes, Amanda Walker, Linda Daggett, and Kevin Evenson

Guests Presenters: Jo-Viviane Jones and Rachel Doran with City-County Health Department

Presentation: CONNECT Referral System: Rachel Doran from the CONNECT referral system explained the system and gave updates. It is a web-based system of local, regional, and state behavioral health providers who use this system to refer and track clients to needed community resources and are able to follow up with those referrals. There are 268 agencies statewide who are participating, 61 local agencies in Cascade County. Before the system was set up there was a 14% success rate with clients getting to the needed resource and currently there is a 75% success rate. CCHD is working to engage more providers all the time and Rachel encouraged anyone interested to contact her to sign up.

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

Approval of the Minutes from February 2021: The February 1st meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Finance Report from February 2021: Shawn reviewed the report as emailed to members. There are no changes from last month with a \$7,251.67 balance.

New Business:

Welcome New Council Members- Jennifer announced the new Council members who have been approved by the County Commission. Robert (Bert) Sanders (Sheriff's Office), Don Ryan (Commissioner), Amanda Walker (Provider), and Kevin Evenson (Benefis Director of Operations). They were welcomed to the Council.

Resignation- Gayle Snyder (Peer) has submitted her resignation. She is unable to fulfill her duties at this time. Jennifer will confer with Ginny and Amanda for possible candidates to fill this vacancy.

Continued Business:

Executive Committee Meeting- Jennifer, John, and Linda met on February 24th via Zoom to revisit progress on the Strategic Plan.

Strategic Plan- The Executive Committee looked at Goal One: Convene and Collaborate

- **The Community Resource Guide** has been updated by Center for Mental Health employees and is being readied for print. The cost is covered by a \$4,000 County-Tribal grant and will be completed soon.
- **Informational Sessions at the meetings:** The Council is continuing to bring in community presenters to keep members informed of resources. Jennifer urged anyone who has requests for presenters to contact her.

- Review Community and State Need Assessments: It was suggested this be part of our informational sessions so the Council can synchronize with their efforts.

Montana Peer Support Network Website Request- The status of the website was discussed:

- Amanda talked to Vernon Bishop, who has administered the website in the past, and he is willing to administer it for \$500 a year. Susie suggested we consider making that a renewable annual contract.
- It was suggested in the executive Committee that we explore the possibility of having the County media person handle the website and Facebook page. Don will discuss it with the appropriate County personnel and report back.
- Susie reminded that, since we are connected with a government entity, we may have archiving requirements and other requirements.
- John suggested it will be necessary to have eyes on the website more frequently and for Facebook a more consistent presence to stay relative.
- As soon as the website is functional, we will get connected with MT Peer Network.

Representative Reports:

Crisis Services:

Crisis Steering Committee/Crisis Response Team- Jennifer reviewed the CRT report as emailed to members.

- Since inception, 93% using CRT have been diverted from jail and 64% diverted from the ER.
- There were at least 13 served in February.
- Amanda re-affirmed the importance of the CRT for behavioral health providers and clients.

Crisis Intervention Training-

- John reported it is happening today at the fair grounds and is a big class. 50% of attendees are law enforcement, fire/rescue, first responders. Others are varied community entities.
- Ginny was one of the presenters this morning.

Suicide Prevention Committee- Greg reported.

- There was no meeting this month, but the committee continues to work.
- They are working toward a comprehensive crisis plan for Great Falls.
- They are partnering with the University and NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill).

CSAA (Central Service Area Authority) report-

- Greg reported the recent meeting on Zoom was well-attended and there was discussion about helping smaller communities to develop/recruit LACs and community coalitions.
- Zoe Bernard gave a progress report on the State efforts for suicide prevention.
- Greg is attending brief weekly Tuesday meetings with key members of CSAA and this has been working to keep the group more active.
- Jennifer reported that Shawn Winters, who is Residential Service Line Director for Center for Mental Health recently joined and attends the CSAA meetings.
- Ginny announced that she has resigned from the CSAA because she has been very busy with work. She was thanked for her service.

Community Reports/Announcements from Board Members:

Don- Invited the members to visit with him about any questions they have as a County Commissioner and to get to know each other.

Jennifer-

- The Center for Mental Health has received a \$4,000,000 SAMHSA expansion grant for development into a Certified Behavioral Health Clinic. This funding is for the next 2 years, enabling them to expand services in Great Falls and the region.
- They are establishing MACT (Montana Assertive Community Treatment) in the northern rural counties of their region which is a rural PACT model of service delivery. This model allows the treatment team to be more rural-focused and mobile in order to serve rural Montana more effectively.

Susie-

- Trista Besich from Alluvion will be doing a presentation on local behavioral health crisis intervention for the City Commission Tuesday March 2nd at 530pm. This presentation will be available on the city website also.
- The Library may be interested in our local behavioral health resources for patrons at the library with mental illness without the involvement of CRT services. Jennifer will visit more with Susie about this.

John-

- Recent statistics show that local police officers responded to 919 welfare checks for suicide, 534 calls involving mental health issues, and 139 CRT connections. This averages 4 ½ mental health related calls each day. These calls often take more time to resolve.
- Jennifer is researching options for doing crisis assessments while an individual is under the influence so as to support first responders with the possibility of not going to the ER or jail and will share that with John.

Amanda-

- Gateway has a drop-in center and resources to reach out in a crisis.
- Gateway also has a 24/7 crisis number, 406-799-5911, to support those looking for support with addictions.

Public Comment

Adjourn: Adjourned at 2:33 by Jennifer Whitfield. Next meeting April 5th, 2021 1:30-3:00PM

Jennifer Whitfield, Chair

Date