

Cascade County Mental Health Local Advisory Council

Minutes

Monday, April 5, 2021
Zoom Virtual meeting
1:30-3:00 pm



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

Members Present Jennifer Whitfield, Shawn Matsko, Linda Daggett, John Schaffer, Susie McIntyre, Don Ryan, Tom Osborn, Ginny Carnes, Greg Tilton, Trista Besich

Guests Present Lacey Hallett, United Way

Call to Order Whitfield Jennifer, Chair, began the meeting at 1:34.

Presentation of Community Health Improvement Plan Lacey Hallett presented the Plan, re-branded and led by the *Healthy Lives Vibrant Futures* committee and tasked with prioritizing community health initiatives determined as a result of surveying the community it serves.

2020 Priorities are 1) Access to healthcare, 2) Substance Misuse, 3) Healthy Weight, 4) Child abuse and neglect.

Substance Abuse Prevention Alliance (SAPA) is the longest standing committee and the 2nd priority. They are focusing on drug-endangered children and collaborate with the Child Abuse Prevention Taskforce. They are undertaking local and policy environmental strategies and their current emphasis is on marijuana and youth use and flavored tobacco. Alcohol use remains another priority.

Access to Healthcare is the first priority. It included access to urgent care, dental care, mental health care. The priority emphasis is on tracking data and sharing where appropriate, with goal of making intentional decisions about what will have the greatest impacts.

Healthy Weight is the 3rd priority. Get Fit Great Falls encourages active lifestyles by organized community initiatives, collaborating with Hands and Park Pals, neighborhood walkability, nutrition and food choices at grocery stores, recipe sharing. Overall it creates an organized effort to engage people in activity and healthy food choices.

Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Task Force undertakes the 4th priority. Community education includes public service announcements, Community Baby Shower, Yours, Mine, Ours. Legislative advocacy is in the planning stage with an eye on policy change through education, community advocacy trainings. They have a supportive relationship with law enforcement, collaborate to give support for drug endangered children, work with probation and parole, re-entry from incarceration, and have a strong pediatric relationship to assist parents with better parenting.

Lacey gave some history of the Community Health Improvement Plan and how it has progressed since first rolled out in 2011-2012. It has been led by United Way since 2018. This year the survey is almost finished and the data will be captured in preparation for symposium in January, 2022. A work plan will then be written. This is done every 3 years.

Our LAC is encouraged to latch into the Access to Care group meetings which are once a quarter. Jennifer and Lacey will discuss how the LAC can contribute to work on the Resource Guide and be part of the Access to Care part of the Plan. Susie offered to also be involved with this part of the Plan.

Presentation of Crisis Intervention Charter Project Trista Besich presented this project. It is signing on with community stakeholders to make a single crisis project with goals of built-in and streamlined crisis interventions such ER diversion, jail diversion, decreased recidivism, more available treatment. Some community entities involved are health services, treatment courts, law enforcement, first responders, providers.

The project is based on successful programs in the region and nationally. Trista attended a training in Gallatin County a year ago and is using that as a framework for the Project.

They are forming a Board to direct the project in order create a formal plan with goals and objectives, evaluation, and work groups. After that, Work Groups will be formed. Work Group 1 will create plans for services, crisis care. Work Group 2 with work on funding. Work Group 3 will work on data collection, data sharing, statistics, diagnosing and generating reports.

Main coordinated impact of the Project:

Jail diversion: Decreased stay in jail for those with mental illness, have available mental health providers to coordinate care and reintegration.

Mobile response: Decreased arrest of those with mental illness though use of response teams made up of licensed behavioral health providers working toward care coordination, parole and probation that is more community-based.

Mental Health Court: Involving behavioral health personnel, municipal court, city attorney, and law enforcement.

Data Analytics: Effective and useful data shared across agencies with goal to share with community.

Timeline: The Work Groups will be meeting April to make request for the matching County grant. This formalizes the plan as a community-care based model as used in other cities. Other funding will come from the community and stakeholders.

Questions from the group:

Greg asked about how the project addressed the frequency of suicides and if it would include the outlying areas. Trista felt it would be 18 months before the data would be available to address suicide frequency. Outlying areas will be included. Greg suggested that a National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) member might be on a Work Group.

Don asked about funding sources for the project, if they would be fully relying on the County grant or working with other government partners and if the timetable allows for planning first before the roll-out. Trista is working with the medical community, independent providers, Montana Healthcare Foundation, fire/rescue, regional health department. The timetable does allow for planning before the roll-out.

Susie asked how the response to a crisis call is supposed to work. Trista answered that there will be a uniform protocol for calls that are agreed upon by the stakeholders. It should not always be law enforcement.

Jennifer has been talking with Trista to hand over the data collection report for the Crisis Response Team. There will be a report and feedback about the Project at each LAC meeting and be on the agenda.

Approval of the Minutes from March 2021 The minutes of the March 1, 2021 meeting were approved.

Finance Report from March 2021 Shawn presented the financial report. There were no deposits or expenditures since last month with a balance of \$3045.00.

New Business

LAC Representative to Healthy Lives Vibrant Futures- Greg made a motion to appoint 2

representatives to the Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures group and Ginny seconded the motion. Motion passed. It was the consensus of the group to appoint the individuals at the next meeting. Susie offered to be considered for the appointment.

Continued Business

Strategic Plan No report. This will be placed on next month's agenda.

Website/Facebook-

- Don reported that he did check to see if the County social media person would be able to run the website and Facebook page. They declined to do that.
- The option of hiring a service to run them was discussed. Susie commented on the need to have constant attention to a Facebook page and website.

Representative Reports

Crisis Services:

Crisis Steering Committee/Crisis Response Team- Jennifer reported that she will be doing the next CRT data report, but following that, it will be done through the Crisis Intervention Carter Project headed by Trista.

Crisis Intervention Training- Jennifer reported the Crisis Intervention Training held last month was highly successful. Thirty-one people were trained including law enforcement, first responders, and interested community members.

Suicide Prevention Committee- No report.

CSAA Report- Greg reported:

- He has been attending the Central Service Area Authority (CSAA) Tuesday Zoom meetings.
- They are primarily working on the State's addressing of suicide prevention and building community coalition in smaller counties.
- Jennifer reported that the PACT and MACT to serve rural areas is underway.

BHAC Report/MT Peer Network Report- In the interest of time at this meeting, Ginny will report in more detail at the next meeting. They are working on a Peer Network conference.

Community Reports/Announcements from Board Members

North Central Independent Living Service (NCILS)- Tom reported the State legislature is still working on the Serious Disabling Mental Illness (SDMI) waiver.

Center for Mental Health- Jennifer reported:

- They are opening a medical clinic next week and it is the first onsite medical clinic.
- The Center will be open for meetings next month. The group consensus was to hold our May meeting at the Center with Zoom access as well. John will lead the meeting in Jennifer's absence as she will be attending a national meeting.

Public Comment No comments.

Adjourn The meeting was adjourned by Jennifer Whitfield, Chair, at 3:35.

Next meeting May 3rd, 2021 at 1:30-3:00PM in person at Center for Mental Health.

Jennifer Whitfield, Chair

Date