



Cascade County Mental Health Local Advisory Council Minutes



Monday, October 2nd, 2023
Zoom Virtual Meeting Information

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89879483851?pwd=S3R0dGNINGhoWlduR1B2VUMvYU5xQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 7948 3851 Passcode: 994937

[or Many Rivers Whole Health @ 915 1st Ave South, Great Falls, 4th Floor Boardroom](#)

1:30-3:00pm

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

Members Present:

In person: Jennifer Whitfield, Georgia Hansen, Phoebe Marcinek, Shawn Matsko, Randy Lynes, Ginny Carnes, Susie McIntyre, Martin NoRunner

Zoom: Capt. John Schaffer, Commissioner Rae Grulkowski, Linda Daggett, Cassidy Bloomgren, Landon Koteskey, Greg Tilton, and Kevin Evenson

Guests - No guests present.

Public Comment Jennifer called for public comment and there was none. Since he was leaving the meeting early, Greg announced that there was no progress with Montana Lifestyles Magazine, but they do have a meeting today.

Minutes from September 2023 The Minutes were reviewed as emailed.

Finance Report from September 2023 Jennifer reported there is no Finance Report changes as of yet.

Motion Approval of Minutes The Minutes were approved as presented.

New Business

Martin NoRunner Application The application was accepted, and Martin will be an At-Large member, not filling a seat designated by the Bylaws but being a regular attender/contributor. Abigail Hill is planning to join in November, and Brett Morris in January.

Lifestyles Montana Magazine Articles Greg- no further report.

Central Service Area Authority (CSAA) Summit Greg reported. He attended Sept 28th and 29th.

- There was a report from Native American Country where smaller communities are pulling together. The LACs have a major part in that.
- A presentation on school-based assessments emphasized the importance of early interventions as the most effective tool for suicide prevention.
- Character Strong, a program most effective in the Junior-High age group, was presented.
- The Hope Squad is a suicide prevention program for teens by teens.
- The Vision for Montana included 2 speakers on the formation of community coalitions in smaller communities, including recruitment for the LACs.
- Jennifer announced that the taped Summit is available for viewing and she will send it out via email.

Submission of CSAA Mini-Grant Funds

- Jennifer reported that she will apply for a \$2400 grant to the CSAA .
- Susie inquired about consultant to the County and the designation of Mental Health Levy funds. Rae Grulkowski states they have not been allocated.
- Rae is planning a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Many Rivers Whole Health, Sydney Blair.
- It was consensus of the group that our LAC would be a good group to advise on spending the funds.

Continued Business

Strategic Plan The plan is on-going.

Work Group Update

- Ginny reported they are working on rural access to give out mental health information through volunteer fire departments in the County, Extension Agents, and the Bookmobile.
- They will reach out to Alliance for Youth.

Website/Facebook -

- Jennifer and Ginny did not meet, but they are still waiting to hear from the County Website Manager before they can make changes.
- Georgia thought KRTV would do a story on the LAC and post on Facebook. Jen requested the email address to get this ball rolling.

Representative Reports

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

- As of September 21st, they have had to reduce hours of the Crisis Response Team from 24/7 to 7AM-6PM Monday through Friday.
- Alluvion did not receive the Crisis Diversion Grant, so they are unable to maintain the Mobile Response Team at its current level.
- The Medicaid reimbursement for crisis services from the State has not been coming through and is backlogged, so they cannot maintain services.
- Capt. Schaffer advised that the Crisis Response Team is a “must-have,” and the Police Dept. will try for more sustainable funding streams.
- Cassidy cited the reason this is happening is the State is understaffed, there are fundamental changes, and computer system failures.

MH Court Capt. Schaffer reported there are no changes, there is one active participant.

CSAA Report Greg reported earlier as the SAA Summit was the recent focus of the CSAA.

MT Peer Network Report Ginny attended the MPN Annual Conference, and it went well. She shared some notable moments with the Council.

Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC) Report Jennifer reported they did not meet.

Healthy Lives/Vibrant Futures Susie reported they have not met, but they have received some funding from the United Way to continue work on training.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Randy reported they had the annual Mental Health Awareness fundraiser walk in Helena, but have delayed the Family to Family group by one week.

NCILS/Library/Provider Project Susie reported they are continuing with the paid mental health worker, and it is working out well. The Library park and front plaza have had problems due to unhoused people. Many of them have a mental health component to their behavior. A Task Force has been formed to advise the Library on workable solutions to this problem.

Community Reports/Announcements from Board Members

Adjourn Next meeting November 6th, 2023@ 1:30-3:00PM via MRWH Boardroom and Zoom.



Jennifer Whitfield, Chair

11-6-23
Date

