

# Cascade County Mental Health Local Advisory Council Minutes



Monday, October 4, 2021  
Zoom Virtual meeting  
1:30-3:00pm

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, Captain Scott Van Dyken, Greg Tilton, Commissioner Don Ryan, and Kevin Evensen

**Guests Present** Randy Lynes

**Members Absent** Linda Daggett and Tom Osborn

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

**Finance Report from September 2021** Shawn presented the report as emailed to the members. There were no changes and stands at \$7,251.67. Jennifer was notified by Matt Furlong at Central Service Area Authority (CSAA) that our LAC will be receiving a check again this year from their grant process.

## **New Business**

**Review Board Composition/New Members-** In the application process currently are: Randy Lynes (family/consumer), Dusti Zimmer (Alluvion representative) and Joseph Cik (legal). Commissioner Ryan will work to have them on the October agenda for review and approval. Greg has discussed briefly with Steve Lynch for veteran representation but has not heard back. Jennifer has outreached to the school districts outside of Great Falls and has not heard back either.

Shawn queried about school mask mandates. Jennifer explained currently Great Falls Public School protocols.

## **Continued Business**

**Strategic Plan-** Due to illness, Jennifer did not get out to the board members a review of the remaining strategic goals. She will do so and request a vote for top 3 areas to address in time for Susie to take our most current priorities to the next Health Lives, Vibrant Futures for alignment with other community stakeholders.

**Website/Facebook:** Commissioner Ryan suggesting sending all website updates to Bonnie Fogerty so as to forward onto the County's IT department for update. Jennifer will do so with all the additional updates to agendas, minutes, and strategic plan as well. Kevin is working with Downtown Great Falls to gain more information regarding management of social media. Jennifer will reach out to Amanda to see if the past Facebook administrator still has the login and password so that can be transferred to someone new.

## **Representative Reports**

**Crisis Intervention Charter Project-** Captain Schaffer reported that Mobile Response Team (MRT) calls are up. Representation at MH Court is good for both the staffings at 12pm and court that follows. He believes Alluvion is preparing a quarterly data report.

**Suicide Prevention Committee-** Greg reported the group has not met during the summer, but there is interest in continuing the group. In speaking with Steve Lynch, Greg is under the understanding the Suicide Prevention Committee and Joining Community Forces will become one group under the direction of Angela Jukala, MSU-CPT Nursing Supervisor. Greg did inquire with Captain VanDyken about packets or kits provided to those in behavioral health crisis when law enforcement responds. Captain VanDyken confirmed that occurs, but also took information from Greg to ensure access to all the most current resources.

Central Service Area Authority (CSAA) Report- Jennifer reported it was the Annual Congress. She reviewed the agenda, guest speakers and gave a brief overview of the day's discussions. Greg wondered if we didn't invite someone from the MT Association of Commissioners (MACo) to be a speaker for our LAC.

MT Peer Network Report- Ginny had no report for Montana Peer Network as Jim Hainy was away due to a family medical emergency.

Behavioral Health Oversight Committee- No report. Ginny is no longer on the committee and Jennifer will be joining in November.

Healthy Lives/Vibrant Futures- Meets a bit later on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer will send out the remaining Strategic Goals and have the Board provide feedback as to top 3 priorities to report back

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

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)- Randy reported the State Walk was a huge success on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Shared Family to Family support group times and shared that NAMI had a booth at the Stop the Stigma event at MSU-COT.

Ginny- Shared her participation and experience in the What Women Want Expo as part of the Center for Mental Health's service booth.

Susie- Shared the Library is happy to host events that support community meetings, behavioral health awareness, stop the stigma campaigns, suicide prevention, etc...

Captain Schaffer- Shared that the GFPD has applied for two major grants: \$250,000 for crisis services and \$500,000 for additional police officers. They have reviewed and are applying the principles of a Billings Community Impact Study that found when focused in on their high utilizers of behavioral health services that result in ER or jail placements, they had 93 within the city of Billings. Each person is estimated to cost the city \$111,000 annually and they are now working on a multi-pronged approach for effective management to support these individuals. Captain Schaffer said they would like to look at similar strategies for Great Falls and estimates we have approximately 70 individuals

Jennifer- Center for Mental Health is advancing the Gateway affiliation merger. They have hired a full-time their full CCBHC team, minus 1 care coordinator; however, have 2 internal applications to fill the slot. The Center has also chosen and signed a contract with what will be their new electronic health record and will start the implementation process for a more comprehensive record system.

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

**Adjourn** The meeting was adjourned at 2:37pm.

---

Jennifer Whitfield, Chair

---

Date