



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 14, 2023

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room and Via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members Present- Commissioner Brown, Andrea Lower, Erin Taylor, Lori Christenson, Melaney Swenson, Nicole Madden, Anthea George, Ryan Mattson, Eric Szemes, Susan Gregory, Tom Peluso

Non-Voting Members Present- Chad Berg, Ellie Martin, Rebecca Adams, Rick Gale, Bekki McLean, Sophia Fortunato, Ben Frentos

Voting Members Absent- I-Ho Pomeroy, Dezri Rochin, John Kudrna, Roper Green, Kelley Wathne, Yvonne Rudman

Guests- City Commissioner Jennifer Madgic, Kirsten Smith- Behavioral Health Coalition, Trey Feigle, Lori Reynolds- Central Service Area Authority, Christina Powell- Help Center

Staff- Mindy Karl

- **Call to Order-** Ryan Mattson, Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- **Roll Call-** Mindy Karl took attendance.
- **Approval of Minutes:** July 2023

Ryan Mattson approved the minutes as distributed.

- **Public Comment-** Rick Gale presented on MT 988 Project. Lori Reynolds shared registration is now open for Montana Service Area Authority Summit in-person event in Lewistown September 28 and 29.
- **Officer and Committee Reports**

Strategic Planning Committee- moved to New Business

Outreach Committee- moved to New Business

Membership Committee- moved to New Business

Accounting- Tom Peluso- no change since the last report.

- **New Business-**
 - **Bylaws Amendments**
 - Article One, Section 1; Article Two, Section 1; Article Two, Section 2: MHOAC to BHAC. Anthea moved to approve. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.

- Article Three, Section 1: Treatment Provider for Alcohol and Drug Addiction. **Anthea moved to approve. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.** The understanding is they have closed so this is changing the language. Commissioner Brown explained they are in the process of closing. August 31 is official closing date.
- Article Three, Section 1: Unless Serving as a Representative... This is adding language. **Anthea moved to approve. Lori seconded the motion. All in favor, say aye. Motion carried.**
- Article Three, Section 2: Members at Large. **Anthea moved to approve. Lori seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.** Lori asked for high level background. Anthea explained members at large can serve as long as they are contributing.
- Article Three, Section 3: Terms. **Anthea moved to approve. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.** Matt explained the terms were a little confusing. This is simplifying the process. Tom would like to see some basic statistics on who the voting members are when they are listed.
- Article Three, Section 4: Strike Section 4. **Anthea moved to approve. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Tom Peluso abstained. Motion carried.** The counting of the number of unexcused absences is no longer specifically 3. The idea is to move forward and create a collaborative Board.
- Article Three, Section 5: Vacancies. **Anthea moved to approve. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Tom Peluso abstained. Motion carried.**
- Article Five Title: Committee to Council. **Anthea moved to approve. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.**
- All LAC Members at Large Expire August 14, 2023 **CONTINUED**
- Re-election of New Members at Large Expire **CONTINUED**
 - Bekki McLean
 - Ben Frentsos
 - Chad Berg
 - Edward Szczypinski
 - Elizabeth Asserson
 - Ellie Martin *(not seeking re-election)
 - Justin Giese
 - Kim Hall
 - Lee Copenhagen
 - Paige Bichler

- Rebecca Adams
- Rick Gale
- Sophia Fortunato *(not seeking re-election)
- Other Membership Changes **CONTINUED**
 - Dezri Rochin
 - Kelley Wathne
 - Bozeman City Commission Appointee
- Gallatin Mental Health Center Campus Update- Christina Powell with Help Center shared- Just finished Buy/Sell with all agreements. Closing date is March 1, 2024. That gives them 7 months to raise the money to buy the campus. Western Montana Mental Health Center is slowly moving residents to other housing. There are no intentions of moving in prior to March 1. Part of the agreement has the wording that property can never NOT be used for mental health services. There are 10 units of affordable housing with wording it will always remain that way. The county has offered a conduit loan if the money is not raised by March 1.

Kirsten Smith suggested thinking about other helpful partnership ideas for this campus project.

Christina shared the operations of the facility will be HRDC, a pharmacy, child advocacy center, CHP, 988 and 211 services.

Eric asked if alcohol and drug services will be provided or offered at the new campus. Christina said they do not know at this time.
- Bozeman Health Emergency Detention Research- Nicole Madden with Bozeman Health. **CONTINUED**
- Gallatin Behavior Health Coalition Report and Strategic Plan. **CONTINUED**
- Announcements
 - NAMI Updates- Tom Peluso

Ellie Martin shared she will no longer be attending the MHLAC meetings because her roll for Greater Gallatin United Way has changed.
- Adjournment – Ryan Mattson adjourned the meeting, continuing some agenda items to next month's meeting.

Next Meeting: September 11, 2023

Erin Taylor, Board Chair