



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 11, 2023

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room and Via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Non-Voting Members Present- Chad Berg, Paige Bichler, Bekki McClean, Ben Frentsos

Voting Members Absent- Jennifer Madgic, Dezri Rochin, Andrea Lower, John Kudrna, Kelley Wathne, Yvonne Rudman,

Guests- Kirsten Smith, Kit Davis, Cola Rowley, Jamie Grabinski, Bryanna, Paul Everett

Staff- Mindy Karl

- **Call to Order-** Erin Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- **Roll Call-** Mindy Karl took attendance.
- **Approval of Minutes:** August 2023

Erin Taylor approved the minutes as distributed.

- **Public Comment-**
- **Officer and Committee Reports**

Strategic Planning Committee- The Committee has not gotten together; Nicole and Erin are co-chairs. Nothing to report.

Outreach Committee- This committee is on hold to find a replacement for Nicole because she has stepped up in too many other outreach projects.

Membership Committee- Updates have moved to Unfinished Business

Accounting- Tom Peluso reported no change since the last report. \$1857.

Unfinished Business-

- **All LAC Members at Large expired August 14, 2023**

Erin shared some feedback from those who were interested in remaining on the council.

- **Re-election or New Members at Large**

- Bekki McLean- Chief Prosecutor for City of Bozeman. All misdemeanors within city and MSU campus. Attends on behalf of the city. **Anthea moved**

to approve the re-election of Bekki McClean. Roper Green seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.

- Ben Frentsos- Director of Community Impact at Gallatin United Way. **Ryan Mattson moved to add Ben Frentsos as a new Member at Large. Susan Gregory seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.**
- Chad Berg- Director of special education and student health for BSD7. 15 years in the school district. **Eric Szemes moves to add Chad Berg as a new Member at Large. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.**

○ **Other Membership Changes**

- Dezri Rochin- Erin reached out when he first became chair. She has basically ghosted the council. He said we need to make it official and make it available for someone else. **Anthea George moved to end the term of Dezri Rochin, effective immediately. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.** **the new term will start at the appointment date** family/consumer member.
- Kelley Wathne- These are unique circumstances. We changed our bylaws to say PROVIDER of Alcohol and Drug Services. We need to remove this specific position of “Alcohol and Drug Services Provider”. **Anthea George moved to have Kelley Wathne removed from a voting member position effective immediately. Roper Green seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.** Anthea said they will actively be looking to fill that position.

- Bozeman Health Emergency Detention Research- Nicole Madden with Bozeman Health. (informational/research)- given the gap in emergency care within the community, Bozeman Health is looking to add 1 bed to be utilized for emergency detention, single occupancy. They are currently in the fact-finding stages.

Commissioner Brown added there is a new permanent CEO at Bozeman Health. They reaffirmed their commitment to build an inpatient unit at Bozeman Health, near the end of 2024. This is welcomed news for the county. Nicole said, as we increase the services within the community, the need for more services will continue to increase.

- **Adjournment – Erin Taylor adjourned the meeting, continuing some agenda items to next month’s meeting.**

Next Meeting: TBD

Erin Taylor, Board Chair