**Beaverhead County Mental Health Local Advisory Council**

June 8th from Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Tom Welch Meeting Room – County Treasurer’s Building

**Noon-Welcome and Introductions-**Establish Quorum

Members Present: Lynn Weltzien, Jerry Girard, Kim Martinell, Melainya Ryan, Rick

Hartz, and Katherine Buckley-Patton.

Members Absent: Beth Sullivan, Jenny Given, Tom Rice, Wallace Arney, and Jeanette Prodgers.

Others Present: Heidi Gjefle, Jennifer Malone, Connie Ternes-Daniels, Carol Kennedy, Lyn Ankelman, Frank Kluesner and Jamie Flynn.

Lynn thanked everyone for all of the extra time and effort LAC members and adjunct members are involved in since the different public resources were eliminated in early 2018. Everyone introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**of the May 10th, 2018 meeting

Lynn asked for any discussion on the minutes.

MOTION: Rick moved to approve the May 10th, 2018 minutes. Jerry seconded the motion. Motion passed with minutes approved.

**Announcements**

**WSAA Report** **and Legislative Priorities Request** – Rick

Legislative priorities from LAC for the Western Service Area Authority (WSAA) and discussion.

Rick explained a statewide WSAA “Congress” will meet June 26 and he plans to attend as the Beaverhead LAC representative. Lynn may be able to attend with him. The “Congress” asked each LAC to identify legislative priorities in preparation for the January 2019 Montana Legislative Session. The group discussed the recent mental health survey the Beaverhead LAC completed as a good foundation they could rely on to represent area gaps in mental health services. It includes: Lack of public assistance face to face services; need for more medication management oversight; greater awareness of available services, local, state, and regional; and the need for increased and sustainable mental health services’ funding. The survey asked LAC’s to describe what actions they’ve taken to address gaps in service. We will reference the extensive action plan developed in the May 9th Community Decision Making meeting since it reflects our efforts. A copy of the area mental health services’ providers will be sent to the WSAA since it answers the question regarding available adult mental health services and area providers. Finally the group identified the top three legislative priorities for our LAC.

They are:

1. Adequate and sustainable funding for community-based mental health services.
2. Create accessible community-based ASAM (American Society of Addictive Medication) levels of care in our community, up to and including Level 2.
3. Develop funding for quality mental health peer support systems. Same as NAMI.

Rick and Jamie will finalize the form and submit it to the WSAA.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Katherine updated the group on progress made since the May 9th Community Decision Meeting. A **resource/enrollment event** will take place July 11th, in coordination with the weekly Food Pantry distribution. The event is geared to assure all former WMMHC clients are ‘connected’ to an area primary care/behavioral health provider and is currently enrolled in healthcare benefits or other services for which they are eligible, e.g. SNAP. Area resource will provide one on one services at the Dillon Library in the afternoon and then at the Southwest Montana Community Health Center in the early evening. Area and regional resources providing outreach services include: Action, Inc.; Women’s Resource Center; SWMTCHC; Southwest Montana Aging and Disability Services, and others. Connie Ternes-Daniel said Action, Inc. will bring two staff including a former public assistance supervisor with 30 years experience. Jennifer (SWMTCHC) said Molly Molloy and others have developed a poster and are planning extensive outreach. She noted we already need to begin planning the next resource/enrollment event and identify if it could be held at BHHC. Flyer is attached. Katherine asked Lyn (WMMHC) if her organization would help with outreach to former WMMHC clients, e.g. sending former clients the outreach poster. Lyn said she would check with WMMHC management and get back with Katherine or Lynn.

Another action item from the May 9th meeting included establishing a LAC sponsored resource center in the former DOR offices (part of the County Treasurer’s building). Career Futures and Action, Inc. are working with the LAC in helping to offset costs for a part-time staff position for that office. Lynn and Heidi are taking the lead on that task.

Lynn and Katherine will meet Monday with the Beaverhead County Commissioners regarding a public letter writing campaign that asks for the return of an OPA worker at least once/week to Beaverhead County. Commissioners will review the letter addressed to both Governor Bullock and DPHHS Director Sheila Hogan that states the OPA loss was identified as a major gap in services for some of our county’s most vulnerable citizens. The OPA worker return was identified as a priority action item during the May 9th meeting and all agencies and community leaders in attendance said they would also write letters to the Governor and DPHHS supporting the return of the OPA services.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)**

Matt Kuntz is the executive director of NAMI Montana. He’s offered to come to the LAC and talk about the upcoming legislative session and establishing a NAMI group in southwest Montana. The group discussed having Matt come when there is a good turnout, however, summer attendance is often hit and miss. Katherine will ask Matt to the July LAC meeting and discuss what it takes to set up a local NAMI group and then ask him to return in early fall to work with our LAC on preparing for the upcoming legislative session in January 2019. Due to the Big Sky Behavioral Health Summit in September, the September LAC regular meeting may be cancelled.

**MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Last month a LAC member asked for the stigma associated with mental health illness in our community to be addressed. The group agreed the LAC has addressed mental health illness very proactively within the last couple years, and yet the reality is, stigma remains.

Prior to all the office closures in January 2018, some members of the LAC worked on a community education project/training for various local businesses and agencies designed to give baseline information on mental health illness. The goal to developing a “Resilient Oriented Community Champion” (ROCC) is to reduce stigma through community education, information on challenges associated with having a mental health diagnosis, options for responding in a crisis, etc. ROCC would offer various ‘certifications’ for completing different trainings, e.g. ACEs, QPR, Mental Health overview, etc. Jerry and Melainya referenced how increased education would specifically address stigma, reinforce growing resilience, and is in step with our county’s work to date on creating a trauma informed/trauma resistant community. Jerry said similar community classes were presented in different formats before but this ‘package’ of classes and ‘certification’ depending on number of classes completed and awareness raised, is a different approach.

Great Harvest selected the LAC’s grant application for ROCC funding for a November 2018 bake day. Unfortunately, the LAC put ROCC on hold when all energy was focused on responding to the public assistance closures in southwest Montana.

The group agreed it was time to focus again on the ROCC proposal. Jerry said he would work on a ROCC committee, along with Lynn, Heidi, Melainya, and Katherine and send out an invite for a planning meeting.

**DECISION MAKING MEETING**

Jerry wanted to make a special note to acknowledge Charise Lemelin, Kim, Heidi, Katherine, Lynn, and Dennis Mohatt for their work on the Community Decision Making meeting. He said it was a great success. The group wanted to meet quarterly and Dennis has offered to potentially come back and assist with that meeting in August.

**CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM TRAINING**

Sheriff Frank Kluesner encouraged the LAC to consider being a part of a crisis intervention team training. He said it would give the LAC a good base for working with and understanding people in crisis. He supports the Dillon Police Department, County Attorney, and hospital staff be involved in the 32 hour training. Frank agreed to take the lead on setting up the training, recruiting trainers, etc. Lyn Ankelman, WMMHC, agreed to assist. Frank will send out an email to all as he gets more information and identifies what type of volunteers are needed.

**VARIOUS DVDs AVAILABLE FOR LAC PREVIEW**

Bob DesJardins has a variety of DVDs, about 20 minutes long, that address a variety of different mental health conditions. Similar training is often used with law enforcement to give them a good but brief overview. Rick will work with Jerry to try and preview some of the offered DVDs and if they are appropriate for LAC usage. They may be appropriate as part of the ROCC training.

**ACTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ACE –** The Task Force is focusing on reinforcing the benefit of “Connections”. Mel asked if anyone ran across good material that focused on connections to please let her know. The ACE Task Force also received an Opioid grant of $5,000 which will fund ACE related public service announcements on the radio and in the Dillonite Daily. It will also fund various promotional downtown benches with ACE related information.

**SUMMIT PLANNING -** Jerry announced there are **already** 10 registrants for the summit.

**MISCELLANEOUS** - **Howard Gaines award** – Heidi, Kay Gaines, and Jenny met to talk about the awards process. Heidi will discuss inserts in the Dillonite Daily to recruit nominees for the award. Lynn plans to meet with the County Finance Office to review how LAC funds are categorized and tracked in order to allocate needed advertising dollars for the award. Heidi will host a table at the June 15th downtown block party that provides information on the award. The block party is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and Beaverhead Development Corporation.

**Kenny Bell** - Rick and Katherine talked about a draft letter from the LAC requesting DPHHS allow Kenny Bell to participate, at least by phone, in the monthly LAC meetings. Since the statewide budget cuts, Kenny is no longer able to participate in monthly meetings by phone or in person. The proposal suggests the LAC might assist with some of his travel expenses in order to allow him to participate. Katherine will rewrite the letter based on LAC comments.

**MONTHLY MEETING DAY REVIEW –** The LAC Bylaws lists the meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month. Recently the LAC discussed changing the date of the monthly meetings, if only for the summer. However, the bylaws, as they currently stand don’t allow that option.

Lynn discussed how different long term representatives have work or personal conflicts, regardless of what re-occurring date is picked. One date that works for one individual is impossible for another. Rick agreed there is likely no one date will work for all.

MOTION: Rick moved to keep the meetings on the 2nd Friday of the month.

Katherine seconded the motion.

During discussion on the meeting date, Carol Kennedy (BHHC) noted Jenny won’t be able to attend the LAC if meetings remain on Friday. She said the hospital would have a representative at the meeting but they would not necessarily have the knowledge and perspective Jenny can bring. The group acknowledged the bylaw mandate of having a hospital representative but understood the representative cannot always have a mental health expertise.

The LAC voted unanimously to keep the meetings on the 2nd Friday of the month.

Lynn will write a letter to Ken Westman, CEO, asking for a new BHHC representative to be a voting member on the LAC to represent the hospital.

Kim suggested the LAC consider a change to the bylaws and include a voting member who represents opioids. The group discussed that option and felt favorable about a change but subsequently discovered the bylaws can only be amended in February, per Article Seven – Amendment to the Bylaws. The suggestion was tabled for future discussion.

Lyn Ankelman (WMMHC) said their office is consistently getting calls from Beaverhead County but it is from potential new clients, and not prior patients. The LAC discussed that could reflect both potentially positive and negative. On an upbeat note, it means new patients are finding their way to access WMMHC services in Butte. On the flip side, it may mean prior WMMHC clients are no longer attempting to access services since WMMHC left Dillon. Lyn said WMMHC did ‘warm hand offs’ for all clients to new providers before leaving Dillon. LAC members were surprised to hear that information since it differed from prior information provided to the group.

Jennifer (SWMTCHC) and Carol (BHHC) will review the information their agencies received from WMMHC prior to their departure to help assure all former WMMHC are ‘connected.’

**2:00 p.m. Adjourn**

The next meeting will be on Friday, July 13th, 2018