**Beaverhead County Mental Health Local Advisory Council**

October 12th, 2018 from **Noon - 2:00 p.m.**

Tom Welch Meeting Room – County Treasurer’s Building

**Members Present:** ChairmanLynn Weltzien, Kim Martinell, Commissioner Tom Rice, Katherine Buckley-Patton, Melainya Ryan, and Vice Chairman Jerry Girard.

**Members Absent:** Beth Sullivan, Cynthia White, Rick Hartz and Wallace Arney.

**Others Present:** Butte Office of Public Assistance Field Manager Fred Sullivan, County Attorney Jed Fitch, Sheriff Frank Kluesner, Connie Ternes-Daniels (Action Inc), YMCA CEO Todd Rouse, Heidi Gjefle, Krista Maness, Representative Tom Welch, and Jamie Flynn.

**Noon- Mindfulness Moment/Welcome and Introductions** - Establish Quorum

Introductions of the group. A quorum was established.

**Approval of Minutes**of the August 10th, 2018 meeting.

Motion: Jerry moved to approve the minutes from the August meeting.

Tom Rice seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

**Budget and Board Member Report –** Lynn Weltzien – Appreciation of Members-At-Large

Lynn passed out budget handouts for the LAC and explained recent changes made (as of July 1, 2018) in tracking revenue and expenditures. Project codes are now assigned to the following: Summit; Operating, United Way Funds, Great Harvest Funds, Miscellaneous Funds, and Headwaters Funds. All future deposits and invoices will clearly identify where the funding originates and which account is debited for expenditures. All invoices will have a “Fund/Account/Object Code/Project Code”; while all revenue deposited is attached to a “Fund/Account/Project Code.” Identifying these budget details allows the LAC to better track which activity is supported by specific funds, e.g. Summit registration fee income is deposited into the Summit project code account. These updates better track the multiple but separate projects the LAC supports or sponsors each year. Lynn reminded the group the Beaverhead LAC does not receive any county funding and is completely self-sustaining. She applauded the work of all LAC members in finding grant dollars and donations to support the LAC’s extensive and varied work in the community. As of October 12, 2018, the Mental Health LAC cash budget has a balance of $25,894.16.

The LAC is composed of 11 voting members. Lynn thanked the significant number of non-voting “members at-large” for all their work. Five current LAC members have four-year terms ending in December 2018. They include Lynn, Jerry, Rick, Melainya, and Beth. Lynn asked these members to let her know if they wish to continue to serve another four years as a voting LAC representative. In December 2020, the following board member terms expire: Kim, Cynthia White, Katherine, Wallace, and Jennifer Malone.

**Western Service Area Authority (WSAA) Report-** Rick Hartz was unable to attend the recent meeting in Missoula. In September, WSAA leadership reached out to regional LACs asking if the group(s) wanted to take a public supporting “Montana Ballot Initiative 185, which Extends Medicaid Expansion and Increases Tobacco Taxes.” Lynn said the Beaverhead LAC did not take a stance since there wasn’t the opportunity to discuss the proposal with the full board. Other LACs did respond to the WSAA request and support I-185 passage.

**Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) –** Sheriff Kluesner reported the week-long (32 hours) class is still planned for Spring 2019 (March?) in Dillon. Kluesner said the class will rely on many area professionals to participate in planning and implementing the class. Local law enforcement officers and staff (County Sheriff and Dillon Police) are involved. Frank plans to designate an additional law enforcement representative to help oversee the program. Tentative plans are the training will occur on the University of Montana Western campus and final dates are forthcoming. Some training also occurs off-site, e.g. Warm Springs State Hospital, and possibly other locales.

**Guest** – Todd Rouse, CEO Southwest Montana Family YMCA

Todd provided a brief history of the YMCA in Dillon which opened in 2006. The YMCA hosts a broad range of adult and youth programs with a focus on good health for the individual and community. The YMCA is updating their strategic plan, focusing on building a family center to meet community needs, and support a focus on ‘one-stop health’ for the community. Todd said the YMCA wants to become more involved in mental health awareness, suicide prevention and reducing related risk factors. Lynn provided a brief overview of the Resilient Oriented Community curriculum. She invited the YMCA to adopt this community training series for staff and volunteers. ROCC allows community members and local businesses to develop skills and gain a greater understanding of some of the challenges and misconceptions surrounding mental health. The LAC agreed there is a benefit for one of our members to participate with the YMCA board and their Strategic Planning Committee. In like manner there is a benefit for a YMCA board member to participate regularly with the LAC. Todd agreed to invite an LAC representative to the next YMCA Strategic Planning meeting and will discuss with his board the potential of appointing/recruiting a YMCA representative to attend LAC meetings. All agreed fostering a stronger relationship between the two entities is a positive step for our community.

**Reports from Active Standing Committees**:

**SUMMIT PLANNING -** Jerry Girard

Jerry reported the second annual Big Sky Behavioral Health Summit in September 2018 was a success with 90 participants. Many first-time and returning attendees expressed support for the Summit since it is a quality and well run conference, hosts outstanding and relevant speakers, is reasonably priced, provides significant certification/renewal credits, and keeps attendees actively engaged. The planning committee will meet soon to review written evaluations, and incorporate relevant comments and suggestions into future planning. Based on final expenditures, the Summit made a $7,000 profit which is targeted for 2019 Summit expenses. Jerry thanked the Summit Planning Group for their hard work and well deserved success. Lynn reinforced the Summit reflects the LAC’s commitment to provide quality and affordable education to professionals providing mental health services in our community, county, and region.

**ROCC –** Resilient Oriented Community Curriculum/Champion

Lynn explained the LAC planned to launch the ROCC focus in early 2018. However, the unexpected closing of the four human service agencies (OPA, Job Service, WMMHC, SW Chemical Dependency) in January 2018 necessitated a change in priorities for the LAC due to the need to address those critical gaps in service.

It is time to focus on mental health training appropriate for the community at large, Lynn said, as a complement to the annual Summit’s focus on professional training. The ROCC’s goal is to provide the public/community with relevant and usable information, various tools, and insights in order to better understand mental health issues. The training series references a broad spectrum of information and ranges from suicide prevention and awareness (Question, Persuade, Refer) to Adverse Childhood Experiences, Mindfulness to Self-regulation techniques, Resilience to effective communication skills, among many other options.

Patagonia staff (thank you Beth Sullivan!) is the first business on board and has received two trainings associated with ROCC. Patagonia pays their staff to attend these trainings. Additional Patagonia training is set for the second week of November. The group discussed, but made no final decision, on options to begin outreach to other area businesses, agencies, or government entities which would benefit from ROCC training. Jerry will notify the ROCC planning committee of the next meeting.

**GREAT HARVEST BAKE DAY SALE to support the ROCC program**

Lynn reminded the group some LAC members wrote a grant last fall for Great Harvest Bake Day funds and was successful. The Bake Day event is November 14, 15, and 16. Lynn said the average funds raised averages $8,000 to $10,000! LAC volunteers are needed to assist during the three day event at Great Harvest to thank customers or assist them in getting their purchases to their cars; delivering lunch or bake items to different businesses around town; and advertising the bake sale days by putting up posters, coordinating publicity, etc. A volunteer sheet was passed around. Jamie Flynn volunteered to coordinate the volunteer list, reach out to LAC members to fill different slots, and remind folks of their volunteer commitments. Great Harvest will make advertising posters and provide inserts in the Dillonite Daily and the Dillon Tribune. But the LAC has the opportunity to do more advertising and promotion and by doing so, hopefully increase sales. Please contact Melainya, Beth, Kim, Katherine, or Jamie if you can help.

**DECISION MAKING MEETING and ACTIVITIES**

The work of this group continues to make a positive impact on our community with another major goal accomplished. Butte Silver Bow Public Assistance Field Manager Fred Sullivan announced effective October 24, 2018, and every Wednesday thereafter, his office will send a knowledgeable eligibility worker to Dillon each week to provide in-person services to those receiving or wishing to apply for public assistance benefits, e.g. Medicaid, Healthy Montana Kids, SNAP, etc. Dana Erickson is the OPA representative who will provide services in Dillon. Her office hours are from 8-5, with a lunch break from 12-1 p.m. No appointments are needed and clients are provided face to face services on a first-come, first-served basis. Dana will use the offices in the Resource Assistance Center (RAC) 205 E Center St. LAC members are encouraged to promote these services. The Dillon Tribune is expected to do a story about the OPA’s weekly return. Mr. Sullivan said the initial plan is to have a worker in Dillon for a full eight hour shift each week, but depending on utilization, an additional day may be added.

In January 2018, Dillon was one of 19 communities where the OPA office closed due to statewide legislative budget cuts in human services. The OPA worker’s weekly return to Dillon is a significant accomplishment and is due to the strong advocacy work of many LAC members, county officials, and state representatives.

**RESOURCE ASSISTANCE CENTER (RAC)**

Heidi reported RAC Resource Specialist Jewel Johnson is in the office 10 hours each week due to reduced grant funding. Her office hours are Monday through Wednesday, noon to 3:15 p.m. Previously the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant funds, coordinated through Action Inc., had sufficient funding for Jewel to work 20 hours/week. Per Action, Inc, they expect there may be increased funding options in 2019. Jewel assists individuals to access different human service websites, refers them to area and state resources as appropriate, and connects county residents to the public resources they need. The RAC brochure was distributed to the group. Please share the brochure with others and if additional copies are needed, contact Lynn, Heidi, or Katherine.

The County Commissioners and LAC representatives recently completed an agreement for the ongoing use of the RAC office space (owned by the county), oversight, and housekeeping details regarding keys, access, etc. Beaverhead County agreed to continue to provide the space, free of charge, through June 30, 2019. The RAC future will depend on human services’ funding decisions made in the 2019 Legislative Session. Reassessment will occur prior to the end of state fiscal year 2019 (SFY 2019 runs July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019). County Attorney Jed Fitch drafted the agreement and made updates per County Commissioners and LAC suggestions. All agencies sharing the RAC space will each sign the agreement with original copies retained by the County. In addition to the free office space, the County will pay for lights and heat. Currently the RAC agencies expected to sign the agreement include: Career Futures, Vocational Rehabilitation, Office of Public Assistance, the Beaverhead LAC, and Beaverhead Economic Development Corporation. Any new tenant will also sign the use agreement.

Other agencies expressing an interest in using the office space include Veterans’ representatives, Department of Labor, possibly Adult Protective Services, etc. Connie Ternes-Daniels will provide contact information for APS worker Derrick O’Brien who may help to get the word out about the OPA representative’s return to Dillon.

**ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACES) –** Melainya Ryan

The Task Force members continue to provide ACE trainings in the schools, at the hospital, in both Madison and Beaverhead Counties venues. Thanks to Partnership funding through Kim Martinell’s work, there are new ACES related benches and signs at the Community Park, on Center Street in front of the Dillon City Court, and on Idaho Street in front of the former IGA building. Melainya said the District #10 Elementary Superintendent Randy Shipman is fully invested in ACES training and outreach for staff, parents, and students. Mr. Shipman continues to look for funding to provide additional training to his K-8 staff in order to raise ACES awareness and expand resilient focused education approaches and programs.

**Other Business** –

**MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING TRAINING** – Jerry Girard

Former Barrett Hospital medical intern Cyrus Gilbert initially developed this proposed training series as part of his Dillon internship. Unfortunately, initial plans and commitments have fallen apart for a variety of reasons and Jerry reported there is now doubt whether this training will occur. The LAC initially pledged $500 in support of this training, however no funds will be issued until/unless the training is rescheduled and finalized. Jerry will stay in contact with BMH administration to determine if the training can occur and/or if other alternatives exist.

**PEER SUPPORT TRAINING -** Melainya

The Montana Peer Network is a statewide peer run non-profit recovery organization with a mission to lead the expansion and development of recovery-oriented behavioral health services in our state. Peer Support training is a comprehensive 40 hour training program which provides basic education and instruction around the most important elements of peer support work. The LAC supports our community finding individuals who would complete the training and provide services in Beaverhead County. The LAC is interested in offsetting costs for an individual(s) related to attending a training, e.g. travel, per diem, hotel. Wallace has indicated his interest but is unable to attend the training next week in Helena. The training is only appropriate for an individual who is in recovery from mental health, substance abuse, and/or addiction struggles for at least two years. The peer network is run by people in recovery. There is interest among the LAC members to find out about the option of providing the training within our community. Other communities have found grants to cover the expenses for trainees. Jerry volunteered his daughter may be interested. For more information, contact Melainya.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) -** Katherine

Katherine discussed establishing a local NAMI chapter in Dillon with state NAMI Director Matt Kuntz. He recommended waiting until 2019 due to a number of expected changes in new chapter guidance. Matt offered to come to Dillon to visit about the upcoming legislative session and the need for LAC involvement. Katherine is working to find a date.

**RETURN FOCUS TO INTEGRATIVE HEALTHCARE –** Lynn

In 2015, the LAC received a grant from the Montana Healthcare Foundation to survey our community and identify our progress in providing community based integrative behavioral health care. In February 2016, community leaders and behavioral health proponents participated in a two day summit identifying the steps needed to achieve that overarching goal. National Council of Behavioral Health staff facilitated the meeting. Since then, many LAC related activities and accomplishments sprang from those initial meetings.

Lynn discussed the importance of “reconnecting” with the initial focus of integrative healthcare so all primary healthcare providers (physical and behavioral) proactively work together to provide seamless services to area residents. In order to achieve the goal of integrative healthcare, it is important to share a common vision among all healthcare providers, Barrett Hospital and Healthcare (BHHC), Southwest Community Health Center, the LAC, and our community and county.

Lynn will follow up with BHHC to see if they were successful in securing a grant targeting integrative healthcare. Expect integrative healthcare to remain a LAC focus in the coming year.

**BEAVERHEAD LAC WEBSITE –** Lynn

Lynn will work with Sadie Caltrider to make updates to the LAC website: <http://beaverheadcounty.org/departments/mental-health-local-advisory-committee/>

The LAC needs to decide the status of some inactive task forces and whether their work is complete and/or if renewed participation is needed. In preparation for future discussion in 2019, Lynn asked LAC members to review their priorities for the LAC and identify how we can support current task forces,

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Be the Change 406 Coalition Project Coordinator Kim Martinell encouraged the group to find more ways to promote the Resource Assistance Center, e.g. business cards with the RAC phone number, promotional flyers with RAC phone number pull tabs, etc. Lynn will work with Jewel on developing new outreach materials. LAC members were again encouraged to take RAC brochures and distribute them. Kim will help distribute new outreach materials.

Beaverhead County Attorney Jed Fitch discussed the extensive involvement his office has with residents with mental health related issues, the time involved in mental health commitments, and the critical need for more effective aftercare. He said too often individuals are in revolving door situations where a crisis necessitates intervention, a temporary ‘fix’ addresses the crisis but doesn’t provide long-term support or lasting results, another crisis occurs, and the cycle begins again. He encouraged the LAC to find ways to establish more long-term, effective approaches in addressing mental health issues in our county.

Action, Inc representative Connie Ternes-Daniels said her agency will host an information/enrollment event for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) at Vigilante Electric on October 22. She distributed LIEAP brochures to the group.

**ADJOURN** – The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

**The next meeting will be Friday, December 14, 2018**