**Beaverhead County Mental Health Local Advisory Council**

March 8, 2019 from **Noon - 2:00 p.m.**

Tom Welch Meeting Room – County Treasurer’s Building

**Members Present:** Chairman Jerry Girard, Co-chair Heidi Gjefle, Callie Triller, Molly Molloy (representing Jennifer Malone, SWMTCHC), Wallace Arney, Commissioner Tom Rice, Kit Davis (BHHC), Kim Martinell, Melainya Ryan, and Katherine Buckley-Patton.

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Malone, Jamie Flynn

**Other Present:** Jeanette Prodgers, MT State Representative Tom Welch, BSB Field ManagerFred Sullivan, Beaverhead County Sheriff’s Deputy Bill Knox, SWMTCHC Brie Hall, Kathy Contway, and County Health Director Sue Hansen.

**Introductions -**Establish Quorum.

With 10 voting members present, a quorum was established.

All present introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**of the February 8, 2019 meeting.

**MOTION**: Katherine moved to approve the minutes. Molly seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

**WSAA Report-** No report since a WSAA representative was not present.

**Reports from Active Standing Committees**:

**Big Sky Behavioral Health Summit** – Jerry

The Summit is October 3-4, 2019. Confirmed speakers include: Ijeoma Achara, PhD, “Resilient Oriented Systems of Care”; Kevin Briggs, Guardian of the Golden Gate, as keynote luncheon speaker; Mark Schure, PhD and Bill Bryan, PhD, “Computerized Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – THRIVE”; Judith Grisel, PhD, “What Neuroscience Tells Us About Addiction”; and Mt Suicide Prevention Coordinator Karl Rosston, “Caring for Patients with Suicide Risk.” Katherine is finalizing other speakers and hopes to have all confirmed by the next Summit Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 3rd at noon on the second floor of the Lucy Carson Library.

**Adverse Childhood Experiences Task Force (ACES)** – Melainya

Task Force members continue to regularly present on ACES, Resilience, Mindfulness, and other related trauma informed topics throughout the community. Upcoming ACES presentations include Crisis Intervention Team and Barrett Hospital nursing staff. Outreach has occurred to rural schools and more is planned. ACES is co-sponsoring the documentary film “**SCREENAGERS**” March 20th at 6 p.m. on UMW campus. Melainya announced the ACES Task Force is collaborating with Montana State University’s Benjamin Oosterhoff, PhD and his team from the Positive Youth Development Lab. Positive youth development builds on young people’s strengths and recognizes their unique contributions. The focus of the positive youth development approach is to help youth acquire the knowledge and skills they need to become healthy and productive adults. Dr. Oosterhoff’s team brings many resources to our county, including targeted presentations for youth and community, working collaboratively with the Be the Change 406 Coalition, creating a web site for the ACES Task Force, and developing online tools to use in rural settings (Screenagers’ evaluation survey, trauma screening, etc.). She expressed how lucky we are to have Dr. Oosterhoff and his team’s commitment to Beaverhead County.

**Other Business**

**PEER SUPPORT**  – Jerry

Jerry reported on the UM Western School of Outreach Program Coordinator Beth Wharton bringing Peer Support training to Dillon. Molly Molloy said there might be grant funds available for peer support training through a collaboration between MSU and the state Area Health Education Center (AHEC). There are tentative plans to bring a training to Butte in fall 2019. Peer Support training is a comprehensive 40-hour training program designed to provide basic education and instruction around the most important elements of peer support work. There is an upcoming 40 hour/week long Peer Support training in Havre, and a possibility of training in southwest Montana (Butte?) in fall 2019. *UPDATE: Molly checked and the “online” training through UM Western does not meet statewide certification criteria. AHEC funds are not available for the UMW*

*School of Outreach training.*

**MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING** – Jerry

The LAC previously committed to help sponsor a Motivational Interviewing training in Dillon, however, those plans were scrapped when presenters, funding, and coordination collapsed. Jerry said the training is important so he continued to look for options. Mike Frost, LCPC/LAC, Director of the University of Montana Health Center has agreed to provide a two-day “Motivational Interviewing” course in Dillon in June 2019. Funding is needed to offset the nearly $2,000 related training costs.

Molly Molloy will research if AHEC could potentially help offset some of the related training costs. There was discussion to potentially charge attendees a fee, e.g. $25/person, to also help offset costs. Jerry and others spoke highly of the benefits of motivational interviewing. Jerry said he would reach out to Barrett Hospital and Healthcare to see if they could help offset related costs of bringing the training to Dillon. He asked for LAC support.

**MOTION**: Heidi made a motion for the LAC to support the Motivational Interviewing training and provide financial support, depending on other financial sources. Katherine seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Jerry will report back at the next meeting on more details as they become available.

**EVERY BRILLIANT THING** – Jerry shared information about “Every Brilliant Thing”, a suicide prevention program developed by Helena’s GrandStreet Theatre and made possible by a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana. The two-person tour will travel the state between June 5th and August 2nd. It is scheduled to be in Dillon on June 20th. The LAC discussed helping to support and promote the presentation but took no action.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** – Katherine

Katherine provided an overview of legislative pending before the session as the mid-break occurred. She asked Rep. Welch to give an overview of legislative action to date. Some of the most important legislation pending are two Medicaid Expansion bills. Currently, Medicaid Expansion is set to end (sunset) as of June 30, 2019 unless the Legislature passes a bill that will continue providing the benefits to low income adults in the state. Currently nearly 100,000 Montanans are covered under Medicaid, including about 800 Beaverhead County residents. Nearly half of those local residents received either mental health or substance use disorder services. The two Medicaid Expansion bills include one by Rep. Mary Caferro, HB425 which would make the program permanent without any significant changes. Another option is HB 658 by Representative Ed Buttrey which makes the expansion permanent but includes additional reporting requirements, resource assessments, monthly premiums, etc. Both Katherine and Representative Welch encouraged LAC members to voice their support or opposition to different bills before the Legislature. They encouraged members to use phone, email, and text as different avenues to contact area legislators, Representative Welch and Senator Jeff Welborn. Representative Welch encouraged comments to reflect what the passage or failure of a bill means to the individual. “Tell me what it means to you,” he said.

Individuals can check the status of bills, time and place of hearings, and other legislative related information at: [**www.leg.mt.gov**](http://www.leg.mt.gov/)**.**

**RESOURCE ASSISTANCE CENTER –** Heidi

The Resource Assistance Center (RAC) has steady attendance by local consumers, though winter road conditions prevented the Butte Silver Bow OPA office from having a supervisor in Dillon for the last couple of weeks. Regional Public Assistance Field Manager Fred Sullivan said office visits from February through March ranged from a low of three consumers to as high as 16 residents coming in. Pat Scott is the new RAC assistant. She is out of the office for most of March, but returns in early April. She will be in the office consistently each Wednesday to assist consumers with referrals and online applications.

**RESILIENCE ORIENTED COMMUNITY CURRICULUM –** Callie

The committee is working to finalize the different components for the five baseline trainings by June 1. They include: Local mental health resources; Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR – Suicide prevention); Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES – trauma informed); Mindfulness (trauma response); and Personal Resilience.

ROCC training is for the community at large to learn more about integrated behavioral health, trauma informed and responsive processes, and self-regulatory skills. Callie said the planning team expects to ‘launch’ ROCC in Fall 2019 and in the interim is finalizing curriculum, developing mission statement, brochures, and identifying ways to convey the message that understanding good mental health approaches contributes to economic and life satisfaction benefits. There is discussion with UM Western to expand the series in order for the University to offer it as part of their Continuing Education package and offer credit for participation.

**CIT (CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM) -** Bill Knox & Heidi

After months and months of work, planning, and preparation, the training takes place March 11–15 at UM Western. Currently twelve attendees are registered. A variety of different local resources will present information to the group, engage in formal role playing, and contribute to those attending making connections with other resources. Heidi said she was successful in securing United Way funding of $1300 for the CIT training, but expects it will go toward next year’s training. Both Bill and Heidi said bringing the CIT to Dillon has been a monumental collaborative effort and thanked the LAC for their supportive role.

**BE THE CHANGE 406 COALITION** – Kim

There is an active Youth Coalition including both Dillon Middle School and Beaverhead County High School students. Youth Coalition students will soon record public service announcements supporting resiliency, sponsored by Pioneer Federal Savings and Loan. The Coalition(s) are working with Ben Oosterhoff, PhD of MSU Bozeman and his Positive Youth Development Lab (see above with ACES). The Youth Coalition hosted an Ice Skating Event, and while those who attended had fun, turnout was low since it was bitter cold.

Kim asked the LAC if they would participate in a ‘focus group’ survey at one of the upcoming meetings in order to collect ‘qualitative data’ for the Coalition to use in developing logic models regarding underage substance use and misuse and the challenges inherent in reducing that activity in Beaverhead County. The group indicated they would participate.

**NAMI –** Wallace

Wallace said he supports establishing some type of a support group for Spanish speaking migrant workers in Beaverhead County. The Montana Migrant Council is one agency existing in Dillon, which already provides outreach. He encouraged the LAC to reach out to the Migrant Council and encourage participation on the LAC. Jerry asked Wallace to make that outreach prior to the next LAC meeting. Wallace agreed. Area law enforcement have access to some local Spanish-speaking individuals for assistance, per Bill Knox. Kit Davis said BHHC has access to online translation services as needed for Spanish or other language speakers.

**WEBSITE UPDATE -** Callie

She encouraged the LAC to provide updated information to her on any current related activities so she can update the website. Unfortunately, most information on the website is outdated. The website is only relevant and productive IF information on it is current and reflects the LAC’s progress on ongoing projects, recent accomplishments, and future plans. Please contact Callie with information about current or planned activities.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Katherine discussed the invaluable contributions area law enforcement officers have made to the LAC, particularly with regular attendance regarding the CIT training, and in prior years with the county Sheriff’s participation. She asked the LAC to reach out to both Dillon Police Don Guiberson and Beaverhead County Sheriff Paul Craft and ask their participation at the monthly LAC meetings or appoint a designee on their behalf. Katherine offered to draft the letter requesting their involvement. The group informally agreed to the benefit of having local law enforcement at the table. Katherine will get the letter to Jerry and he will forward on.

The group also discussed the Letter to the Editor in support of Medicaid Expansion, written by former LAC chairperson Lynn Weltzien, and supported by Jerry, that appeared in the Dillon Tribune, and Montana Standard. Great job Lynn and Jerry!

The group celebrated Jerry’s birthday with a cake and singing Happy Birthday.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

**The next meeting is on Friday, April 12th,**