**Beaverhead County Mental Health Local Advisory Council**

April 12th, 2019 from **Noon – 2:00 p.m.**

Tom Welch Meeting Room – County Treasurer’s Building

**Members Present:** Katherine Buckley-Patton, Rick Hartz, Kim Martinell, Tom Rice, and Callie Triller.

**Members Absent:** Wallace Arney, Kit Davis, Jerry Girard, Heidi Gjefle, Jennifer Malone, and Melainya Ryan.

**Others Present:** Beth Wharton UMW, Haley Thompson & Molly Molloy SWMTCHC, Fred Sullivan DPHHS/OPA, Bill Knox Beaverhead Sheriff’s Office, Police Chief Don Guiberson, and Jamie Flynn.

**Introductions -**Establish Quorum – With only five (5) LAC members present, no quorum was established.

Katherine filled in for Jerry and Heidi as chair of the LAC. Everyone introduced themselves.

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

Because we did not have a quorum, the prior month’s minutes could not be approved.

**WSAA Report (Western Service Area Authority) -** Rick Hartz

Rick attended the last regional monthly meeting on March 26th in Missoula. He reported WSAA has about $6,500 in un-expended DPHHS funds and regional LACs can apply for up to $2,000 for mental health related projects. He urged expediency in applying, i.e. before the end of April. It is also time for LACs to make a formal request to the WSAA for the annual $300 allocation. He provided Katherine the application form and the website URL: [http://wsaa-montana.org](http://wsaa-montana.org/). She agreed to take the lead and apply for WSAA annual stipend and additional available funds, targeting support of the Resource Assistance Center expenses, e.g. phone, internet, and RAC aide wages. Those in attendance supported this idea, though no vote was taken due to lack of a quorum.

Per Rick, there are a number of dormant and/or not particularly active LACs in this area. Beaverhead County may be the most active and successful in the western region. Rick said WSAA was impressed with his overview of recent LAC activities, including the recent Great Harvest Bake Day where more than $11,000 was raised for ROCC implementation. WSAA has asked if the Beaverhead LAC would host one of the monthly meetings and support was voiced for that action. Katherine will follow up with Jerry and Heidi regarding what’s needed for Rick to offer that invitation to WSAA during the upcoming April meeting he plans to attend.

WSAA attendees discussed current legislative session, a variety of bills before legislators, particularly Medicaid Expansion (HB 658). In addition, the WSAA board is identifying overarching goals and objectives for the group, and future plans.

**Reports from Active Standing Committees**:

**Big Sky Behavioral Health Summit – Katherine**

Katherine distributed a handout about the October 3-4, 2019 Big Sky Behavioral Health Summit at UM Western. She provided a brief overview of each speaker which includes: Ijeoma Achara, PhD – “Recovery Oriented Systems of Care”; Judith Grisel, PhD – “What Neuroscience tells us about Addiction”; Georgia Kady, R.N.- “Human Trafficking in Montana”; Karl Rosston, LCSW – “Caring for Patients with Suicide Risk”; Benjamin Oosterhoff, PhD - “Online Depression Screening”; Mark Schure, PhD and Bill Bryan, PhD - “Thrive – Computerized CBT”; and keynote lunch speaker Kevin Briggs, retired CA Highway Patrol- “Guardian of the Golden Gate”. Kevin Briggs and Judith Grisell will each have a book signing. Both Rick and Lynn reminded the group how frequent LAC attendee, Kathy Contway, was instrumental in advocating for Kevin Briggs to speak at the Summit and throughout Montana. Her family has a personal connection to his work on suicide prevention and intervention on the Golden Gate Bridge in CA. Kevin is booked for numerous presentations in Dillon (UM Western Education students and student body, Dillon community, Middle School students, and likely Beaverhead County High School). There are a number of other communities around the state interested in him presenting in their area, either before or after the Summit.

**ACEs – Kim provided the overview in Melainya’s absence.**

The ACEs Task Force meets regularly and continues to do outreach throughout the community and county. There will be an ACEs and Be the Change 406 Coalition displayed at the Dillon District #10’s “Celebration of Excellence” on April 24 in the Parkview Gym. District #10 Trustees will meet on Tuesday, June 11th at 6 p.m., one-hour prior to their regular school board meeting, for an ACEs training. The presentation is open to the public. The ACES Task Force presented trainings for three different education classes at UMW recently. The ACEs Task Force is targeting outreach with the county-wide rural schools and faith based communities. There was discussion about the benefit of providing ACEs training at an upcoming LAC meeting, and finding time for board members to engage in the Brain Architecture Game to get a better understanding of early childhood brain development and its’ lifelong impact. There was discussion about prior in-service training on suicide prevention for Beaverhead County staff. The discussion led to the suggestion to approach the county about completing ACEs training for all staff. County Commissioner Tom Rice said he would get information on what options exist for that training to be provided.

**Other Business** –

* The “Montana Conference on Suicide Prevention” is Friday, June 28 at the Helena Civic Center. Attendance is free, but registration is required at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com/). CEUs are available.
* Governor Steve Bullock sent a personalized letter to Kim Martinell applauding her and community activists’ advocacy for those with mental health and substance use challenges, and focusing on a healthier community for youth and adults. Kim passed the letter around and explained it is to be shared by all those involved with the LAC since it is a driving force in much of the proactive work occurring in our community. There was encouragement for others to hear about the Governor’s acknowledgment of Kim’s extraordinary work in the community. Lynn will contact the Dillon Tribune about the Governor’s letter and in conjunction with Child Abuse Prevention Month, encourage them to write a story. **Great job Kim. Congrats!!**
* Montana Western announced former Beaverhead LAC Chair Lynn Weltzien is honored with the prestigious Dr. Jane Helm Maddock Service Award on Tuesday, April 16th. The award is given to those who have performed extraordinary service to the campus and community. **Congratulations Lynn!**
* The Southwest Community Health Center plans to open a pharmacy for the public in Dillon. No details are available today, but Molly will provide that information as soon as plans are finalized.
* Motivational Interview Training is June 20-21 in the Swysgood Technical Center Great Room, with tentative times from 8-5 on Thurs. and 8-4 on Fri. Rachel Gooen, LCSW, will present the training since the initial presenter, Mike Frost, is unavailable. The hope is to keep the training free of charge to those who are interested in attending. Details next month.
* “Every Brilliant Thing”, a play that shines compassionate light on the impact of suicide will be performed in Dillon on Thursday, June 20th, in the UM Western small auditorium.

**Peer Support & Other Behavioral Health Education Trainings @ UMW – Beth Wharton**

The UMW School of Outreach will host an on-line, instructor-led, self-paced Peer Support Specialist training, later this summer or early fall. There is open enrollment for the three month, 40 hours course. Tuition is $595. Beth is working with the state to assure the online training meets Montana’s certification standards. If it does meet state certification standards, there is the potential for available Area Health Education Center (AHEC) scholarship funds to help offset costs. In order to become a certified Peer Support Specialist the individual must have overcome or been able to manage an addiction or a mental disorder for a minimum of two years. Mental Health professionals provide extensive oversight to Peer Support Specialists before and during their services to clients. If Senate Bill 30 passes (see below), there will be more opportunity for certified Peer Support Specialists to be employed since they will be able to bill Medicaid for reimbursement. Molly said a number of Peer Support Specialists are successfully working in Butte.

On Thursday, June 6th, the UMW School of Outreach, in conjunction with the Beaverhead LAC and AHEC of MT presents a day long Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training. YMHFA is an evidence-based training course designed to give key skills to adults who work with adolescents developing or experiencing a mental health challenge/crisis. The class is limited to 30 participants.

UMW is working with the Youth ChalleNGe program staff and students. One class will focus on Management of Aggressive Behavior (MOAB). Rick said he regularly works with four Youth ChalleNGe students in his role at the Wood Bank. He said anger management and repressed feelings are common topics of discussion. Other plans include a “Heads Up Camp/YMHFA training” for Youth ChalleNGe cadets. UMW plans to present the class twice yearly for each new class of students. Area high school students are also encouraged to attend. Beth expects these classes to begin fall 2019, as an eight-hour class spread over two days.

UM Western has tentative plans to offer another Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) in the fall of 2019. Some grant funds may be available to help offset the costs for interested attendees.

**Legislative Update – Katherine**

SB 30 - “Allowing Peer Support Services to be reimbursed by Medicaid” passed the Senate and was referred to the House. The House Appropriations Committee’s approved the bill in executive action and sent it to the House floor for a vote. It is ‘expected’ to get good support, but Katherine urged those in attendance to contact Rep. Tom Welch and reinforce support for the bill’s passage. Rep. Welch has previously endorsed the bill and voted for it. HB658 – the Medicaid Expansion bill is facing stiff competition from lawmakers who are tying its’ passage to an unrelated bill, SB 331, known familiarly as the “save Colstrip” bill. As of 4/12/19, HB 658 failed on a tie vote in the Senate and is ‘presumed dead’ but Katherine said there is a lot of ‘horse trading’ going on during the session and she expects it will be brought back up. Area Senator Jeff Welborn initially helped sponsored the bill, but is now voting against HB 658, as what appears to be part of an effort to assure passage of the “Colstrip” bill. She encouraged all LAC members and guests to reach out to Senator Welborn and encourage him to vote yes on passing the Medicaid Expansion bill. (SB331 - “save Colstrip”) expansion. During the meeting, the bill was “resurrected” on the Senate floor in Helena and was to be voted on during the Friday afternoon session.

Katherine reported additional funding for most proposed human service programs, i.e. DPHHS, suicide prevention, and mental health bills have not made it through the process. The Legislature is expected to wrap up the last week of April. Legislative contact information includes: PHONE: 406.444.4800; online messaging at https//leg.mt.gov/web-messaging; or write Montana Senate, P.O. Box 200500 or Montana House of Representatives, P.O. Box 200400, Helena MT 59620.

**Resource Assistance Center (RAC) – Lynn**

Lynn explained the Resource Assistance Center was created last year in response to the closure of multiple human service agencies in Dillon (OPA, Job Service, and WMMHC). The initial plan was the RAC (with LAC oversight) was only a temporary stop-gap response until the 2019 Legislature addressed the serious mental health funding deficits that occurred after the 2017 Legislature and 2018 Special Session actions. However, that hasn’t happened and to date, the 2019 Legislature has not restored full funding for these lost services. The issue is now whether the RAC should continue, in what format, with what funding, and under whose oversight. Lynn reminded the group a community “decision makers” meeting identified the RAC as a top priority during a meeting in May 2018. She suggested it’s time to gather again, evaluate the role the RAC plays in the community, its’ importance, and future plans of continuing the service or ending it. There is currently enough grant funding (United Way & Headwaters Health Foundation) to cover the part-time RAC assistant’s wages and overhead costs (phone and internet) through June 30th. Heidi, Lynn, and Katherine, on behalf of the LAC, have coordinated the RAC to date, but they endorse a community board, if the RAC continues, and a more ‘grass roots’ ownership of these services. They plan to meet soon to identify needed ‘next steps’ in regard to RAC oversight, continuation, or closure. RAC operations total about $400-$500 per month. (See above: The group endorsed applying for WSAA funds to support ongoing RAC operation).

A significant number of area residents rely upon the weekly public assistance worker to help them with benefit and process questions, state human services applications, and eligibility information, according to Fred Sullivan, Butte Public Assistance Field Manager. The eligibility staff see an average of 15 clients every week. Fred reports that’s a little more than double the caseload an average worker in the Butte/Silver Bow OPA has in one day. He reports Beaverhead County’s consistently high level of need and face to face contact each week to his supervisors. However, while the casework may indicate the need for another staff person to come to Dillon, Fred said he didn’t expect that would happen. There is the possibility Career Futures may return to their weekly trip to Dillon on Wednesdays to coordinate with the public assistance worker’s travel and make it easier for TANF applicants to apply and immediately meet with job training and support staff.

The RAC also hosts representatives from Butte Job Service, Vocational Rehabilitation, Action, Inc., Career Futures, and other agencies as requested. Lynn said an intern therapist she is supervising has offered to provide “pro bono” case management services during the summer.

Molly said the Beaverhead County LAC’s work is a model in the state, particularly in regards to the creation and ongoing RAC services. Of the 19 communities in the state where an OPA office closed in early 2018, only Beaverhead County has a weekly public assistance eligibility visit occurring.

**Resilience Oriented Community Curriculum – Callie**

The ROCC committee revised their vision and mission statements in order to clearly define the work they do. **VISION STATEMENT:** “Our goal is to change the culture of mental healthcare within our community.” **MISSION STATEMENT**: “ROCC Stars take care of themselves and others. We do this by raising awareness of mental health challenges, increasing skills to respond, and identifying needed resources.” The group meets again May 15th and plans ROCC implementation to follow the Big Sky Summit in October 2019.

**Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) – Bill Knox**

Billthanked the LAC, and particularly Lyn Ankelman and Heidi Gjefle for their invaluable help in making the first CIT training in Dillon a big success. A dozen individuals attended the training including city and county law enforcement, emergency medical technicians, and community members. The LAC agreed to financially support the training and Bill provided an invoice for $625. There are plans to offer a second CIT training, possibly in the fall, but Bill said finding a ‘good time’ for a week long training is not easy, particularly on law enforcement scheduling. Heidi Gjefle, Dillon Police Officers Nikki Cowperthwait and Jeremy Alvarez, and Beaverhead County Deputy Bill Knox will coordinate the next CIT training in Dillon. If anyone else would like to assist, please contact Bill or Heidi.

Bill said the networking among local resources is one of the training’s most valuable results. Lynn endorsed the importance of crisis response and the LAC supporting these efforts. Per Bill, the CIT instructor from Helena made a point to compliment the LAC’s members for their assistance in presenting various training to attendees, financial support, and overall organization.

Bill and Police Chief DonGuiberson said the training had some very ‘real time’ impact since a gun related incident occurred during the training. The CIT training allowed an officer to de-escalate the situation before other officers took lethal force. Chief Guiberson said he fully supports having his entire staff trained with CIT. He commended Bill Knox’s work on coordinating the recent training. Molly remarked the training was valuable for those who are not police or deputy officers since it creates empathy and a better understanding of the challenges involved in law enforcement.

Additional discussion centered on the need for a ‘holding’ facility in Dillon to allow time for ‘at risk’ individuals to deescalate behaviors without having to transport them to a facility out of town. Chief Guiberson said it costs about $5,000 to arrest an individual, transport them out of the county, transport for court appearances, etc. A temporary housing facility would better serve area residents and save money, he said. There was a discussion of partnering with Madison County in that endeavor. Peer Support services are another option that may help diffuse the situation and allow an at-risk individual to find support from someone else who has faced similar challenges.

**Be the Change 406 Coalition** – Kim

Unfortunately, Katherine missed calling on Kim for her report. She apologizes.

**NAMI – Wallace was unable to attend.**

On a personal note, Bill Knox said that Wallace is currently dealing with some struggles and needs our encouragement. Bill said that Wallace is a good man.

NAMI Montana is offering Teacher Training for anyone interested in bringing NAMI education classes to their communities for people with mental illness and their families. They include:

* Family-to-Family education is a free 12-week education class for family members with a loved one with mental illness.
* Peer-to-Peer is a free eight-week education class for people with mental illness.
* NAMI Basics is a free six-week education class for parents and other family caregivers of children and adolescents experiencing mental health challenges.
* The training is May 17-19. Call the Montana NAMI office at 406-443-7871 for more information.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 2:00 p.m.

**The next meeting is Friday, May 10th, 2019**