



MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

July 10, 2023

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Gallatin County Courthouse Community Room and Via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members Present- Geary Zale, Tom Peluso, Commissioner Brown, Andrea Lower, Erin Taylor, Lori Christenson, Melaney Swenson, Nicole Madden, Anthea George, John Kudrna, Ryan Mattson, Kelley Wathne

Non-Voting Members Present- Betsy Asserson, Ellie Martin, Rick Gale, Paige Bichler

Voting Members Absent- Susan Gregory, I-Ho Pomeroy, Dezri Rochin, Roper Green, Eric Szemes

Guests- Kirsten Smith, Bekki McLean, Sophia Furtunato, Ben Frentsos, Commissioner Boyer, Kit Davis

Staff- Mindy Karl

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

Erin Taylor approved the minutes as distributed

- **Public Comment-**

Ellie Martin announced that chat has been disabled on Zoom based on advice from the County Attorney's Office. Please just use your electronic hand

Anthea George asked about when an AmeriCorps Vista would be added to the LAC. Lori Christenson said the process would start in October for January placement. The roles and responsibilities for the position would need to be discussed in August. Lori said she would help.

Ryan Mattson and Tom Peluso had been talking about whether Christina from The Help Center should be welcomed as a guest speaker at an upcoming meeting.

Rick Gale- PGA Hope was an event that brought together veterans from various wars. It was a very great 5-6 weeks of lessons. Big thanks to Bridger Creek Golf Course.

- **Officer and Committee Reports**

Strategic Planning Committee- moved to Unfinished Business

Outreach Committee- moved to Unfinished Business

Membership Committee- moved to Unfinished Business

Accounting- Tom reported there has been no new activity and number has not changed.

- **Unfinished Business-**

- **Strategic Planning-** Erin Taylor and Nicole Madden changed some of the Strategic Plan. They prepared a document with the proposed changes. ****document is attached**** They have prepared changes to the Bylaws and presented them to the group for review for the August meeting. ****document attached****

Erin asked the group; how does the information get into the group and how does it get out- this is an advisory council, and we need to figure out how to get the information shared in these meetings out to the community. The group need to have a real tactic as to how we get our information and take some ownership of it. We need to be looking for various ways of collection and disseminating information

Rules and Responsibilities ****document attached****

Anthea suggested more people need to participate in the discussions. This membership committee would take the lead on reviewing possible member applications. She feels strongly that there are times when the committee can or should terminate a member. She shared an example of someone who disrupts the flow of the group.

Erin thanked Ellie and Anthea for their work.

- **Vice Chair Opening** – Erin reminded the group that there is still an opening for this position. Ryan Mattson said he is willing to step up.

Nicole Madden moved to nominate Ryan Mattson as Vice Chair. Lori Christenson seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.

- **New Business-**

- **Marijuana Tax Funding Ideas- Commissioner Brown**

Commissioner Brown said the timing is good to start brainstorming on what the Commissioners should start to do with the marijuana funds. He went over and discussed the MEMO he sent out. ****document is attached****

They did not specifically define what the plans were for the money. Now they are in a position, with 3 months of collections, to figure out what to do. County receives 50%, state 5% and the rest is distributed to the cities based on population. He said that is a very rough estimate. As of today, there are no dollars in the bank, but he said it's a good time to start thinking about it.

Behavior Health Safety Net Workers Proposal discussed.

If people have questions, Commissioner Brown would be happy to answer them.

Anthea said this is good information for the strategic planning process and wanted to know when the Commissioners would figure out how and when to use it.

Commissioner Brown said they've had the same conversation with Behavior Health, and he would say the same thing to this council. We would really value input and proposals from the LAC.

Tom suggested the group define what their needs are and where we want to be. He said the LAC needs to figure out what the community needs and provide those services.

Ellie acknowledged that the strategic plan right now is to “get the house in order” and if that takes a year, the LAC will miss out on funding. We need to be aware of the new

things that are available and not think about what we did 24 years ago. We need to know what the new rules are.

Erin is tabling this discussion

- **Prospective Non-Voting Members- Ben Frentsos and Sophia Fortunato**

Ben is with Greater Gallatin United Way and looks forward to joining in a more formal way.

Erin said the vote in position for 1 month, until the bylaws are updated.

Ryan Mattson moved to add Ben Frentsos as a non-voting member for 1 month. Geary Zale seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.

Sophia Fortunato said August 14 her AmeriCorps Vista is up. She can really help with the strategic plan.

Commissioner Brown moved to add Sophia Fortunado as a non-voting member for 1 month. Ryan Mattson seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. Motion carried.

- **Adjournment**

Erin Taylor adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: August 14, 2023

Erin Taylor, Board Chair