



HILL COUNTY

Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes: February 8, 2021

Call to order: Andi Daniel-Chair

Roll call and introductions: Andi Daniel, Amber Spring, Jacob Strissel, Matt Erdel, Brent Morris, Darlene Sellers, Deidre Reiter, Curtis Smeby, Sharon Dolph, Patrick Johnston, Jim Hajny, Ron Kling

Minutes: Minutes from January 11, 2021 were reviewed and approved. Curtis Smeby motioned to approve the minutes and Darlene Sellars seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Treasurer Report: Darlene Sellars reported the current balance is \$2,915.89. There was one debit transaction with the VISA in December.

Old Business:

- **AMDD/CSAA:** Eastern Service Area Authority (ESAA) Coordinator, Brent Morris, attended the meeting. He reported the ESAA has implemented operational changes that have improved communication with its LAC's and generally improved operational efficiency. Brent reported that the changes have resulted in more than 90% of the funds they receive going back into the community. He invited the Hill County LAC to join the ESAA and shared that this move is supported by the state. Brent stated that counties that have reservations can have two LAC's per county to bring a voice to the Tribal Nations and that if the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation would like to form their own LAC there is help available to support their efforts. The ESAA participates in weekly meetings with the state on the 1st Wednesday of every month via zoom and are working closely with the Montana Peer Network to bring consumers in to build LAC's. Individual LAC's are represented by having one member from each LAC on the ESAA board.
- **Rocky Boy Clinic-Psychologist:** Ron Kling reported there is a new Psychologist on staff at the Rocky Boy Clinic. Ron stated the psychologist is willing to supervise students needing hours.
- **NAMI:** No Report. Crystal Laufer was absent. NAMI is hosting a webinar event on 2/9/2021. Andi Daniel will send out the registration link. The webinar speaker is Dr. Ruth Weissman who has been one of the lead researchers for the Youth Aware of Mental Health program study in Montana. Dr. Weissman has a commitment to improving Montana's mental illness treatment program through high-quality research.
- **Suicide Awareness Coalition:** The Suicide Awareness Coalition has not met. Amber Spring sent out the QPR trainings that are on the website. Amber reported there are limited things that can be completed at this time due to COVID-19. Amber has trained only adults at this time in QPR and reported the total number of participants trained is around sixty since September 2020.
- **County Grant:** Andi Daniel reported Kim Larson with the Hill County Health Department sent the budget to the state. Andi is still trying to figure out how to get reimbursed when the LAC does not have money to spend to be reimbursed.

Andi is working on the video ad project and gathering quotes. Andi stated having interviews completed and putting a video together would cost roughly \$2,000-\$3,000. Andi stated the LAC would like to continue to use the footage after COVID. Andi stated she has not heard back on the costs of billboards.

Amber Spring stated she is working with a Co-Op student who is helping to put the resource guide together for local services that council members have discussed. Amber suggested adding in a sub guide for youth and recommended adding specific resources for the Native American population residing in Hill County for residents who are from the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation and the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. It was suggested to have a guide that can



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be printed from the LAC website updated as needed. Curtis Smeby reported the AMDD would assist in covering the cost for the printing.

Amber Spring stated she met with staff at the Boys and Girls Club. During the month of March, they will do Zoom workshops with kids discussing anxiety and depression and to teach coping skills.

- **Career Fair**-Amber Spring met with the MSU Northern Career Center staff. Amber expressed the possibility of putting on a career fair for potential health care workers to help guide individuals and introduce them to the mental health fields in our community. It was suggested to reach out to BCHC and Northern Montana Hospital to have providers/staff on board to make the event a success.

New Business

- **Montana Peer Network:** Jim Hajny, Montana Peer Network Executive Director, attended the LAC meeting. Jim presented on a project the Montana Peer Network is working on to get people in recovery involved in local advisory councils across the state. Jim reported his project began a year ago and the hope is to strengthen the consumer voice. His initial plan was to travel to all LAC's to present, but that did not happen over the course of the year due to COVID-19. He is now returning to LAC's and presenting and asking to partner together. Jim reported that LAC's should consist of 51% consumers or family members and last fall after a survey was sent out, it was determined that most LAC's are not able to meet that requirement. Jim reported that the Montana Peer Network is a 501C3 and has over 1,500 members across the state who could be participating in the LAC's. The project includes six trainings to get people in recovery involved and want to give members the necessary skills and training so they can be more effective. The free trainings being offered are on a rotating basis and are held virtually. An example of a training is how to be effective on councils and boards while other are focused on peer leadership and fostering partnerships. Jim invited the LAC to partner with MT Peer Network and would encourage Peer Network members to get involved and become affective advocates. The training schedule is available on the MT Peer Network website. Andi Daniel can send invites out if anyone is interested or if members would like to be put on a mailing list.

Adjournment: Darlene Sellers motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sharon Dolph seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 8, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting