



HILL COUNTY

Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes: March 8, 2021

Call to order: Andi Daniel-Chair

Roll call and introductions: Andi Daniel, Crystal Laufer, Ron Kling, Matt Erdel, Patrick Johnston, Deidre Reiter, Curtis Smeby, Sharon Dolph, Amber Spring, Darlene Sellers, Crystal Evans

Guest Presenter: Dean Snow, Program Manager of The Sober Life in Great Falls, MT

Minutes: Minutes from February 8, 2021 were reviewed and approved. Sharon Dolph motioned to approve the minutes and Crystal Laufer seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Treasurer Report: Darlene Sellars reported the current balance is \$2,915.91.

Old Business:

- **AMDD/CSAA:** Curtis Smeby reported that Tribal and County Matching grants will be available soon. These have to be applied for by county or tribal governments so Curtis was unsure who might be able to write that. Curtis reported there has been effort to revitalize the LACs within the CSAA that are not very active, and that Hill County is considered one of the active LAC's. Curtis reported they are meeting weekly on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. and that the meetings are a half hour. If the Rocky Boy and Fort Belknap Indian Reservations develop their own LAC's, the Hill County BHLAC will support those efforts and would like to have a liaison between the groups. It was suggested to work with the current Wellness Coalition at Rocky Boy as the group work is like that of a LAC. Ron Kling plans to be a part of the Hill County LAC and will act as a liaison between Hill County LAC and the Rocky Boy LAC. Suggestion was to send an invitation out to Rocky Boy inviting them to the LAC meeting if there has been staffing changes.

Andi Daniel suggested that we create an outline for reporting and would like to see a more formalized report back and forth between CSAA and the LAC. It is the hope to improve communication with the SAA's. Central Service Area Authority Chair Crystal Evans, attended the meeting, reported that someone from the SAA is supposed to sit in on LAC meetings and bring information back to their own organization, but that has not really been happening for the last two years. Crystal Evans reported the 3 mini grants received were for events that covid prohibited and that there is a limit of \$5,000 per mini grant. Crystal reported mini grants are available now and funds have deposited and that the CSAA can take requests to AMDD to help fund requests. Crystal reported the current CSAA funding for this year's contract is 113,250.00 all of which is available for mini grants for LAC's and organizations within the CSAA area.

- **NAMI:** Crystal Laufer reported the Peer-to-Peer group meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Family and Friends Class will be offered to Timber Creek Village Assisted Living employees. Crystal reported the NAMI Conference is now complete and that if individuals are interested the NAMI office can offer private classes. With classes the Family and Friends group would require a five-person minimum and the Family to Family 8-week course would require a minimum of ten participants. In Your Own Voice is also being offered.
- **Suicide Awareness Coalition:** No report.
- **Montana Peer Network:** Curtis Smeby made the motion to partner with Montana's Peer Network to contact their members and invite them to the Local Advisory Council meetings and Darlene Sellars seconded the motion. All members voted in favor to join the Peer Advocacy and Leadership Project. This will allow the LAC to partner with MT Peer Network and encourages Peer Network members to get involved and become advocates.



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- **Provider Survey:** Amber Spring reported that she is working on developing an online survey to collect information for the providers in the community that would include their names, location, accepted insurances, specialties, populations served, presentations, as people struggle to know where to go in the community for help. This information can also be put online on the LAC website.
- **Career Fair:** Amber Spring is working on setting up the Health Care Worker Career Fair. Amber reported the Career Services office at MSU-N is looking for participants.
- **County Grant:** Andi Daniel reported the check will be cut this week or next in the full amount. Andi would like to get started on the videos. Official decisions will need to be made in preparation for the spending. Health Promotions Student continues work on the resource guide. Curtis Smeby reported that Jamie and the AMDD will cover the costs of the resource guides. The Co-Op student is required to complete 300 hours. The work she is doing is budgeted for \$2,700 at \$9.00 per hour. The student will be required to submit logs with her hours and would receive a 1099. Curtis Smeby encourages Safe Talk or Assist for upcoming trainings. Additional Motions regarding the county grant will be sent out via email for vote.

Amber Spring suggested implementing a form for each grant component to describe the services and amounts paid out once grant funds are deposited for use. This will track how the funds are being used and provide consistency.

New Business

- **The Sober Life:** The Sober Life is an organization in Great Falls, MT that was started by individuals in recovery in 2018 for people in recovery. This group gives those in recovery a connection and purpose while building partnerships in the community by offering activities to help these individuals on their recovery journey. Various activities that are offered are Refit, Volleyball, step recovery, drumming and singing, basketball, women empowering women group, regular meetings, trauma course, and roller skating. Dean Snow is from Chinook, MT and first started as a volunteer and then became the program manager. Dean reported he would like to bring a Sober Life group to Havre as he is aware of the addiction struggles in the Havre community. Dean reported he understands that there is not a lot to do in smaller communities and that many activities are centered around alcohol and drugs and their goal is to change lives of people. Currently the Sober Life organization is funded through a United Way grant and donations. Recently they applied for a DPHHS and SAMHSA Building Communities Through Recovery grant and will find out on May 31, 2021 if the grant will be offered which could potentially offer a part time position for an individual in Havre, MT. Dean reported he is interested in traveling to Havre to begin networking if they receive the grant. Darlene Sellars suggested reaching out to student services at MSU-N due to the large problem with substance use on campus. Dean stated everything they do is free for the participants. Andi Daniel suggested reaching out AlpenGlow and indicated they have a peer support component as well as to Recovery Darhma in the Atruim Mall. Other suggestions were the Bridge, Boys and Girls Club, Greater Havre Area Ministerial Association, Probation and Parole, Leadership Councils, etc.

Adjournment: Amber Spring motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sharon Dolph seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

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

Location: Virtual Meeting