

Minutes
Butte-Silver Bow Mental Health Local Advisory Council
Monday, Aug. 22, 2016

1. Administrative Agenda Items

- a. The meeting was called to order by the MHLAC chair, Amy Caliendo, at 1:10 p.m.
- b. Roll call was conducted. A quorum was not achieved.

MHLAC members		
Amy Caliendo	Bryan Greer	Lindsey Kambich
Ed Lester	Kelly McGrath (for Molly Molloy)	Mary Morgan
Dawnita Romine	Mike Smith	Karen Sullivan
Robert Watt		
Excused		
Joslin Hubbard		
Guests		
Kenny Bell, Addictive & Mental Disorders Division	Jon Olson	Mike Smith, Montana Standard

- c. Review and approval of the minutes of the July 25, 2016 LAC meeting. Due to lack of a quorum, the July 25 minutes will be approved at the Sept. 26, 2016 meeting.

2. Public Comment(s) On Any Items on the Agenda

- a. MHLAC member Mike Smith spoke about the Montana Peer Network and the need for a peer support network in Butte-Silver Bow. Mr. Smith said he was echoing MHLAC member Michelle Lewis in his desire to bring Jim Hajny, executive director of the Montana Peer Network, to Butte to present on the peer network and its value. Mr. Smith said creation of a successful peer network in Butte would take much time, support and involvement from MHLAC members. Bryan Greer referred to costs associated with training peer volunteers, and said he believed costs for the certification could be about \$500 per volunteer, and that some organizations were willing to pay for the training for their staff members. Mary Morgan said Western Montana Mental Health Center has sponsored some training for peer supports, and said WMMHC and other agencies could plan for such training by budgeting training dollars. Ms. Morgan said that the Madison County MHLAC has received a grant from the Montana Healthcare Foundation to create a plan to better integrate services, adding that this is a good example of successful funding efforts. Ms. Morgan said she's interested to learn whether Butte-Silver Bow would have dollars for such funding.

3. Reports of Officers and Committees

- a. None.

4. Old Business

- a. New agenda format – Karen Sullivan relayed that she has tightened the agenda template. As a result, the meeting minutes also will be tightened and streamlined.
- b. Montana Peer Network – Ms. Lewis was unable to attend today’s MHLAC meeting, but it was agreed that the council would continue to discuss bringing Mr. Hajny to Butte.

5. New Business

- a. Dawnita Romine provided a report on the Western Service Area Authority. Ms. Romine spoke about mini-grants available from the state’s SAAs. Kenny Bell said the grants have done some good throughout the state, with one grant going toward establishing an Alzheimer’s disease section at a library, another providing pharmaceuticals to low-income individuals, and another establishing a support group for people with mental illness. Ms. Romine said she would be attending the WSAA meeting Aug. 23. She asked the MHLAC members whether they wanted her to continue to serve on the WSAA, as nominations for members and alternates were happening. Since a quorum was not achieved at today’s MHLAC meeting, it was agreed that Ms. Romine should continue to serve.
- b. Kenny Bell relayed that letters to the Addictive & Mental Disorders Division and the Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council have been crafted, requesting endorsement of the Butte-Silver Bow MHLAC. Ms. Caliendo said she would sign the letters and Ms. Sullivan said she would mail the correspondences.
- c. In regard to review of the MHLAC toolkit, due to lack of a quorum, review of the toolkit was tabled. Ms. Sullivan said small portions of the toolkit should be reviewed at every meeting, if possible. Mr. Greer asked that whatever is to be reviewed be sent out at least a week prior to the MHLAC meeting, and Ms. Sullivan said she would make that happen.
- d. Appointment of new LAC member with lived experience – Ms. Sullivan said an appointment needs to be made, and Ms. Caliendo said she would contact Butte-Silver Bow Chief Executive Matt Vincent.

6. Presentations

- a. Creation of a youth crisis facility – Mr. Greer spoke about one of the MHLAC’s priorities, establishment of a youth crisis facility, at which children who are a danger to themselves or others could be stabilized. Mr. Greer said that agencies formerly were able to send some youth to the RYO facility, but that option is no longer available. Shodair in Helena and Acadia in Butte are options, but bed availability is a continual problem. Billings Clinic and its behavioral health unit sometimes will accept youth for evaluation, and there are out-of-state options that are difficult on families. Mr. Greer said there is no uniform referral system –

when families call 911, “nothing is defined.” Mr. Greer referred to the situation as “scary,” adding that “families with these children are in a very vulnerable place, and without many options.” Robert Watt spoke about the need for interventions as early as possible in a child’s life. Ed Lester said there is a definite need for youth options, especially for youth under age 10. Sheriff Lester said he becomes very frustrated that detention is sometimes the only option – “but at least they’re safe in a detention center.” Mr. Greer said an entire continuum of care for youth needs to be studied. Mr. Watt said he believes treatment options need to “reinforce the whole family.” It was agreed that the MHLAC would continue to discuss this priority.

7. Public Comment(s) On Any Items Not on the Agenda

- a. Mr. Bell provided some updates from the Addictive & Mental Disorders Division – Zoe Barnard is the new administrator for the Mental Health Services Bureau, replacing Glenda Oldenburg, who is retiring in January. Julie Prigmore has left the position of bureau chief at AMDD – Marcia Armstrong is filling the position until a permanent replacement is retained. A new administrator has been retained at Montana State Hospital at Warm Springs with the retention of Jay Pottenger, who replaces John Glueckert.
- b. Ms. Caliendo said she was concerned by the lack of a quorum for today’s meeting, adding that she would remind members of the section of the MHLAC’s bylaws related to attendance.

8. Adjournment

- a. Ms. Caliendo said the MHLAC’s next meeting would be held Monday, Sept. 26, 2016, at 1 p.m. at the Butte Public Library, third-floor conference room. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15.