



Minutes
Butte-Silver Bow Mental Health Local Advisory Council
Jan. 28, 2019

1. Administrative Agenda Items

- a. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Finlen.
- b. Roll call was conducted:

Roll Call		
Dave Boyd	Kathy Dunks	Miles Finlen
Shirley Gordon	Lindsey Kambich	Eileen Joyce
Riann Lemler	Ed Lester	Kelly McGrath for Molly Molloy
Danette Melvin	Dan Olsen	Jon Olson
Jim O'Neill	Janette Reget	Carol Ross
Karen Sullivan	Lauri Yelenich	
Guests		
Shannon Hopewell		

- c. The minutes of the June 25, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Olson moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. McGrath provided a second. The minutes were approved.

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

- a. None.

3. New Business

- a. Election of officers:
 - i. Mr. Boyd moved to nominate Mr. Finlen as LAC chair, and Ms. Kambich provided a second. Mr. Finlen received a unanimous vote to continue serving as chair.
 - ii. Ms. McGrath moved to nominate Ms. Lemler as vice chair, and Ms. Gordon seconded. Ms. Lemler received a unanimous vote to serve as chair.

- iii. Mr. Lester moved to nominate Ms. Sullivan as secretary, and Ms. Kambich seconded. Ms. Sullivan received a unanimous vote to continue serving as secretary.
- iv. Ms. Sullivan nominated Ms. Gordon as treasurer, and Ms. Joyce provided a second. Ms. Gordon received a unanimous vote to serve as treasurer. Ms. Kambich agreed to be a co-signatory on all financial documents.
- b. Review of bylaws:
 - i. The LAC reviewed the bylaws, and no changes were recommended. Mr. Lester moved to approve the bylaws, and Mr. Olson seconded. The bylaws as they stand were authorized.
- c. Western Service Area Authority:
 - i. No member of the LAC volunteered to be the delegate or alternate to the WSAA. Ms. Sullivan said she would follow up on remote attendance and report back to the group. Ms. Dunks said space was available at Western Montana Mental Health Center to attend the WSAA meetings remotely.

4. Priority Updates and Other Business

- a. A general discussion was had about peer supports and how such support people are not appropriate substitutes for case managers, who usually hold a bachelor's degree in social work and provide intense monitoring and other services. Ms. Dunks said there are costs associated with becoming a peer support, including CEUs and certification, not to mention that if the peer support, who has the lived experience of mental illness, fails at their job, it can be up to two years before they can get their job back, risking losses such as Social Security.
- b. Mr. Boyd and Ms. Dunks both talked about the Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana, which now serves as an advocacy funnel for mental health services in Montana. BHAM is working to make whole agencies affected by recent cuts to mental health services, including case management. At the top of the priority list is the retention of a robust Medicaid system in the state. Should the Legislature make drastic cuts to the system, Ms. Dunks said Western Montana Mental Health Center would simply close, adding that funding for its PATH program, which works with homeless populations, is on hold until Medicaid policy is determined. Mr. Boyd said the SMART program would be greatly challenged, as 98 percent of the program's reimbursements come from Medicaid and 2 percent from private insurance. Ms. Reget said St. James Healthcare receives \$8 million annual in Medicaid reimbursements.
- c. Ms. Sullivan relayed that LAC members can follow legislation at <https://leg.mt.gov>.
- d. Mr. Finlen asked that the next agenda feature the LAC's four original goals, so that they can be reviewed.
- e. Mr. O'Neill reported that the Community Action Team has built a multi-tiered system of support for youth, and is now working on duplicating that effort for the adult population. Mr. O'Neill said the CAT has a variety of free trainings available to the community, and is presenting to a variety of groups on this

availability. Mr. O'Neill and Ms. Sullivan agreed to present these offerings to the LAC.

- f. Ms. McGrath reported that the annual Service Connect event will be held Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019 at the MAC, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everything from food and haircuts to showers and clothing will be available to the homeless and other populations in need. Public transit buses will run from Silver House to the transfer station and the MAC.
- g. Ms. Ross asked whether there was more information about a local peer support group – the group meets Jan. 31, 2019 at 1 p.m. at the Butte Public Library. The group is open to anyone in recovery. Ms. Reget mentioned that the website for the Montana chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness may also have information on other local resources.
- h. Mr. Boyd asked whether Ms. Molloy could present to the LAC on medication assisted treatment. Ms. McGrath said she would follow up.
- i. Ms. Dunks reported that Southwest Montana Community Health Center beginning on Feb. 14 will conduct a clinic at Silver House, on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

5. Presentations

- a. None.

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

- a. None.

7. Adjournment

- a. Mr. Olson moved to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Ross seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

8. Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting of the Butte-Silver Bow Mental Health Local Advisory Council will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25, 2019 at the Butte Public Library, third-floor conference room.