



Lewis and Clark BH Local Advisory Council General LAC Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, July 7

In-Person at PureView Conference Room, and [Zoom](#) ID: 860 8390 3845

QUICK RECAP

Vice Chair Erin Olson began the meeting with introductions and sharing of stories on how participants enjoy celebrating the 4th of July. The group then approved the minutes from June's meeting. The main agenda item was a spotlight presentation on the progress made toward the Community Health Improvement Plan's Behavioral Health strategies. Behavioral Health is one of three priority areas in the Plan, along with Chronic Disease and Housing, and this progress report is presented to the Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council every summer.

NEXT STEPS, ACTION NEEDED

All

- Please provide feedback on the case management quick reference draft by next Thursday, using the link provided in the chat/notes.
- Suggest names of care coordinators/case managers who are doing exceptional work for potential recruitment as speakers for the FUSE Summit (October date TBD).
- Consider ways you can help distribute 988 posters and prevention items, an action item our Local Advisory Council is tasked with in the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Jakob Miles

- Share the link to the new Safer Communities Montana website once it is available.

Jessica Dorrington

- Send out schedule and job postings for Journey Home and encourage meeting participants to share within their networks.
- Send the request for feedback from the BH LAC's Continuum of Care workgroup.
- Send the link to the JAMA article on 988 effectiveness.

Rachel Jefferies

- Send the LOSS Team open house flyer to Jessica for distribution to the group.

SUMMARY

Spotlight Presentation: Community Health Improvement Plan - Behavioral Health progress

Suicide Prevention: Rachel presented on training efforts, reporting that over 1,000 people were trained through various programs from June 2025 to July 2026. Outreach efforts occurred at events

such as the Mental Health Awareness Block Party and International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day, which attracted 75 survivors and 18 organizations. For the upcoming year, plans include expanding the LOSS Team through an August open house, increasing youth engagement in suicide prevention training, and seeking opportunities to better serve rural communities.

Lethal Means Safety: Jakob presented on Safer Communities Montana's lethal means safety program, highlighting recent successes including new firearm safety training and a grant from DPHHS to expand services statewide. The program has distributed over 500 gun locks, 450 Deterra drug deactivation packets, and various other safety items since January. Jakob also discussed recent partnerships with law enforcement agencies and the *free to the community* documentary screening on suicide prevention.

Strong Roots Coalition (Substance Use Prevention): Vivi provided an update on the Strong Roots Coalition's activities, including outreach events, education initiatives, and the creation of a new naloxone distribution website.

Crisis Now Model: Jessica shared progress on the Crisis Now model, including the expansion of operating hours for the mobile crisis response team (24/7) and the Journey Home crisis facility (7/365).

Continuum of Care Workgroup: Drenda discussed the development of a case management quick reference guide and plans for the October FUSE Summit focused on care coordination and case management.

Public Comments

Questions were asked about youth suicide numbers included in the total count of 19 losses by suicide served by the LOSS Team. Questions were also asked about the utilization of gun locks, the utilization of Journey Home, and the requirements for the crisis home worker. Safe storage options were discussed, with the identification of needs at the Helena Police Department. Jakob will provide HPD with gun locks to send home with confiscated guns. Representatives from Shodair and St. Peter's Health expressed appreciation for the prevention items. Recent research on 988's measurable results was also discussed. An update on the FUSE Summit, including the date, will be provided at the August BH LAC meeting. Vice Chair Olson acknowledged the value of the therapeutic space at Journey Home and the impact of the LCPH Prevention Team on the collaborative behavioral health efforts in our community.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2026 | PureView Conference Room

6/7/26 Attendance: In-Person: Vice Chair Erin Olson - SPH, Julia Gustafson – City Commissioner, Andy Hunthausen – County Commissioner; Tara Starkel – Shodair, Drenda Niemann – LCPH, Jessica Dorrington and intern Jay Huschka - LCPH, Vivi Tyler - LCPH, Jillian Danesi - CJS, Jakob Miles – LCPH; Cpt. Adam Shanks – HPD; Online: Annette Luckett – SPH; Rachel Jefferies – LCPH; Vivi Tyler – LCPH; Dr. Nathan Munn – NAMI, Helena College.