



**Lewis and Clark County
Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council**

Remote Meeting Only

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 860 8390 3845

Passcode: 22425

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 | 11:30am-12:30pm

- I. **Welcome & Intro's** (10-15 mins)-*Jadin or Kayleigh*
 - **Approval for October Minutes**
 - Will be next month, need to track these down
- II. **Spotlight Presentation with Q&A:** (20 mins): *Speaker Introduction*

NAMI Peer Connections

Presenter: NAMI staff
- III. **Staffing update**
- IV. **Updates from workgroups**
- V. **Public Comments** (5-10 minutes): All

Next Scheduled General Meeting is December 2, 2025

Attendance:

- LCPH: Julie Bir, Drenda Niemann, Vivi Tyler, Villette Burk, Rachel Jefferies
- Andy Hunthausen, County Commissioner
- Emily Dean, City Commissioner
- Emily McVey, UW
- Linda Kinsey, Helena Indian Alliance
- Julie Wyant, Case Manager at BHU at SPH
- Brandy Vail, private practice and supervision for peer support
- David Roberts, part of NAMI Helena
- Heather Irby, MRWH
- Annette Lockett, SPH
- Todd Tecca, Resilience Life Recovery Coaching and NAMI
- Jillian Danesi, Criminal Justice Services

--

NAMI Connections – presenters: David Roberts and Todd Tecca

- For people with mental illness – consumers/lived experience
- Group for folks to get together
- Goal is for folks to leave feeling better than when they got there; and to do the work in the group
- Facilitators are there to manage the group and turn things in positive directions, and hinged on people sharing their life experiences
- Folks 18+
- Safe, comfortable space for people to share experiences, what's going on, what they need help with, rely on group wisdom, help people feel better when they leave
- Free to everyone
- Meets on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 6pm at NAMI Office on Cruse Ave, across from Civic Center
- Group is for people in recovery, so for folks in a crisis this isn't the best place
- Helena NAMI facilitator Erin Olson wanted them to do a presentation, to boost attendance. Average 3-5 group members
 - David has been going for over 15 years, has been a facilitator for last 5 years
 - Recovery is a constant process, so if people go when they're feeling down and want something to pep them up – keep coming to the group to help support others when you're feeling good
 - David has also been a state trainer and trains with NAMI National. Billings group has large numbers
 - The biggest community they could help would be people in group homes – could have a group facility come to the group
- Groups are all posted on NAMI Helena website – [send out namimt.org](https://namimt.org)
 - on Facebook: NAMI Helena, MT lists all the groups, times and dates along with other community activities
- Brandy was also trained to do a provider group, which lets her work with therapists, doctors, or other providers to train them on how to work with people struggling with mental health or behavioral health
- Brand new NAMI website has all the info
- Todd – benefits he's gotten from the group are supporting each other, group has a lot of great wisdom, and can contribute to someone else's wellbeing
- Group isn't about solving your problems for you.
- This can be the longest running program for people with mental illness to continue to go to
- Principles of Support – 1) see the person first, not the illness, -- so this is really beneficial. 10) we accept that we cannot solve everyone's problems; embrace humor as healthy; don't give up hope
- Good place to help stabilize people's hope in next few days, next couple weeks

- Helpful to know you're not the only one struggling, and group members seem grateful to have others to turn to
- Minimum requirement for facilitator – join the program for a year, then train to be a facilitator
 - This is a good pathway, because it's beneficial to help others
 - A lot of leadership can be easy, a lot of it is laid out where facilitator is out of the way.
 - There are handouts for leading the group, follow things in a specific order
- Erin will send out flyers
- Group used to have a slot in the paper and in the news, which helped with numbers, 10-15 people

Staffing update

Workgroup Updates

Continuum of Care Workgroup – Drenda. Group meets monthly, 3rd Thursday of the month, at 2:30, at LCPH or zoom

1. Access to Services – a lot of work on reauthorizing Medicaid expansion in past leg session
2. Improving coordination of care – assessing what's happening in the community already UW is putting out an app, similar to 211. Our Place is hiring Peer Support Specialists, which is helpful for folks frequenting the resource center and getting them connected to services. They also continue to hear from folks that there are challenges in navigating the system. Not easy to access what they need, not easy to get agencies to talk to each other, referrals between services continue to be an issue. November meeting will have update on State CONNECT referral system

Emily sent this out in an email: <https://live.smart1snap.com/unitedwayresources>

You can also access this by texting UNITED to 855-406-4064.

3. Supportive housing – UW is the lead on this

Public Comment

PACE (Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences) Thursday, November 13, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM at the St. Peter's Health Administration building

The POC for PACE will be: Haylie Wisemiller, HWisemiller@sphealth.org, 406.495.6975

Heather – MRWH is working on Journey Home job descriptions. No open date but looking forward to that soon.

International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day – Saturday, November 22nd at Helena College. There is still room for tables as well.

Mental Health America-Mt has a new line to assist families with mental health issues in their children/family members. This is in addition to the Warm Line. Contact Mt Warmline for more information. Opened last month. Getting a lot of warm handoffs and family members calling.

LCC BH LAC Mission: Purpose of LCC BH Local Advisory Council is to assist in the improvement of LCC County Public Health Behavioral Health services (Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders) and to review and make recommendations about behavioral health services to Lewi and Clark County and the Service Area Authority [LAC website](#)..

ADA NOTICE

Lewis and Clark County is committed to providing access to persons with disabilities for its meetings, in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Montana Human Rights Act. The County will not exclude persons with disabilities from participation at its meetings or otherwise deny them County's services, programs, or activities. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in the County's meetings, services, programs, or activities should contact Kari DesRosier, as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to arrange for the requested accommodation, at any of the following: (406) 447- 8316 TTY Relay Service 1-800-253-4091 or 711 kgrose@lccountymt.gov 316 N Park, Room 303.
