



Lewis and Clark County  
Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council

[Zoom Link](#) passcode: 597550

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 | 11:30am-12:30pm

MINUTES/ [Video Recording](#)

I. **Welcome and New Attendee Introductions** -Brandy

II. **Emily Dean, New City Commissioner LAC Delegate** – Jolene

*Excited to be here as this is one of the committees where you can actually see impact in the community. My background: I come from education, communications and government affairs work. Graduate from Carroll College. Full-time work is the Director of Advocacy for School Districts to operate effectively, including advocacy to Legislature. Shared that the City Commission and the Helena Public Schools publicly announced the agreement to implement “Handle with Care Program”, which was something she wanted to see happen during her time with the City Commission. This programming is ...listen to recording for more details.*

*Voting members and community advocates were given time to ask questions and provide comments and voting members were asked and provided vote in Chat with 100% YES to Commissioner Dean’s application/delegation and welcome to the LAC!*

III. **Approval of Minutes from January 3, 2023**-Brandy

*Minutes approved by Voting Members: Drenda Niemann and Dr. Jennifer Preble*

IV. **Behavioral Health Crisis System Initiatives & Updates**- Brandy /Theresa/ Jolene

*Brandy- Received a grant from NAMI to fill a need for free and timely mental health and substance use evaluations for those who are incarcerated or recently released from the Detention Center and trying to find housing. Thirty evaluations were approved under the grant as a pilot program. Brandy worked with Jillian and BH Team at the County Detention Center in addition to Judges to review needs which led to further education about risk assessments vs mental health evaluation requirements. This helped to clarify which was needed and reduce wait time with identifying Judges only required risk assessments in many cases, which the Detention Center staff are qualified to apply vs completion of a full mental health evaluation by a specific clinical license. More on recording.*

*Theresa-Helena Community Meeting and Montana State Hospital continues. **Monthly meetings occur on the first Friday of each month at 11am at Our Place Drop in Center in person and remote Zoom option available.** These meeting started several months ago with a goal to identify needs to improve discharge process to community, service needs and to continue an open dialogue with MSH with Jamie Foy. Participants include: Theresa, Jolene, Dr. Nathan Munn, Theresa Brewer-Kelly, Morgan Davis, Jillian Danesi, Dr. Jennifer Preble and Jamie Foy. Former participants included; County Attorney Prosecutor’s Office and Disability Right MT but have not been able to continue-we would love to see someone fill these seats. The last meeting identified.....review recent discharge outcomes, flow process, Social Security &, Medicaid reinstatement status/reactivation (up to 5-day delay can create delay in treatment/services).*

*Jolene- Awareness update on BH Crisis System 3 pillars I am working with in collaboration with BHSI Leadership Team and LAC and funding sources that are needed to improve and grown the system. 1) **988 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline** that is national, with states electing to participate. Since 7.15.22, MT has been a participating state with the state-wide Call Center’s expanding beyond 211 Helpline to include the 988 Crisis Call*

Line with trained Crisis Coordinators. Current initiative is on accessing funding source beyond the initial 2 year planning and launch grant, which runs out by 2025. The Legislature is working on draft bill LC1495 with Rep. Stafman to address funding stream to continue the 988 Operations and consider building access to text response in state, beyond calling. Currently, if someone texts 988 in MT, they are re-directed to a national area that processes texting, and would be ideal to have someone in crisis reach a local Call Center, as is done with the majority of calls to 988.

**Second pillar is the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) services, which is operated by St. Peter's Health. Funding is partially supported by the County with the Crisis Diversion Grant, which LCPH applied for both MCRT and startup funds for a Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Facility.** The County received award notice for partial funding to what was requested, with no award amount or identification of program service breakdown requested. Part of this hold on information is due to state awarding applicants across the state for requests up to \$7M and working thru how to provide actual fund allocation amount of \$4M. **Braiding of funds by DPPHS is in process, but we are waiting on final numbers. These are some of obstacles we are coming across.**

**Third pillar is the future Crisis Receiving and/or Stabilization Facility.** An RFP was developed and responded to in late 2022. Sustainability thru state Medicaid rates was projected by provider to only meet half the budget costs. Improved provider rates or additional funding sources would be needed to open the facility.

#### V. **15-Minute Spotlight Speaker: The LOSS Team of LCC Area with Jess Hegstrom, LCSPC**

LOSS teams are based on an active postvention model in which trained teams of volunteers go to the scenes of suicides to provide support, resources, and an installation of hope to individuals newly bereaved by suicide. Postvention refers to an organized response in the aftermath of a suicide to facilitate healing associated with the grief and distress of suicide loss. Watch the full presentation with slides on [video link](#) to learn more about the Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS Team of Lewis and Clark Area). Contact Jess Hegstrom LCC Suicide Prevention Coalition at [jhegstrom@lccountymt.gov](mailto:jhegstrom@lccountymt.gov) or visit the website at <https://lcsuicideprevention.org/loss-team/>.

#### VI. **Public Comments**-Listen on video

**Next Meeting: March 7, 2023 | Spotlight Presenter (update!): Charlie Health**

**Spotlight Scheduled to date for 2023: April: Safer Communities MT (SCM), May: MRWH Day Treatment Program, June: LAC Workgroup Logic Model Updates-tentative**

- **Openings for 15-Minute Spotlight Speakers Presentations in 2023, contact Jolene at [jjennings@lccountymt.gov](mailto:jjennings@lccountymt.gov)**

**Attendance:** Voting Members: Brandy Vail, Kayleigh Verhelst Brown, Jess Hegstrom, Dr. Jennifer Preble, Drenda Niemann, Lona Carter, Community Advocates: Kami Kirchberg, Jeremy Hoscheid, Dennis Nyland, Julie Bir, Samantha Martin, Gloria Soja, Theresa Ortega, Jillian Danesi, Marvin Colman, City Commissioner Emily Dean, County Commissioner Tom Rolfe.

#### **Reference:**

Today's Acronym:

LOSS - Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors | LCC – Lewis and Clark County

**988 is the new 3-digit Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline in MT-Available 24/7**