



Lewis and Clark County Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 | 11:30am-12:30pm

Minutes / Video Recording

Attendance: Brandy Vail, Kayleigh Verhelst Brown, Julie Bir, Jillian Danesi, Dr. Jen Preble, Emily McVey, Gloria Soja, Jess Hegstrom, Tabreez Kara, Sam Martin, Rebecca Hargis, Teresa Kelley Brewer, Gary Mihelish, Jeremy Hoschied, Commissioner Tom Rolfe, Theresa Ortega and Lona Carter. Planned absence: Jolene Jennings at Public Health Conference-thank you to Julie Bir for meeting coverage!

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

II. **Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2023**-Brandy

Minutes not approved – Members unsure of the voting member requirements present to approve.

III. **Spotlight Presentation (15-20 minutes)**-Presenter Intro-Tabreez

Safer Communities Montana (SCM) presented by Tabreez Kara

- *PowerPoint was provided which serves Lewis and Clark, Broadwater and Jefferson County.*
- *SCM is a sub-program of the Suicide Prevention Coalition*
- *Suicide in MT: Treasure State 40+ year history-among top 5th in nation for high suicide rate per capita. 25.9 in 2020 vs 13.95 nationally-almost double the national average!*
- *Multiple contributing factors: Vitamin D deficiencies, high elevation, access to lethal means, alcohol, isolation, poverty, stigma and BH provider shortage*
- *High Risk Population includes middle-aged white males, American Indians, and Veterans.*
- *June 2022 statistic released by MPHHS-63% of all suicides in MT involve firearms and every 50 hours=1 MT death by gun-related suicide.*
- *Firearms are 85-90% fatal as compared to other combined methods.*
- *MT is 1st in the nation for firearm ownership numbers.*
- *SCM focuses on lethal means safe storage and reduction whenever possible*
- *Males are most likely to use firearms and die by suicide with lethal mean choice*
- *Women are less likely to use lethal means*
- *See full presentation on meeting recording [here](#).*

IV. **May is Mental Health Month**-Kayleigh/Jess

- *Color the City/County Green for Mental Health Month -an initiative promoted by Mental Health of America. Learn more at <https://mhanational.org/mental-health-month> -Kayleigh*
- *LCC LAC & SPC Mental Health Block Party Event – Primary Contacts: Rebecca H. and Jess H.*
 - *Tentative Date: Saturday, May 13th on North Rodney St., Helena.*
 - *Location undecided at previous location-*
 - *Provider Tables*
 - *Volunteers for Planning and Day of Event*

- Attend and Promotion
- Funding-Will apply for grant with CSAA but not available at this time and discussion with Jolene on ability to use current LAC funding meanwhile for food (estimated at \$1,5 to \$2k with increased cost of food)
- Recommended by Brandy-Peri-maternal mental health provider -Ashley Post at PureView for a “Mother’s Day” twist
- LCSPC/LAC Mental Health Month Calendar of Events-Jess
 - Send event details for your organization MH Month Event early!

V. A LAC Member Insight at Legislative Public Hearing & Bills to follow- Brandy

- *Brandy’s experience providing testimony on HB557 Crisis Stabilization and HEART Funds :*
*Jolene asked Brandy to speak about her first experience testifying on this bill. She acknowledged she, Dr. Preble and Theresa presented at Legislature on HB557 Crisis System and Crisis Bed designation in HEART Funds. The Senate told Brandy and others presenting they were fully impressed by testimonies and thanked those who attended. **HB557 passed Senate on 3.30.23!!!***
- *Other Behavioral Health and Peer Support Bills in Session:*
 - *SB198 – Peer Support, HB248 Provider Rate Study for Medicaid, SB423 Firearm Hold (Suicide Prevention) -recommended to support (proponent). Tiered credentialing system included in bill with certification process to two tier options recommended.*
 - *HB248 Provider Rate Study*
 - *SB423 Firearm Hold highlighted at SCM presentation*
 - *HB303 Healthcare provider ethics and conscience authorization recommended to oppose*

VI. Public Comments/Events-Kayleigh/Brandy

Q&A after presentations:

Peer Support question from Sam on independent operation-not covered under current bills in legislation.

Matters of Mind Art Show at Myrna Loy presented in conjunction with Shodair, Peer Support Network and Helena Mountain Mental Health-Opening Reception is 5pm on 5/25 and exhibit continues through 5/19-6/5th. Will be included in the May Mental Health Calendar. - Sam

MH Month Block Party suggestion-Keep Rodney St. option-Vigilante Stadium at Public School on Rodney Street-would need to work with public schools-Gary M.

Next Meeting: May 2, 2023 | Spotlight Presentation:

Many Rivers Whole Health On-Site Day Treatment Program presenter: Mark Jaramillo

Reference: Today's Acronym: SCM: Safer Communities Montana, MHM: Mental Health Month, LCSPC: Lewis and Clark Suicide Prevention Coalition, LAC: Local Advisory Council

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